

Area 3 Report to AEC – July 2017

Member Services

- Area 3 Committee on Member Services (COMS)
 - Dr Napoli (Area 3 Rep), Dr Greenberg (COMS Chairperson), Patricia DeCotiis, JD (COMS Co-Chairperson and Executive Director, NJPA) had a teleconference with Dr Sorel (Rep, WPS) to discuss his program proposal for Area 3 RFM Merit Awards. P DeCotiis (Ex Dir, NJPA) recommended that granting the award include the requirement that the RFM give back some meaningful service to his/her District Branches. Dr Sorel presented his proposal to our Area 3 Council meeting at the May Assembly and it was referred to the Committee on Program Evaluation for review.
 - P DeCotiis noted that there are higher than usual drop lists for the Area 3 District Branches and proposed that there be an Area 3 funded collaborative area-wide project for retaining these members.
 - Dr Malhotra (COMS member and Area 3 ECP Rep) participated in the Assembly Listserve discussion on Iowa passing a law that authorizes prescribing by psychologist (RxP) and noted that the members of a Facebook psychiatrist group do not think APA is actively opposing RxP. This has resulted in Dr Batterson working with APA staff to produce a public statement on APA advocacy efforts and support for DBs in opposition to RxP that Dr Malhotra can post for the Facebook group.
- Area 3 Committee on Program Evaluation (COPE)
 - Dr Napoli established this committee that was recommended by the Area 3 AHWG on Finances and Programs and approved by the Area 3 Council. He made the following appointments: Barry Herman, MD (Chairperson), Deb Shoemaker (Co-Chairperson and Executive Director, PaPS), Dr Albaugh (Rep, PaPS), Dr Ciolino (Rep, NJPA), Dr Dunlap (Rep, WPS), Dr Hanson (Rep, MPS), Dr Komrad (ACROSS and Rep, SPA), Dr Malhotra (Area 3 ECP Rep), Dr Silver (Area 3 RFM Rep) and Dr Ram (Rep, PSD)
 - The function of COPE is to evaluate program proposals, recommend proposals with funding recommendations to the Area 3 Council and evaluate programs that have been approved and implemented.
 - The primary goal for any program is providing benefit to APA Area 3 members.
- Dr David Scasta (former ACROSS Chairperson and Rep, AGLP) received the Ronald A Shellow Award.

Diversity

The Area 3 Council continues to focus on diversity. (See below Area 3 Report to AEC and Assembly – April 1, 2017.)

Advocacy

See below Area 3 Report to AEC and Assembly – April 1, 2017.

Education and Advancing Research

- Dr Secarea (Area 3 RFM Dep Rep) presented at the 2017 APA Annual meeting and had two research posters.
- Dr Arora (Rep, NJPA) was the lead author for a research poster at the 2017 APA Annual Meeting.
- The May Assembly approved these action papers: “Expanding Access to Psychiatry Subspecialty Fellowships” (Co-authors: Drs Certa (Rep, PaPS) and Albaugh (Rep, PaPS), * “Providing Education and Guidance for the Use and Limitations of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice” (Author: Dr Napoli) * and “Streamlining the Application Process for Former APA Members” (Co-Authors with Dr Haygood: Drs Malhotra (Area 3 ECP Rep) and Gandhi (Area 3 ECP Dep Rep) [* = Endorsed by Area 3 on 3/4/17.]

Standards, Quality Care and Health Economics

- The May Assembly approved the action papers “Adopting Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN) for Medications” (Author: Dr Davis, Rep, MPS), “Health Care is a Human Right” (Author: Dr Sorel, Rep, WPS) ^ and “Involuntary Commitment for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders” (Co-authors: Dr Certa and Dr Albaugh) * [* = Endorsed by Area 3 on 3/4/17. ^ = Endorsed by Area 3 on 5/20/17.]

- Dr Napoli participated in the Assembly Listserve discussion on RxP and informed the Assembly about NJPA advocacy efforts and experience opposing RxP and the NJPA Website on RxP, and contributed his essay “Becoming a Physician: Privileges and Sacred Trust Through Acculturation” <http://protectnjpatients.com/case>
- Dr Greenberg has written a summary of *The Psychiatric Crisis: Causes and Solutions*, the National Council Report on Psychiatric Care for discussion at the July 2017 AEC.
- Dr Napoli is serving on the Assembly Ad Hoc Work Group on Special Elections.

