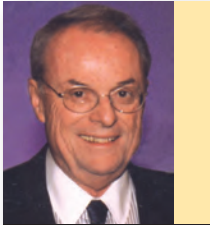


Happy New Year!



Jere E. Freidheim, MD

Many of us make resolutions as we usher in the New Year. Have you resolved to lose weight and exercise more? Get your finances in better shape? Clean out that attic? As we identify our personal goals for the year, **I propose that we all resolve to take back medicine in 2010.**

It's frustrating. All we want to do is care for our patients, but we are beset with burdensome regulations, declining reimbursements and a constant battle with personal injury lawyers seeking to unravel our hard-won medical litigation reforms.

Finally, we are in the midst of an ongoing effort by federal lawmakers to reform our health care system.

While it's easy to feel overwhelmed and even helpless when contemplating the challenges we face, taking action is the best way to defend our patients and our profession.

■ Lend your voice to your patients and profession through IMPAC in 2010.

The Illinois State Medical Society Political Action Committee (IMPAC) is your voice in medicine. IMPAC supports candidates who support Illinois physicians and our patients. If you are not an IMPAC member, you are not yet fully committed to protecting your patients and your profession.

■ Resolve to join IMPAC or upgrade your IMPAC membership today.

It's now easier than ever to join at any level with IMPAC's monthly debit option. Demonstrating your leadership has never been more convenient.

Physicians who join IMPAC's highest level of membership – the \$500 Club – are featured in **Illinois Medicine EXPRESS** and online in appreciation of their commitment.

■ Resolve to vote in the Illinois primary election on February 2, 2010.

Get to know your candidates and ask them about the issues that matter. Where do they stand on medical liability reform? Are they familiar with scope of practice issues? Do they support legislation that would increase Medicaid reimbursements for physicians? Where do they stand on eliminating the Medicare SGR formula?

It's up to *us* to educate and elect leaders who are in tune with our issues. Visit our interactive candidate map on our web site, www.impaconline.org, to see which candidates are supported by IMPAC.

Inside this Issue

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Vox Populi*, which contains:

Six You Need to Know. We feature six candidates, and outline one of the many reasons why each is a friend of medicine.

How Does Your County Fare? Our Illinois map outlines, by county, the percentage of ISMS members who are also IMPAC members. Let's resolve to achieve 100% IMPAC membership in each county!

I encourage each of you to ask your colleagues if they are IMPAC members. If not, they can easily join by visiting www.impaconline.org.

We will update IMPAC's "membership map" throughout this crucial election year, so let's work together to get everyone on board.

Our best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive 2010!

Sincerely,



Jere E. Freidheim, MD
IMPAC Chair

“Six You Need to Know” ... and Here’s Why

In this inaugural feature, *Vox Populi* profiles six individuals we think you ought to know.



WHO: Justice Ann Jorgensen

Ann Jorgensen currently sits on the Illinois Appellate Court, Second District, in Elgin. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in July 2008 to fill the vacancy of Justice Tom Callum and will seek election to remain in her current seat. Justice Jorgensen is a former prosecutor and served as an Assistant State’s Attorney in DuPage County. In 1994, she was elected Circuit Judge in DuPage County and was retained in 2000 and 2006.

WHY: Justice Jorgensen understands the issues facing Illinois physicians and our patients. She is married to Richard Jorgensen, MD, a retired surgeon and ISMS member. Since the Appellate Court is often a stepping stone to the Illinois Supreme Court, who better to have there than a member of the medical family?



WHO: Donna Kathryn Kelly, 2nd Appellate Court Candidate, 2010

Running for 2nd Appellate Court Judge, Donna Kathryn Kelly is a former Assistant State’s Attorney in McHenry County assigned to the Special Prosecutions Division. In addition, she also ran the county’s Gang Prosecutions Unit. Kelly has served as an Assistant Appellate Defender for seven years in the Office of the State Appellate Defender for the Third Appellate Court. She has argued numerous cases before the Appellate Court, and successfully argued two cases before the Supreme Court of Illinois.

