

# The Advocate

Arapahoe - Douglas - Elbert  
Medical Society  
Monthly Publication

August 2005

## Inside this issue:

Legislative Column: Referenda C&D 2

New Society Members 3

2005 CMS Annual Meeting 3

2005 CMS Annual Meeting

Special pull out section including Registration form!

Want to get involved? 4

Information 5

August Calendar of events 6

## Sometimes you DO get what you pay for...

The Referenda C/D campaigns are starting to heat up, and we will all be inundated with information, misinformation, and the unavoidable opinions of the “talking heads” on how we should vote. I shall try to explain, as objectively as possible, what Ref C/D are about and why they are needed to bail the State out of the fiscal mess it finds itself in. Four key pieces of legislation collided with the recent recession to create a deep fiscal hole from which we cannot escape. It may all be as clear as the Platte River when we’re done, but let’s give it a try.

First came Gallagher, a citizen initiative that became a Constitutional Amendment in 1982. It fixed the ratio of collected property taxes to 45% from residential property and 55% from commercial property. Further, the assessment rate for commercial property was set at a fixed rate that could not be changed. The residential tax rate, the mill levy, was supposed to float up or down to keep the ratio steady. In 1982 when the law passed, 45% of the total property value was residential, and so it worked out pretty well. Today, however, 75% of all property value is now residential, and so the mill levy has been lowered to keep 45% of the total from this source. Later, when TABOR passed, it became illegal to raise the mill levy without voter approval, even if the ratio would allow it. The overall effect has been lowered property taxes, and local tax collections have not kept up with obligations. Local tax districts, which use these taxes to fund primarily public schools but also fire, police and local road maintenance, to name a few, have found tax streams drying up. The State is required to fill in funding gaps for public education, and its share of public school funding has gone up dramatically. In 1987 the State paid 40% of the bill, it now pays 60%.

Next came Arveschoug-Bird, a law passed by the State legislature in 1991. This law says that the General Fund (the GF from now on), can only go up by a max of 6% per year, based on what was actually spent in the prior year. The GF is the money that pays for just about every public service in the State, including K-12 education, colleges and universities, judicial services, parole, probation and prisons, Medicaid, child welfare, at-risk youth programs and so on. In low tax collection years associated with slow economic times, when there are not enough taxes to fund the GF to the prior years level plus 6%, the subsequent years base is less than the allowed maximum growth. There is a built in ratchet down mechanism on spending that comes into play when the economy is slow. As you can guess, the growth in expenses doesn’t slow down during these times, just the tax revenues needed to pay for them.

Along came TABOR in 1992, another citizen initiative that became an Amendment. While the 6% rule limits spending, this one is a revenue limit. It restricts the State from collecting more in tax revenues, tuition, fees, etc. than it did in the previous year plus an adjustment for population growth and inflation. If the State collects less than allowed, the next years limit is based on the prior actual collections, not the calculated limit from the prior year. In years of slow population growth and low inflation, allowed budget increases will be small, even in good economic times. In years when collections are actually less than the prior year, such as during the recent recession, the subsequent year’s budgets get smaller. In the last few years the State has experienced a 17% decline in tax revenues.

Continued on Page 2

# Sometimes you DO get what you pay for ...

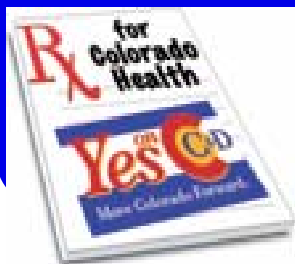
Continued from Page 1



**Bob Brockmann, MD**  
**ADEMS Secretary**

“The Medical Society is supporting Ref C/D...”

A solid State budget that supports health and education is essential to the well being of our patients ...”



When the economy rebounds, TABOR allows the budget to grow only at the limit of population growth and inflation, probably about 3% this coming year. There is no recovery mechanism, so services that are cut or limited cannot be restored without cutting something else. Thus this law too has a built in ratchet down mechanism, but on allowed revenues, not spending. Any monies collected over the limit must be returned to the taxpayers. Since the State can't know in advance how much it will collect in taxes, there have been times when the State overcollected, and refunds were issued. This first refund was in 1997, the last was in 2001. TABOR also prevents the State from setting up a reserve fund that might be used as a cushion in periods of low tax collections.

