

From the Board of Directors

A brief summary is provided to update members on current MDA Board projects and actions.

On April 28, MDA hosted a Key Issue Event in Lansing to bring stakeholders involved in childhood nutrition and physical activity together. It was a successful meeting because it kicked-off our Image Campaign. See Legislative Update, page 3 for more information on the campaign.

The ENERGY Task Force is taking the lead on identifying resources that we can make available to these groups and we are looking for other ways to maintain this momentum. If you would like to "just do one job" to help with the campaign, please contact Michaeline Raczka (mraczka@att.net).

The location of the 2004 MDA Annual Conference has been selected. Join us at the Troy Marriott April 29 to May 1, 2004 as we celebrate MDA's 75th anniversary. Look for more information in the newsletter.

MDA is again participating in the ADAF fundraiser held in conjunction with ADA FNCE. Be sure to check out the Michigan goodies...you may even want to bid on it for yourself.

Stay tuned for more updates from the MDA Board of Directors.

**Attending the ADA Food and Nutrition Conference
and Expo in San Antonio?
Then plan a night out at ADA Foundation
Gala Reception & Dinner that promises
to be fun filled and entertaining.
See page 2 for details.**



MDA's 2003 conference speakers were rated "superb" -reports Lee McDonagh. Turning Back the Hands of Time - Nutrition & Aging ... "one of MDA's best conferences". Friday started with Martha Belury, PhD, research on ALA, followed by Mark Messina, PhD with his favorite topic: SOY. Afternoon topics ranged from exercise, marketing, HRT, to Indian cuisine & supplements. The well attended pre-conference workshop "Better Bones: Better Health" was sponsored by the Dairy Council. Participants raved about Joan Horbiak and the media workshop, including yours truly. We're hoping to bring Joan back again! Saturday workshops focused on diabetes, grant-writing and a great luncheon speaker who brought the three days to an introspective close.

Next year, we'll meet at the Troy Marriott Hotel, April 29 to May 1, 2004. MDA will be hosting a very special event for the public! Stay tuned.

Call for Nominations . . .

ADA Nominating Committee is looking for enthusiastic, visionary, and dedicated individuals for the 2004 ADA/CDR ballot positions and the Leadership Database. The nominating form is available on member-only web site at http://www.eatright.org/Member/85_8070.cfm. Send electronically to: nominations@eatright.org. Submit by November 1, 2004.

REMINDER: The ADA 2004 Elections will occur by electronic ballot only beginning **February 5, 2004**. Members will again have the opportunity to request a paper ballot. More details forthcoming.

Nutrition Entrepreneurs

Fall Meeting

Prevention & Treatment of Metabolic Syndrome
Virginia Uhley, PhD, RD., U of M.

October 7, 2003
6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Ministrelli Heart Center
Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital
2 CEUs No fee: members.
\$15 fee for non-members.
Membership: \$15.
RSVP Margaret Strehl, RD
hai@teleweb.net by October 3, 2003.
Directions on web site/or sent
Contact 586/246-6454.
Join us for light refreshments

The FIESTA OF PHILANTHROPY GALA

Monday, October 27th Reception at 6:30PM, Gourmet Dinner,
7:30PM. Tickets \$100 available via ADA FNCE registration
brochure or at www.eatright.org.

Advanced seating with Michigan RD's can be arranged by
designating your request for the Michigan Table when you
make your reservation on the form or the ADA web site.
Join your friends and statewide professionals for an evening
gala of good food and fun. Space is limited so be sure to
purchase your ticket early.

2003-2004 District Presidents

AADA	Diane Racicot	Diane.racicot@ch.novartis.com
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The Link
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Dear Dietitian,

Why does Michigan need licensure for dietitians when we are already 'Registered' dietitians?

Registration through our national organization, the American Dietetic Association (ADA), indicates that you are a qualified practitioner. However, national registration does not prevent the unqualified practitioner of nutrition services from providing inadequate and potentially harmful patient care in Michigan. Under the current registration system only the self-motivated and qualified nutrition professionals join and the unqualified practitioners are free to practice without reliable standards and continuing education.

Licensure will require all practitioners to meet our standards for education and experience which will greatly increase the protection for all consumers in Michigan.

Plan now to celebrate the 75 years of MDA at the 2004 Annual Conference. Ideas and committee members are actively being recruited. Be a part of history and contact Cinde Rutkowski at cinde_ann@hotmail.com

MDA Legislation Update

Image Campaign Goes State Wide: With the help of our lobbyist, **DeGrow and Associates**, MDA has launched an **Image Campaign for RDs**: The focus is to put the RD in the forefront of statewide nutrition issues. The kickoff on April 28, 2003 with our Key Issue Event in Lansing was a success! Focused on the current crisis in Childhood Nutrition and Obesity, we pulled together key leaders in nutrition, health, and community education. Through this event we created a professional nutrition network with MDA as the facilitator and leader. During the meeting it was established that there are many solid programs and resources available but they are not always getting to the professionals that need this information. Participants asked that MDA lead the charge in getting "The Right Message to the Right People". Our ENERGY Task Force work is progressing to make these resources available to other health professionals via MDA website eatrightmich.org,

Through this network of health professionals, we will be able to communicate, share information and address poor childhood nutrition more directly. We are pleased to start this information sharing with the Michigan Association of Physician Assistants, at their Annual Conference in September 2003. Sandy Parker, RD, CDE, Director of TENDON will be presenting on Childhood Nutrition. MDA will also, have an exhibit booth at the conference increasing RDs exposure. This is just the beginning of what KEY partnerships can do for us. Also our goal is that the new coalition work together when nutrition legislation is introduced in Lansing. Look for more details to come as this exciting endeavor evolves in the Michigan legislative arena.

State Licensure: Now that we have put the RD in the forefront and forged new partnerships it is time to start working toward Licensure in Michigan (**YES, Licensure!**) for RDs. We are hoping to have a new bill introduced in the fall - winter at the latest. During this exciting time we

will need heightened member involvement.

Call to Action: Look for Action Alerts to inform you when it is time to contact your legislators. And here is our first: we need current data! It is once again time to start submitting Documentation of Harm forms. We have some great archives from 1998-2000, but we need more. Please take the time to document examples when an individual or patient was harmed by not receiving nutrition care from an RD. Check MDA website General Forms section: <http://www.eatrightmich.org/mdaforms/forms.asp>. Contact me if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Medicare Reform: June 27, 2003, both the House and Senate passed their own versions of a Medicare Reform Bill. A compromise bill is expected in September. It's important to note, **neither** of these bills included Medicare coverage of MNT for Cardiovascular Disease.

MNT for Cardiovascular Disease: Put Heart into MNT!

In the meantime, HR 1225 and S 632, our Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Amendment Act of 2003 continues to pick up co-sponsors, as of July 25 2003, the total was 113 in the House and 22 in the Senate. In MI, this includes only: Fred Upton, Dale Kildee, Bart Stupak, and Mike Rogers from the House and Debbie Stabenow from the Senate. If your Legislator is not on this list please help us get MORE MICH co-sponsors: contact your members of Congress ASAP. Simply ASK your Representative to co-sponsor HR 1225 and your Senator to co-sponsor S 632. If you need help, call or email me, I would be happy to give you contact info or even a sample letter. *It's Easy!*

WE WANT YOU! Being a Legislative Team member is an exciting way to volunteer for MDA.

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. Interested? Contact: Laura Freeland Kull, M.S., R.D. MDA At Large Director for Legislation 2002-2004 LKull@madonna.edu