Strength of Organization/Group

- Dr Daviss (MPS, Rep) was elected Recorder.
- Dr Silver (Area 3 RFM Rep) was elected to the chair of ACORF.
- On May 2017, Dr Napoli gave a written and oral statement to the AEC on the “Matter Regarding the Election for Recorder and Conflict of Interest.”
- Area 3 lost outstanding members, and thus, this weakens our Area 3 Council. Dr Jessica Abellard (RFM Rep), Sheila Judge (Rep, PaPS) and Dr Robert Roca (Rep, MPS) completed their terms. Dr D. Andrew Tompkins (MU/R – LGBTQ Caucus Rep) is moving from Maryland to California to be the Director of Substance Abuse and Addiction Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital.
- We also bid farewell to Bea Eld who served us very well as APA staff liaison.
- The description of COPE including its function and the “Area 3 Policy on Program Evaluation and Funding” is being finalized.
- The Area 3 Website – “Welcome to Area 3” continues to serve as a key tool for efficiently conducting Area 3 business.
- Area 3 is honored that its Website was the model and incentive for Area 1 to develop a Website, which will have features that include improvements on the Area 3 Website.

Area 3 Request for Block Grant Funds – July 2017

Area 3 requests a 2018 block grant in the amount of \$13,988, which is \$3,825 less than the \$17,813 block grant that Area 3 received annually from 2010 to 2014.

Justification

1. Present Block Grant Not Covering Area 3 Operating Costs
2. Having Benefits of Two-Day Meeting
3. Not Competing with Other Areas for Funds
4. Acknowledging Higher Operating Costs of Other Areas
5. Having Less Human Resources
6. Depending on the Generosity of Area 3 Council Members
7. Area 3’s Frugality Working Against Area 3
8. Creating Innovative Programs That Are Beneficial for APA Members
9. Earmarking Area3 Surplus for Programs

1. Present Block Grant Not Covering Area 3 Operating Costs – In 2015, the block grant for Area 3 was slashed by \$8,163.00. The rationale for recalculating the block grants for 2015 was that each area should only be granted funds necessary for holding two council meetings per year that are in addition to each area meeting at the May and fall Assembly meetings. The block grants for some areas were increased while the block grant for Area 3 was greatly reduced. At that time, Area 3 was holding two one-day meetings annually, one in September and one in February-March. Furthermore, the Assembly organization and change in the formula for representation increased the number of Area 3 District Branch Representatives, and thus, increased meeting expenses including traveling expenses.

Now, however, Area 3 is holding a one-day fall meeting and a two-day winter meeting. The one-day meeting at the Sheppard-Pratt Conference Center costs \$2,200.00. Area 3 had a two-day meeting in 2016 and 2017. Expenses included overnight hotel accommodations, hotel conference room and lunch at the hotel, and a catered evening

reception and breakfast at Dr Judge's home. The average cost of these meetings was \$9,250.00. The Area 3 Summary does not accurately reflect the cost of the 2016 two-day meeting because \$4,378.86 was paid for this meeting by using the surplus from Area 3 funds for *MOC: Navigating the Process*, which MPS was holding for Area 3. (See below.) Travel reimbursement is approximately \$1,500. We now have two District Branch representatives who need to fly from Pittsburgh. There is an incidental expense of about \$38.00/year for *Welcome to Area 3* – the Area 3 Website. Area 3 uses its Website to efficiently conduct business at its meetings. Therefore, all these expenses, which total \$13,988, cover the cost of two meetings per year. Area 3 has 3,924 members. Therefore the per capita cost for the present block grant is \$2.45. For the requested block grant it would be \$3.56, which is only 0.6% of the general member dues (=> 7 years of membership).

Assembly officers and candidates for Assembly office came to our two-day meetings. They pay for their hotel accommodations. But as the guests of Area 3, the Saturday lunch and reception and Sunday breakfast are *gratis*. Area 3 members may bring guests to the reception and/or breakfast, but Area 3 charges for the guests as per the AEC policy.

2. Having Benefits of Two-Day Meeting – When Dr Bruce Hershfield was Area 3 Representative, Area 3 had two-day meetings. I reinstated at least one two-day meeting per year. So far, we have met for two days in March 2016 and February 2017 but we will not be able to continue the one two-day meeting per year with the present amount of the block grant. This would be unfortunate and counterproductive.

As stated in the April 2017 Area 3 Report to the AEC and Assembly, “The organization of this 2-day meeting is modeled on the AEC 3-day meeting. The two days allow for: 1) a 6.5 hour formal business meeting on Saturday which is not as rushed as the one day fall business meeting and 2) a less formal 3 hour Sunday morning business meeting with breakfast in a relaxed home atmosphere that allows more time for ACROSS, DB, ECP, RFM and M/UR reports and promotes discussion and an exchange of ideas, especially about advocacy. The additional time for the entire meeting and the Saturday evening reception enhances working relationships amongst the Area 3 Council members and with guests, including Area 3 ECPs and RFMs who are nominees for the Area 3 Council ECP and RFM positions and are guests of Area 3 at the 2-day meeting.”

Area 3 reimburses the travel expense of the Area 3 RFM Dep Rep/ Rep nominees whom we invite to our Area 3 two-day meeting. These reimbursements are paid from the Area 3 block grant and not from RFM monies. For each of the last two years, Area 3 has had five Area 3 RFM Dep Rep/Rep candidates who joined us for our two-day meeting. This is an excellent way to welcome and involve RFMs.

The social interaction of the two-day meetings greatly enhances the productivity of the Area 3 Council. Meeting socially provides the social glue that unites us although we are diverse and have our differences. By recognizing our commonality via social interaction, we bond for a common mission.

3. Not Competing with Other Areas for Funds – Area 3 does not want the AEC to take away funds that are necessary for other areas to operate. To the contrary, in 2013 Area 3 gifted \$1,900 to Area 6. It also gifted money to Area 7 in the same year. Furthermore, Area 3 thinks that other areas should receive funds for potential programs and not just a block grant that covers operating costs for two business meetings per year.

4. Acknowledging Higher Operating Costs of Other Areas – Area 3 appreciates that other areas have greater operating expenses because 1) they have more District Branches within their areas, and thus, more members on their councils and 2) cover much larger geographical areas, and thus, have more travel expenses. Therefore, the areas that have greater operating expenses for these reasons should get larger amounts in their block grants than Area 3.

5. Having Less Human Resources – There is a downside for Area 3 being smaller than other areas in regard to the number of District Branches and District Branch Representatives but not in the number of APA members. Area 3 has 16 District Branch Representatives. In regard to required APA and Assembly committee work, Area 3 District Branch Representatives have the 2nd largest workload, secondary to Area 6 District Branch Representatives.

There are the APA Nominating and 14 Assembly Committees with 18 area positions (not including ACROSS, ECP, MU/R and RFM positions). The ratio of available Area 3 District Branch Representatives to committee positions is 0.88. In addition, there are three Area 3 committees that require a total of at least 13 District Branch Representatives positions. This lowers the ratio to 0.52. This compares with the number of DB Reps and (ratio of DB Reps to 18 committee positions) for Area 1: 21 (1.17), Area 2: 21 (1.17), Area 4: 29 (1.6), Area 5: 39 (2.17), Area 6: 9 (0.5) and Area 7: 28 (1.56).

Why is this of importance? It is another reason to thank our Area 3 Council members for their hard work by providing them with a pleasant two-day meeting with a social event.

6. Depending on the Generosity of Area 3 Council Members – Leaders of non-profit organizations give the 3 W's – Wealth, Wisdom and Work. Like other Assembly members, Area 3 members: 1) pay their dues and donate to the APA PAC and American Psychiatric Foundation, 2) provide their expertise and critical thinking and 3) voluntarily labor for APA and its members. Nevertheless, many Area 3 Council members do not submit for their travel reimbursements. In addition, many Area 3 Council members carpool. When the drivers submit for mileage reimbursement, it covers up to four to five members. Therefore, this is another way Area 3 is able to limit spending.

In reviewing the Area 3 summaries from 2009 to 2015, it appears that the expenses for the Area 3 Council meeting at Jefferson were not charged to Area 3. In my opinion, members who volunteer the 3 W's should not also be paying for their expenses in order to voluntarily serve the APA. APA's paying their expenses and providing social gatherings *gratis* is a way of APA thanking them for all their hard work.

The fact that many Area 3 members are not reimbursed for their expenses and some business meeting expenses have not submitted, gives the false impression that Area 3 needs less money in order to operate. Thus, the real cost of operating Area 3, and thus, the APA, is hidden in this regard. This should not be. Instead, we should improve our efforts to accurately determine operating expenses including paying for all reasonable travel costs.

