



Maine Pharmacy Association Capsule

February 2005

Volume 3, Number 1

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."- Theodore Roosevelt

Upcoming Events

- MPA/PGNE Spring Convention & Trade Show April 1-3 2005 Sheraton Hotel South Portland
- Fall Conference October 2005 Samoset Resort



President's Message

Maureen Burke, RPh

As we move forward in the year 2005, let us remember to focus on the real reasons why we chose pharmacy as our profession. Commitment, dedication, integrity and honor have become our banner. As we move through stressful and challenging days for the practice of pharmacy, let that flickering light of hope guide us on our path. We are all members of the same family, in good or in bad times embracing the same spirit. Acts of good works with patients, acceptance of impending rules and regulations and the knowledge that we can affect change as a group can make a difference in how we view and ultimately practice our profession.

We, this illustrious group of dedicated professionals will be convening at our Annual Conference and Trade Show April 1-3 at the Sheraton, South Portland. This year's conference will prove to be as interesting and educational as ever. Excitement, comradery and, (dare I say?) a few beers will be on tap! So circle you calendar, fill out your registration and come lend support to our profession.

Hope to see you there!

Maine Merchants News & Legislative Update:

Property Taxes, Credit Card Scams, Health Insurance Mandates, Sales Tax Certificates, and Methamphetamines Occupy Maine Merchants Time In Recent days

As the second month of the Maine Legislature's 2005 session got underway, Maine Merchants Association concentrated considerable efforts to thwart attempts to shift property taxes from residences to businesses.

But, it also found time to promote its own legislation to criminalize credit card skimming; to oppose further health insurance mandates; to support repeal of a 2004 law that complicated the re-issuance of sales tax certificates, and continued discussions with the pharmacy industry and the Maine Attorney General regarding the control of methamphetamines.

Is Tax Reform a Synonym for a Tax Shift?

That is the exact question Maine Merchants Association has asked for the two years the Maine Legislature has debated the issue; and in the most recent

debate on the subject several lawmakers acknowledged that is the case.

"Tax reform is a rough synonym for a tax shift," conceded Sen. Peter Mills, R-Cornville, while arguing for enactment of a constitutional amendment that would allow municipalities to freeze valuations on homestead land. The measure is one of four constitutional amendments that are identified as "companions" to Gov. John E. Baldacci's previously enacted bill to increase state support for local education from 43 to 55 %, and to control spending at all levels of government.

Sen. Richard Nass, R-Acton, opposed the debated constitutional amendment, asserting that "shifting taxes around is not a solution."

Sen. Dennis Damon, D-Trenton, saying the constitutional amendment was a portion of the tax reform effort. Sen. Kenneth Gagnon, D-Waterville, pointed out that taking property differently is nothing new, that Maine already gives breaks to forests and open spaces. "Homes are as important as trees and fields," he argued.

In the final analysis, both political parties found their membership split on the issue.

Maine Merchants Association had met with legislative leaders of both parties urging defeat of all the constitutional amendments except one that would allow special tax consideration for "working waterfront" property used by Maine's struggling fishing industry.

"The business community was assured over and over that the governor's package was complete tax reform," said Jim McGregor of Maine Merchants Association. "There were news conferences hailing its passage as historic. Now we're being told that other steps are needed, and that we should provide municipalities with additional tools enabling them to accord different tax treatments to different kinds of property. It's critical to note that the spending caps in the governor's bill are not constitutional and can be violated by simple majority votes at all levels of government. The ability to shift property taxes from one party to another is going to be mighty tempting for towns that don't want to control spending.'

The homestead valuation freeze measure and the one impacting working waterfronts had passed by wide margins in the House of Representatives, but valuation freeze failed to receive the two-thirds vote needed for constitutional amendments by a 13-22 bipartisan vote. Supporters decided not to bring working waterfront to a vote then sent all the constitutional amendments to the Taxation Committee. One or more are expected to resurface prior to the end of the legislative session in June.

Credit Card Skimming

Maine Merchants Association has picked-up support from several quarters on its bill to criminalizing credit card "skimming." Joining MMA in supporting the measure by Sen. Lois Snowe-Mello, R-Poland, were representatives of banking, retailing, restaurants, the Maine Office of Consumer Credit Protection, the Attorney General and the State Police. It will provide criminal penalties for anyone caught using a special scanning device to illegally capture magnetic strip information from customer payment cards. Maine Merchants Association and the bill's sponsor were commended for bringing the identity theft issue before the lawmakers. The committee will vote on the measure after it has had a work session.