Finally, in 2000 the voters passed Amendment 23. At the time our school system was slipping badly in funding, in part due to Gallagher and TABOR. 23 requires the State to fund K-12 education at the prior years level plus inflation, plus 1% for 10 years in order to catch up. 23 also requires the State to increase GF spending on education by 5% each year at a minimum. Remembering that the State must make up funding gaps in K-12 education that local property taxes don't cover, and you start to get the big picture

Let's put it all together. Fully 2/3rds of the General Fund is mandated and nonnegotiable. 42% goes to K-12 education. 22% goes to Medicaid funding. The Medicaid caseload has gone up 65% while the budget has been cut \$100 million. We also lose matching Federal funds whenever we cut our state contribution. That leaves just 1/3 of the money with which to fund everything else in the GF, and virtually every item in the budget has been affected. To name a few, the State funding for the Dept of Public Health has been cut 60%, transportation 30%, higher education 20%. The mental health program in youth corrections, and the low income housing grants and loans programs, have been eliminated. The number of low-income children without Medicaid has nearly doubled in the last ten years (15% to 27%). The Maintenance Trust Fund, used for maintenance on existing capital investments, was raided. The entire \$258 million in the MTF was emptied into the GF to cover shortfalls.

Referendum C is a proposal to suspend TABOR for 5 years, and allows the State to keep all the taxes it collects for the next five years. It does not increase the tax rate. At the end of 5 years, TABOR resumes at a new revenue benchmark of the best collection year out of the preceding five years. It is estimated that, if the economy grows as expected, an additional 3.1 billion dollars will be collected over the five years. This would restore the budget to approximately 2001 levels. Approximately 30% of the additional money is earmarked for health care. The health care needs in our state far exceed the means, and this temporary measure will not solve the state health care crisis. It is, however, a welcome step in the right direction. These referenda alone will not fix Colorado's overall budget woes either, but it's a start. Approximately 10% of the anticipated money from Ref C goes to fund Ref D, which has a bond measure allowing the State to float bonds worth about 1.6 billion dollars to cover roads and construction projects.

After careful consideration, your county medical society is supporting Ref C/D. While we realize these measures are not the solution to all the problems facing health care, we also understand the need for a sound fiscal environment. A solid State budget that supports health and education is essential to the well being of our patients, and we are in support of legislation that will lead us in that direction.

*ADEMS welcomes your opinions. If you would like to write a letter to the editor, please email it to [achase@ademedicalsociety.org](mailto:achase@ademedicalsociety.org). Please let us know if you would like your opinions published.*

# Welcome New Society Members!

**Jagadish Boggavarapu, M.D.**

Allergy & Immunology  
In practice with Dr. Hembre  
2925 Professional Place #103  
Colorado Springs 80904  
719-593-1234 fax 719-579-0999  
M.D.: Bangalore University

**Ethan U. Cumbler, M.D.**

Internal Medicine—Pediatrics  
Family Practice Inpatient  
3531 S. Logan St. #D347  
Englewood 80113  
303-321-9700 fax 720-941-6230  
M.D.: University of Kentucky

**Susan P. Dias, M.D.**

Infectious Disease  
S. Denver Infectious Disease  
601 E. Hampden Ave. #340  
Englewood 80113  
303-788-5900 fax 303-788-5922  
M.D.: University of Virginia

**Kari L. Hayes, M.D.**

Radiology  
Radiology Imaging Associates  
10700 E. Geddes Ave. #200  
Englewood 80112  
303-761-9190 fax 303-761-6278  
M.D.: Indiana University

**Kristine E. Hembre, D.O.**

Internal Medicine  
In practice with Dr. Boggavarapu  
2925 Professional Place #103  
Colorado Springs 80904  
719-593-1234 fax 719-579-0999  
M.D.: University of Kansas City

**Edward J. Hepworth, M.D.**

Otolaryngology  
Assoc. of Otolaryngology  
950 E. Harvard Ave. #500  
Denver 80210  
303-744-1961 fax 303-744-1110

**Claire S. Schimke, M.D.**

Family Medicine  
In Practice w/Dr's Geherty & Wellner  
14000 E. Arapahoe Rd. #290  
Centennial 80112  
303-632-3640 fax 303-632-3642  
M.D.: Case Western



## Attention Delegates and Alternates!

### Please Register Today!

The 2005 Annual Meeting for the Colorado Medical Society is scheduled for :

**September 15—18**

**Sheraton Steamboat Resort and Conference Center**

Registration is now available at: [www.cms.org](http://www.cms.org)

[Please register by visiting the website](#)

[or fill out the provided registration form and return asap](#)

All members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in becoming an alternate delegate for ADEMS, please contact Andrea at 303.761.2887 or [achase@ademedicalsociety.org](mailto:achase@ademedicalsociety.org)

**Want to get involved with the Society...  
but you're afraid of long term commitment?**

We are engaging several new "Task Force Groups" over the next few months to work on specific issues or opportunities to enhance the value of the society's membership. Please contact the office if you have any interest in the following or other areas:

**Job Service:** Implementing an ADEMS sponsored personnel service for our practices. Assist with the setting up such service and work out the details of what it would take.

**Website Development:** Do you want to see more on our site? Do you have ideas that you would like to share or even expertise to make it happen?