7. Area 3's Frugality Working Against Area 3 – Area 3 has been frugal in spending on its business meetings. It has held its meetings at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and Sheppard-Pratt in Towson, Maryland instead of at expensive hotels. For example, in 2009, the cost for a room and refreshments (morning beverages and snacks, lunch and afternoon beverages and snacks) at the Sheppard-Pratt Conference Center was \$883.50. The Area 3 meeting at the J W Marriott, Wash, DC in 2010 was \$2,256.08. The reason that we held our Area 3 meeting at the J W Marriott was that APA asked Area 3 to do so. Apparently, the existing contract called for a number of rooms that would not be needed for this particular Components Meeting. Therefore, Area 3 agreed to help out by holding its meeting at the September 2010 Components Meeting. Otherwise, the APA would have paid for a room and services that it would not have used. The downside for Area 3 was two-fold: 1) this large cost was billed to the Area 3 funds and 2) since Wash, DC was close to the geographical Southern border of Area 3 instead of a central location, the representatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey had a long round trip in one day. For example, the three New Jersey Psychiatric Association Representatives traveled by car pool for about nine hours in one day.

Nevertheless, Area 3 will continue to be frugal with its monies allocated to its business meetings. As stated in the April 2017 report, "The 2-day meeting is cost-effective because the Area 3 Council keeps the costs low, e.g., a contracted reduced hotel room rate of \$94, less than the expected range from \$119 to \$159."

8. Creating Innovative Programs That Are Beneficial for APA Members – Area 3 has been able to use some of its funds for creating, developing and implementing programs via its District Branches that have benefited APA Area 3 members and could benefit other area because Area 3 has been frugal, its Council members have been overly generous and, admittedly, it received a \$17,816 yearly block grant for five years.

Area 3 has a successful track record of such programs, for example:

- *Career, Leadership and Mentorship (CLM)* – Area 3 supported this WPS program created by Dr Sorel. In CLM's infancy, Area 3 provided funds in the amount of two \$5,000 consecutive grants. WPS also committed its funds. This program has successfully grown and now has a Website (<http://dcpsych.org/clm/>) and

newsletter and is providing RFM leaders and future leaders for the APA. Other areas can visit the CLM Website and learn “How to Start a CLM.”

- NJPA adopted and adapted WPS’s CLM program for NJPA residents and fellows. Dr Miskimen led the NJPA Task Force that implemented a statewide program in New Jersey. Area 3 provided funds in the amount of \$5,000 for each year over two years. Drs Sorel and Hind Benjelloun (former Area 3 MIT Rep) met with the NJPA residents along with Drs Greenberg, Miskimen and Napoli at the Residents Forum during the NPJA Annual CME Conference.
- *MOC: Navigating the Process* This was the brainchild of Kery Hummel (former Ex Dir, MPS) and Deb Wilson (former Ex Dir, NJPA) who organized this educational activity in collaboration with Deb Shoemaker (Ex Dir, PaPS) and the other Area 3 District Branch Executive Directors. This was a very successful area-wide educational activity that was conducted in multiple locations in Area 3 that were convenient for members from the five DBs to attend. In addition to didactic presentations including one by Dr Philip Muskin, it was an interactive learning experience in which the participants used their notebook computers while being taught how to navigate MOC. Please see the “News” page on “Welcome to Area 3” (<http://www.area3apa.net/news.html>). Area 3 provided \$17,000 for this educational activity but only \$12,621.14 was spent.

9. Earmarking Area 3 Surplus for Programs – What should be done with the existing Area 3 surplus? Area 3 could be allowed to use these monies to further create and fund innovative programs that benefit APA members. Or this surplus can be taken away from Area 3.

Yes, the AEC can vote to take back these funds. Area 3 could not even rely on “possession is nine-tenths of the law” because the APA holds these funds.

But what would be the result of this take back? It will halt all Area 3 efforts to move ahead on innovative programs. It would send the unintended message to the Area 3 Council members that the AEC doesn’t care what the Area 3 Council members have accomplished and can still accomplish. Therefore it will demoralize the Area 3 Council members instead of thanking them and encouraging them to continue their good work.