Other Maine Developments

Maine Merchants Association and other pharmacy interested continued to meet with the Maine Attorney General in an attempt to reach middle ground on legislation the state is preparing to deal with illegal labs that make **methamphetamines**. Maine Merchants Association has said in print and broadcast interviews that it wants to reach a workable balance. Pharmacies are concerned that laws requiring over-the-counter cough and cold medicines to be placed behind the pharmacy counter may lead to a drastic reduction of products available to the public. MMA also warned the attorney general that many of the products are being shoplifted and are showing up in flea markets. **Sales Tax Certificates:** Maine Merchants association has supported legislation to repeal a controversial 2004 law that required sales tax resale certificates to be reissued annually and limited them to resellers doing more than \$10,000 of business annually. **Health Insurance Mandates:** Maine Merchants Association, holding firm to a position it has maintained for many years, opposed proposals to identify additional providers who could be reimbursed for providing counseling and rehabilitation. The opposition by Maine Merchants and other elements of the business community was not surprising; but it received an unexpected ally – Maine's new state-affiliated Dirigo Health Plan that has had difficulty peddling its own policy because of high costs. In the past, the state has taken a neutral position on about 30 mandates currently imposed on private insurance policies. When the shoe is on the other footor something like that!

(Questions & comments may be directed to Jim McGregor at 207-623-1149 or jim@mmamall.org.)



Wishful Thinking.....only 4 more months!!!!

Project AWARE Players to perform at MPA/PGNE Convention

The Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs is proud to present The Project AWARE players to the attendees of the MPA/PGNE Spring Convention & Trade Show. Project AWARE is the flagship program of MASAP that puts a new perspective on the problem of teen prescription drug abuse – through the eyes of teens themselves. Project AWARE aims to raise awareness among Maine's youth; their educators, parents, and other adults; and the healthcare community, about the problem of and dangers related to youth prescription drug abuse.

Project AWARE also aims to empower young people in Maine by involving them directly in project development and implementation. Project AWARE is grant-funded and managed by the Maine Association of Prevention Programs (MAPP), the prevention arm of MASAP, the Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs. It is the only project in Maine specifically devoted to addressing the issue of youth prescription drug abuse. To date, Project Aware activities have reached over 500 youth and 200 adults through direct outreach.

Project AWARE activities are aimed at three target groups:

- Young people in grades six through twelve;
- Parents, educators and other adults; and
- Healthcare community, including doctors and pharmacists.

Project activities occur state-wide, with a special focus in eight target counties: Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington, and York, which were selected based on data on youth prescription drug use from the 2002 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, and represent both rural and urban communities.

For more information on Project AWARE, go to www.mparx.com and click on the Project AWARE link or see them at the Trade Show, April 1-3, 2005.

2005 Maine Legislative Proposals

Following are key bills that have been introduced for consideration in the 2005 Regular Session of the Maine Legislature. We have selected measures we feel could impact Maine Pharmacy Association members and business in general. If you have an interest in one or more of the bills, please contact Jim McGregor at jim@mmamall.org or call 207-623-1149. We can provide a complete copy of the text.

LD 0009 (**Pharmacy**) by Rep. Pingree of North Haven provides for legislative review of Chapter 11: Registration, Collection and dissemination of Prescription Data Relating to Schedule II, III, and IV Drugs.

LD 0021 **(Pharmacy –methadone)** by Representative Mazurek of Rockland would tighten licensing procedures for clinics and require public meetings before a clinic could be located near a child care facility or school.

LD 0049 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Greeley of Levant would require the Department of Professional and Financial Services to adopt rules to require prescribers of medication to include the written word for any number used in the prescription.

LD 0052 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Barstow of Gorham would allow youth campers to possess and self-administer emergency medication from an asthma inhaler or epinephrine pen.

LD 0108 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Glynn of South Portland would require the state to conduct an impact study before imposing mandates on health care providers.

LD 0129 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Watson of Bath would establish a unused prescription drug program under which unused prescription drugs could be accepted and dispensed to low-income persons. In an apparent separate effort, a task force is due to recommend ways to safely dispose of unused drugs.

LD 0176 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Marrache of Waterville would eliminate the need for prior authorization of medically necessary drugs in the state's MaineCare, elderly low-cost drug program, and Maine Rx Plus program.

LD 210 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Marrache of Waterville would permit patients to keep their medications when they are discharged or transfer from a nursing home or hospital.

LD 0225 **(Pharmacy)** by Sen. Mayo of Sagadahoc would regulate pharmaceutical detailers and require them to be licensed by State Board of Pharmacy.

LD 0266 **(Pharmacy)** by Sen. Andrews of York would require all providers of MaineCare services be Maine-based businesses.

LD 0318 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. McKane of Newcastle would return MaineCare enrollment to what it was prior to Dirigo, eliminate noncategorical adult eligibility expansion of the program, and increases the MaineCare reimbursement rate for hospitals from 75 to 88 %, the same as Medicare.

LD 0343 **(Pharmacy Perhaps)** by Sen. Andrews of York would require that any health care provider charge the same for service regardless of the patient or the anticipated payor.

LD 0494 **(Pharmacy)** by Rep. Campbell of Newfield would create a program to permit the elderly and disabled to purchase drugs out of the country.

LD 0519 **(Pharmacy – Methadone)** by Rep. Dunn of Bangor would require persons seeing licenses to operate methadone clinics to submit to criminal and background checks.

LD 604 **(Pharmacy – Mail Order)** by Rep. Perry of Calais is a resolve directing the Department of Health & Human Services to provide local alternatives to Maine Care's mail order pharmacy program.

(Bills as of 2/3/05)

2005 MPA/PGNE Spring Convention & