



The Alliance Celebrates its 75th Anniversary



ORGANIZATIONS CHANGE WITH TIME, as new members and ideas make their presence felt. The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance is no exception.

Over the years, membership requirements have changed to allow widows, divorcees, spouses (the term "wife" was eliminated), and domestic partners. The medical spouse or domestic partner is no longer required to be a member of the Medical Society, just eligible.

The Membership Roster has reflected changing times. Through the 1970s, members were listed in the "Mrs. John Doe" format with their given names in parenthesis. In 1983, not only were women's names out of parenthesis but work phone numbers started appearing. In the 1990s, FAX numbers were added, replaced in 1999 by e-mail addresses.

In the 1990s, our first licensed stock broker members were advising the Community Endowment Fund, which allowed it to healthily survive the stock market downturn of the new century.

Names changes followed the changing geography of the Medical Society as well as etymological fashion. What was the Sacramento El Dorado Medical Society Auxiliary became the Alliance in 1993, following AMA-A's lead. In 2001, following the merger with Yolo County, it became the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance

The mission of the organization remained steady over the years: the advancement of medicine and public health.

Fund raising from 1947 to 1972 was primarily for the purpose of awarding 20 to 30 annual nursing scholarships at schools from Stanford eastward. Fashion shows were the vehicle, featuring designers from Mr. Blackwell to a young Oscar de la Renta with auxiliary members as models.

Fund raising from 1983 to 1999 was via the highly successful "Sacramento Cooks!" which spawned many imitators, shortening its life. At the same time, the Alliance established its Community Endowment Fund with the intent of growing it to a size to support payment of community health-related grants and nursing scholarships during lean fund raising years.

Over the decades, the Holiday Sharing Cards, designed by members, have raised tens of thousands of dollars for medical schools, the AMA Foundation and the Community

Endowment Fund.

In the early 1980s, the Auxiliary assessed its activities and received IRS recognition as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. This limited its potential for political activity - which was recalled with gusto by an early president who answered the CMA's call to defeat Earl Warren's "socialized medicine" legislation during WW II.

Also reflecting changing times were assignments to the computer committee, graphics chairman and cable liaison. Members taught computer classes to bring the membership up to speed. A working wives group started but was disbanded due to time constraints. Bridge, duplicate bridge, skiing, toddlers group have come and gone - while the Book Club reads on. Theater nights were popular. Suggestions for interest groups are continuously solicited.

The Alliance has both pioneered and participated in volunteer health-related activities. A partial list: AIDS prevention education, alcohol/drug abuse, blood drives, school health, Project Re-Entry, Meals on Wheels, Project Learn, environmental health, school violence, cancer education, Mustard Seed, teen pregnancy, youth suicide prevention, tobacco-free society, TV Free Week, vision screening, Dr. Staywell, People Reaching Out and the much demanded Senior Service Directory.

The organization has been an incubator and networking resource for other charities. In the 20 years that the CMA Alliance has honored a member statewide for service to community, five Sacramentans have been recognized.

In the 2000s, two Community Health Days were expanded to offer continuing education credits.

In the new century it hasn't been all work: one fashion show/auction event was held at a winery. Art and music by our medical family members were key in two other major fund raisers. Bus trips to museums and the wine country have enlightened us. Cooking classes and gardening demonstration have delighted us. Holiday lunches allow us to reunite and collect clothing and toys for children at various centers.

We hope to keep this valuable legacy alive, well, inspirational and attractive for members yet to be.

Happy 75th Anniversary SSVMS Alliance.

A Little History

1847: AMA founded in Philadelphia.

1850: First stirrings of a medical society in Sacramento

1850: California becomes a state.

1856: California state medical society is organized in Sacramento with an El Dorado County physician as its first president

1868: Sacramento Society for the Improvement of Medicine (now generally known as the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society) is established.

1922: Women's Auxiliary to the Texas Medical Association successfully lobbies for the Women's Auxiliary to the AMA.

1929: Forty two medical wives meet in Sonoma and organize a statewide auxiliary.

1931: Women's Auxiliary to the Sacramento County Medical Society is born.

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