Instead of this scenario, Area 3 has a plan, which is being implemented, to prudently fund Area 3 programs that will benefit APA members. Like the CLM program and the MOC educational activity, new Area 3 programs could be adopted and adapted by other areas. Area 3 established an AHWG on Finances and Programs. This workgroup thoroughly studied these matters, made a final report to the Area 3 Council and has been terminated. The Area 3 Council reviewed and approved the workgroup’s recommendations. Based on the workgroup’s recommendations, Dr Napoli established a Committee on Program Evaluation (COPE). The committee already had a program proposal before the committee was formed. Another proposal is being prepared for submission. After COPE evaluates program proposals, it will report its recommendations to the Area 3 Council. The Area 3 Council will discuss and vote to approve or not approve programs.

Area 3 asks the AEC to allow Area 3 to proceed with this plan. The two-day meetings are eating up our surplus. Instead, Area 3 wishes to spend the surplus only on programs to benefit APA members.

Area 3 Report to AEC and Assembly – April 01, 2017

Member Services

- Area 3 Committee on Member Services (COMS)
 - W. Greenberg, MD, Chairperson, and P. DeCotiis, Esq, Co-Chairperson
 - Dr Napoli appointed Dr Rahul Malhotra, Area 3 ECP Representative, to fill the ECP vacancy on COMS.
 - COMS had a telephone conference call.

- Dr. Malhotra conducted an informal study using a Facebook group, polling 5000 psychiatrists, many of whom are non-APA members. The reasons for not being APA members were: membership fees are too high, APA's failure to effectively mitigate the MOC requirements and to "show spine against Pharma," and the annual meeting was not "high quality."
- Also see District Branches below.
- Area 3 Ad Hoc Work Group on Finance and Programs
K. Hummel, Chairperson and D. Shoemaker, Co-Chairperson
The work group completed its goal and objectives, produced a final report and made a proposal to the Area 3 Council and has been sunsetted. After the Council did its due diligence in studying and discussing this proposal, it approved this proposal that included establishing a Committee on Project Review which will be responsible for 1) reviewing proposals for funds to support projects that will serve the members of Area 3, including educational activities, 2) recommending selected projects for Area 3 Council consideration and approval for funding and 3) measure outcomes of projects that are funded. Dr. Napoli is in the process of forming the Committee on Project Review.
- ACROSS
 - The American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP) annual meeting is its main service for its members.
 - American Association of Psychiatric Administrators (AAPA) will honor Dr Barry Herman with its 2017 Administrative Psychiatry Award. The winning annual resident paper will be announced at the APA 2017 Annual Meeting and published in the Journal of Psychiatric Administration and Management.
 - Sothern Psychiatric Association (SPA) holds a social event, an annual reception at the APA Annual Meeting.
- District Branches:
 - PSD reported on its members' discontent with MOC. Dr Batterson, Recorder and Chair, Assembly Committee on MOC, was presented at the Area 3 Council winter meeting and addressed these concerns. In addition, PSD is reviewing its "communications strategy to determine areas for improvement."
 - MPS involves residents by including the training directors of each academic program on the MPS Board of Trustees and by tracking the career of the RFMs, especially those who move to other jurisdictions.
 - NJPA hosted a professionally facilitated "Membership Workout" for the leadership to prioritize the benefits and values of membership, identify effective communication styles for different segments of the membership, and discuss the obstacles to recruitment and retention.
 - PaPS continues to hold "chapter meetings throughout the state to educate members on areas of interest and to target resident involvement."
 - WPS hosted a Career, Leadership, Mentorship (CLM) event, "Healing the Healers"
- ECP Dr Malhotra reported that Assembly ECPs will be submitting an action paper on streamlining the process of rejoining the APA for those who had left.
- RFM Dr Nazanin Silver, Area 3 RFM Dep Rep, is exploring the possibility of reinstatement of an APA Women's Council. RFMs are doing an action paper on physician well-being that addresses burnout and suicide.
- The AEC approved Dr David Scasta for the 2016 Ronald Shellow Award. The Area 3 Council had previously endorsed the recommendation submitted by Drs Napoli and Greenberg for Dr Scasta to receive this award. Area 3 presented Dr Scasta with an award for his dedication and service.