**Community Connection:** Would you like to see more involvement by ADEMS in the community? Help find our niche.

These are just a few samples of short term commitment groups that will meet at times convenient for everyone.. Please con-

tact us if interested in participating in these or other areas  
303.761.2887 or  
[achase@ademedicalsociety.org](mailto:achase@ademedicalsociety.org)



**Task force groups will be meeting at times convenient for the group and will only continue to meet until the task is complete.**

**ADEMS needs your help!**

**Please attend this important meeting**

***Rick May, MD - CMS President elect discusses***

***Referendum C/D***

***"Why should you care?"***

**Wednesday, August 17, 2005**

**Swedish Medical Center**

**Spruce A/B**

**6:30pm—8:00 pm**

*Hors d'oeuvres will be served*

*Please RSVP to: 303.761.2887*

[dsandoval@ademedicalsociety.org](mailto:dsandoval@ademedicalsociety.org)

**by Monday, August 15th**



ARAPAHOE-DOUGLAS-ELBERT MEDICAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

**ADEMMMA presents...**

**Pam Moore,  
"Fee Schedule Basics"**

Tuesday, August 16th

Littleton Adventist Hospital

11:45 am to 1:00 pm

RSVP 303-761-2887

[dsandoval@ademedicalsociety.org](mailto:dsandoval@ademedicalsociety.org)

No later than Friday, August 12

# MTC Medical TeleCommunications

Since 1975 For Physicians, By Physicians

**Want two months of answering service absolutely free?**

Try MTC for two months, at no cost or obligation to your office, and we guarantee you will be glad you did.

- MTC has been owned by the Arapahoe-Douglas-Elbert Medical Society since its inception in 1975.
- MTC is the original, all medical answering service in Colorado.
- MTC specializes in standard message taking, paging, appointment reminders, and prescription refill lines.

**Does your current answering service meet these standards?**

- MTC is fully licensed and insured.
- MTC has a generator and back-up batteries.
- MTC records all calls on a Voice Logger.
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- MTC offers a \$15.00 per month discount to ADEMS member offices.
- MTC is a member in good standing with the Association of TeleServices International ([www.atsi.org](http://www.atsi.org)). We subscribe to ATSI's Code of Ethics and we participate annually in the Award of Excellence program.
- MTC is a member in good standing with the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau.

For more information contact us at:

Phn: (303) 761-6594  
Fax: (303) 761-4026  
E-mail: [info@medteleco.com](mailto:info@medteleco.com)

See our website at: [www.medteleco.com](http://www.medteleco.com)

Medical TeleCommunications  
777 East Girard Avenue, Suite 100  
Englewood, CO 80113



## Important Notices:

Each month *The Advocate* newsletter will have space to post notices for our members. Please contact us by the 15th of the month prior to place the notice.

### Medical Office Equipment For Sale!

Micro audiometrics Earscan II tympanogram & audiometer, recently serviced; goose neck halogen lamp on wheels; waste paper basket stabilizer; slant file shelves; papoose board; stand up scale; large wall mirror for next to exam table 70 x 36"; playnax dollhouse with TV/VCR/DVD compartment.

Call 303-972-7337 - Leave Message for Dr. Chase.

**Join your colleagues and have fun while helping patients from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month for**

**Doctor Line 9 on Channel 9 News. It's everything you love about patient care without the things you hate – no paperwork, no hassles, no liability risks. Participants also get to take a tour of the studio and watch how they do the news live!**

### 9 News & CMS Partnership

**Calendar of topics**

**8/4/05 Pediatrics/Back to School**

**9/1/05 Plastic Surgery**

**10/6/05 Women's Health**

**11/7/05 Ophthalmologists**

**12/1/05 Pain/Chronic Illness**

**Contact Dean @ CMS 720-858-6918**





# Annual Meeting Registration

2005 Annual Meeting of the Colorado Medical Society  
 Sheraton Steamboat Resort & Conference Center • September 15-18, 2005

**Name** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Component Society** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Spouse/Guest(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **CMS Alliance Member**  **Yes**  **No**

*If you are not a member of CMS, please provide the following information and \$125 for registration fees:*

**Company/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is September 1, 2005.** Registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis (may be limited for some programs). For purposes of registration, staff of county medical societies are considered members. You must indicate the number of attendees for each function so that we may be cost efficient with food/beverage orders. (*Note: If you have not pre-registered for Saturday's dinner, you must do so before noon on Friday, September 16 at the Registration Desk.*)

### Complimentary Events for CMS Member & Spouse/Guest

You and one guest are entitled to attend all events at no charge.

To confirm your reservation, use the boxes below. The shaded area is only for **ADDITIONAL** guests.