WHY: In addition to being an experienced attorney for the state, Donna will be running against Mary Schostok, a former prosecutor from McHenry County. Mary is the spouse of Mike Schostok, law partner of Patrick Salvi. Both Schostok (Mike) and Salvi are past presidents of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and have one of the most successful plaintiff’s firms in northern Illinois, outside Chicago.



WHO: Representative David Miller, (D-Dolton)

Running for State Comptroller, Representative Miller has been in the Illinois House of Representatives since 2001 and serves the southern suburb of Dolton and surrounding areas. Representative Miller’s educational background (B.S. in biomedical engineering) and his professional experience as a dentist enable him to understand many of the issues confronting Illinois physicians.

WHY: He is a member of the Health Care Licenses Committee and recently sponsored the ISMS-initiated fee-splitting bill, now signed into law. This law allows physicians to continue signing contracts for administrative services in which payments are based on a percentage of collected charges (with billing companies, for example).



WHO: Representative Suzanne Bassi, (R-Palatine)

Up for reelection, Representative Bassi is in her sixth term representing the 54th District around the Palatine area. She is a member of the Illinois Task Force on Alzheimer’s and the Task Force on Autism.

WHY: In over a decade of service, Representative Bassi has tirelessly promoted the interests of Illinois physicians and their patients, including medical liability reform legislation. Representative Bassi also fights for prompt payments for physicians and other health care professionals.



WHO: Representative Andre Thapedi (D-Chicago)

Representing the 32nd District in Chicago, Representative Thapedi is a businessman and attorney who was raised (and continues to reside) on the south side of Chicago. Representative Thapedi is a member of the Judiciary I – Civil Law Committee, which handles many issues of importance to the medical community, and is up for reelection.

WHY: Representative Thapedi is also on the list of legislators uniquely familiar with our issues: His father is a Chicago neurosurgeon and his mother was a Cook County judge (now retired). He sponsored our “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) legislation (now law), which streamlines the Illinois DNR order by requiring the signatures of the patient, only one witness and the patient’s attending physician, in order to be consistent with the Illinois health care power of attorney form.



WHO: Representative Sandy Cole (R-Grayslake)

Representative Sandy Cole was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 2006 and is up for reelection in 2010. She serves the area encompassing Grayslake, Gurnee and Round Lake Beach.

WHY: Representative Cole is an outspoken and reliable health care advocate, particularly in the area of women’s health. Throughout her legislative tenure, Representative Cole has been a staunch ally of physicians. As a member of the Human Services Committee she continues to be a strong voice for medicine.



We Must Do Better ...

Supporting physician-friendly candidates for legislative and judicial office is more important than ever. This map of Illinois depicts our state’s counties by ISMS trustee district. The accompanying chart compares the percentage of member physicians who supported IMPAC in 2008 and 2009 by ISMS district.



As you can see, IMPAC participation decreased last year when compared to year-end 2008. We must do better!

In 2010, resolve not only to join IMPAC (or upgrade your membership), but also to encourage your colleagues to do the same.

We will periodically update this map during the 2010 election year to reflect *positive* increases in IMPAC participation.

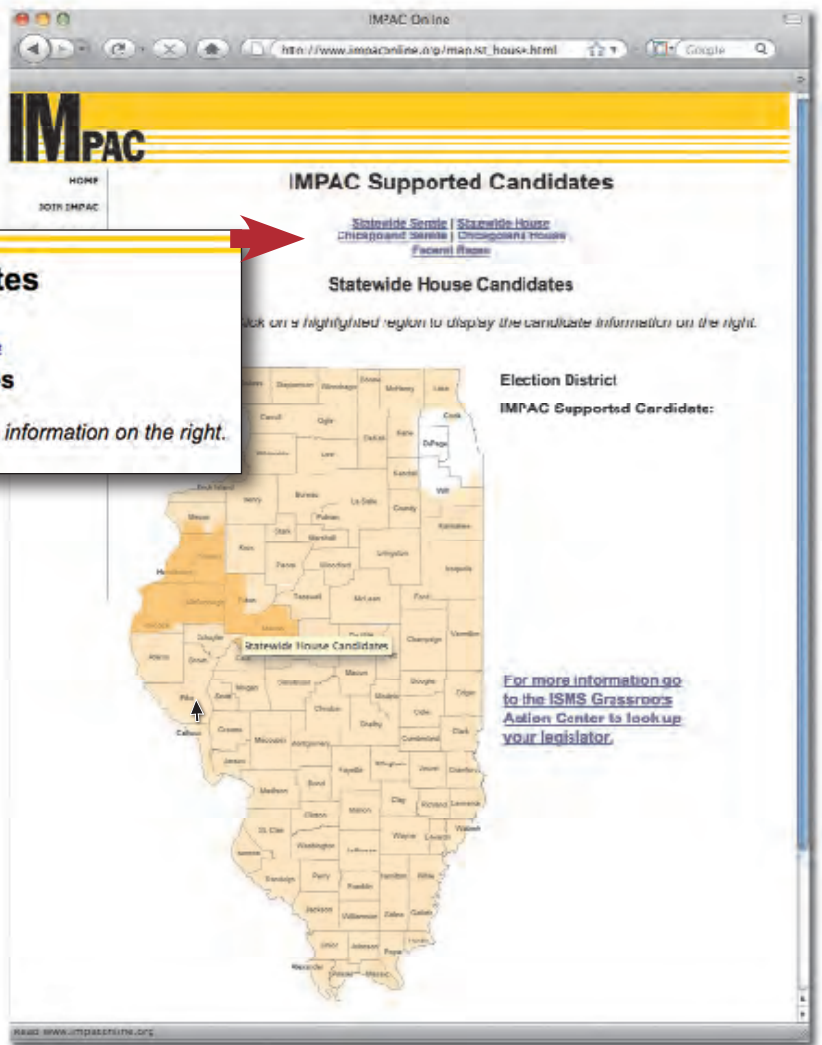


Percentage of ISMS members who contributed to IMPAC in 2009 vs. 2008

DISTRICT NUMBER/ COUNTIES	% PAC 2008	% PAC 2009	% Change
DISTRICT 1	31%	25%	-6%
DISTRICT 2	40%	34%	-6%
DISTRICT 3	29%	26%	-3%
DISTRICT 4	42%	18%	-24%
DISTRICT 5	8%	7%	-1%
DISTRICT 6	19%	14%	-5%
DISTRICT 7	31%	23%	-8%
DISTRICT 8	5%	3%	-2%
DISTRICT 9	38%	31%	-7%
DISTRICT 10	25%	24%	-1%
DISTRICT 11	22%	21%	-1%
DISTRICT 12	30%	15%	-15%
DISTRICT 13	32%	26%	-6%
DISTRICT 14	44%	36%	-8%

impaconline.org

Political Activism at Your Fingertips



Visit Our Updated Election Map!

In 2008, we unveiled our interactive map showing IMPAC-supported candidates. We've updated this to reflect the 2010 Illinois primary election, to be held **February 2**.

Stop by www.imaconline.org and get involved!

Going Beyond Election Day

Many don't realize what happens after they become IMPAC members; the process does not begin and end at election time. Your IMPAC contribution supports candidates and lawmakers who back meaningful legislation and oppose measures that would harm physicians and our patients.

The ISMS web site (www.isms.org) has launched a new Legislative Action Hub to keep you updated on the issues affecting us most. On this new page, you can easily note our position, track bill status and roll call votes, and identify your individual legislators' positions on our key issues. Joining IMPAC is just the beginning; your involvement is key.



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