Diversity

- Area 3 had four outstanding diverse candidates for Area 3 RFM Dep Rep / Rep.
- The American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP) is a very diverse organization and has a Board Trustee member who is Syrian.
- There is a need for a non-voting M/UR member to liaison with the RFMs

Advocacy

- The DBs are addressing legislation that focuses on the opioid epidemic, including bills instituting opioid prescribing limits. Recognizing the problem of opioid over-prescribing, concerns were nonetheless expressed regarding intrusiveness on the physician-patient relationship, mandates regarding aspects of care, and the legislatures making medical decisions.
- Psychologist prescribing bills are not moving ahead in Area 3 at this time.
- On the COMS conference call, ACROSS raised the fact that information about advocacy matters does not routinely get transmitted to the relevant ARCOSS members on the DB level. The Area 3 Council is looking into this along with Angela Gochenaur, Regional Field Director - State Government Affairs, Northeast| Department of Government Relations

Education

- Area 3 endorsed the following action papers authored by Area 3 Council members for the May 2017 Assembly: 1) “Expanding Access to Psychiatry Subspecialty Fellowships” (Drs Certa) and 2) “Providing Education and Guidance for the Use and Limitations of Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice,” (Dr Napoli)
- At the Area 3 Council meeting (March 4), Dr Greenberg educated the Area 3 Council on the process of producing an action paper, emphasizing that this should include communicating with the APA Councils that are pertinent to the subject matter of an action paper.
- ASAP’s annual meeting, held on March 17 through 19, was *Our Past Reflects Our Future: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood*.
- SPA holds an annual CME conference.
- The Area 3 DBs continue to provide CME programs.
- RFMs are continuing to improve the Set for Success learning modules and to conduct a Resident and ECP Leadership Track at the APA Annual Meeting.

Standards, Quality Care and Health Economics

- The APA Position Statement on Medical Euthanasia “regarding a non-terminally ill person” is receiving international attention. This APA position statement was the result of an action paper by Area 3 Council members Drs Hanson and Komrad.
- Area 3 endorsed the following action paper authored by Area 3 Council members for the May 2017 Assembly: “Involuntary psychiatric commitment criteria including the presence of substance use disorders” (Dr Certa). The action paper on pharmacogenomics also pertains to standards and quality care.
- An action paper on “Health Care is a Human Right” (Dr Sorel et al) has been submitted for the May 2017 Assembly. [Note: This action paper was not available for the Area 3 winter meeting.]
- Area 3 was informed about reviewing and commenting on the Practice Guidelines on Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder. The NJPA Council on Professional Standards with the expertise of NJPA addiction psychiatrists reviewed these guidelines and submitted comments from NJPA.
- At the request of the Area 3 Council, NJPA has distributed the NJPA Position Statement on the Opioid Epidemic and its accompanying resource document to the Area 3 District Branches via the Area 3 Website.

Strength of Organization/Group

- Area 3 had its second consecutive 2-day meeting for its regular winter meeting in two years (March 3-4, 2017). Area 3 thanks Dr Sheila Judge who graciously hosted the reception and Sunday breakfast business meeting at her home for both years.

The organization of this 2-day meeting is modeled on the AEC 3-day meeting. The two days allow for: 1) a 6.5 hour formal business meeting on Saturday which is not as rushed as the one day fall business meeting and 2) a less formal 3 hour Sunday morning business meeting with breakfast in a relaxed home atmosphere that allows more time for ACROSS, DB, ECP, RFM and M/UR reports and promotes discussion and an exchange of ideas, especially about advocacy. The additional time for the entire meeting and the Saturday evening reception enhances working relationships amongst the Area 3 Council members and with guests, including Area 3 ECPs and RFMs who are nominees for the Area 3 Council ECP and RFM positions and are guests of Area 3 at the 2-day meeting.

The 2-day meeting is cost-effective because the Area 3 Council keeps the costs low, e.g., contracted reduced hotel room rate of \$94, less than the expected range from \$119 to \$159. Nevertheless, Area 3 will not be able to sustain a 1-day fall meeting and 2-day winter meeting each year with the present block grant of \$9,650. To sustain this valuable 2 day activity, Area 3 will need a block grant of \$13,500, which is \$4,000 lower than the former block grant of \$17,500 per annum.

- The vacancies for the Area 3 ECP Rep and Area 3 Dep Rep were filled with two excellent candidates, respectively, Rahul Malhotra, MD and Baiju Gandhi, MD, in the fall of 2016. At its winter meeting, the Area Council elected each of them to full two-year terms.
- The Area 3 Council elected Cristina Secarea, MD (WPS member) to the position of RFM Dep Rep / Rep
- The Area 3 Council elected for second terms: Dr Napoli as Area 3 Rep and Dr Greenberg as Area Dep Rep
- MPS is switching over to central billing by the APA.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C Napoli, MD
Area 3 Representative