#### Thursday, September 15

		member	spouse/guest
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6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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#### Friday, September 16

		member	spouse/guest
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2:00 pm	AMA Forum Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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#### Saturday, September 17 *(Complimentary for member & one guest only)*

7:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:00 am	Education Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:00 noon	COMPAC Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:00 pm	Inaugural Gala		
	Meat Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vegetarian Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vegan Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHARGES FOR ADDITIONAL GUESTS	
# _____ @ \$25/each _____	
# _____ @ \$95/each _____	
# _____ @ \$95/each _____	
# _____ @ \$95/each _____	

**There is such a thing as a free political lunch! Because of the importance of Referenda C&D to physicians, spouses and patients statewide, there is no charge to attend the COMPAC lunch this year. Plan to attend and bring your spouse.**

**TOTAL** amount enclosed for non-members, additional guests. \$

Please make check payable to: **Colorado Medical Society** and mail this form, or charge  Visa  Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to us at PO Box 17550, Denver, CO 80217-0550  
 phone it to us at 720-859-1001 or 1-800-654-5653 or fax it to us at 720-859-7509

**Hotel Reservation deadline is August 15, 2005**

COLORADO MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Special Insert*

2005 Annual Meeting Schedule

**Thursday, Sept. 15**

12:00 PM- 1:50 PM Finance Committee  
 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM Board of Directors  
 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM Priming the Pump: Welcome Reception

**Friday, Sept. 16**

7:00 AM- 7:45 AM Drivers' Ed: New Delegate Orientation  
 7:00 AM- 7:45 AM Reference Committees Breakfast/Credentials Committee  
 7:00 AM- 7:55 AM COMPAC Board  
 8:00 AM- 8:30 AM House of Delegates Opening Session  
 8:30 AM- 10:10 AM Ladies and Gentlemen: Start Your Engines: General Membership Meeting (see separate agenda)  
 10:10 AM- 10:55 AM Break in Exhibit area  
 10:55 AM- 11:45 AM Ladies and Gentlemen: Start Your Engines: General Membership Meeting continued (see separate agenda)  
 12:00 PM- 1:45 PM May It Please the Congress: The Case for Evidence-Based Medicine: AMA Forum Lunch (see separate agenda)  
 1:45 PM- 2:15 PM Reference Committee on Board of Directors/Constitution & Bylaws/Credentials  
 1:45 PM- 4:30 PM Exhibits open – Exhibitor opportunities and refreshments  
 2:15 PM- 4:30 PM Reference Committee on Health Affairs  
 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM Recharging Your Batteries: Exhibitor Reception  
 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM Been There, Done That Dinner (by invitation only)

**Saturday, Sept. 17**

7:00 AM- 7:50 AM Breakfast Buffet  
 8:00 AM- 11:45 AM Rack and Pinion Steering: Education Program (see separate agenda)  
 12:00PM - 1:45 PM Pedal to the Metal: Test Drive our Newest Product Before the Big Race in November: COMPAC Luncheon (see separate agenda)  
 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM Preventive Maintenance: COPIC Programs  
 2:00-5:00 PM: Financial Seminar – Health Plans an - How Do Yours Stack Up?  
 2:00-4:00 PM: Risk Management – Difficult Clinician/Patient Relationships  
 2:00-3:00 PM: Risk Management – 3R Workshop  
 3:15-4:15 PM: Risk Management – Pitfalls in the Timely Diagnosis of Malignant Diseases  
 5:30 PM- 6:00 PM Qualifiers: Meet the Candidates Reception  
 6:00 PM- 10:00 PM Inaugural Gala

**Sunday, Sept. 18**

7:00 AM- 8:30 AM Going Through the Gears: Component caucuses  
 Aurora-Adams Clear Creek Valley Larimer/Weld  
 Arapahoe Denver Medical Students  
 Boulder El Paso County Pueblo/Western Slope  
 8:15 AM- 8:30 AM. Credentials Committee  
 8:30 AM- 12:00 N Under the Checkered Flag: House of Delegates 2nd Session  
 12:00 Noon or immediately following HOD Reorganizational Board

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

6855 S. Havana Street, Suite 320  
Centennial, CO 80112-3814  
Phone: 303-761-2887

## August Medical Society Calendar of Events:

3	6:15 pm	(CEPM) Current Events in Practice Management
9	6:15 pm	(PAC) Physician Advocacy Committee
10	Noon	ADEMMA - Board of Directors Meeting
10	6:30 pm	ADEMS - "Integrated Practice Models and Contracting" @ Cherry Hills Country Club
16	Noon	ADEMMA - "Fee Schedule Basics" @ Littleton Hospital
16	6:15 pm	ADEMS - Board of Directors Meeting
17	6:30 pm	ADEMS - Emergency Member Meeting– Referenda C & D @ Swedish Medical Center - Spruce A / B
18/19	9am -3pm	CMS—Quarterly Assembly Office Admin. Personnel <u>"Don't Just Sign That Contract!?"</u> @ CMS



Take a  
break from  
the summer  
heat and  
attend a  
member  
meeting!

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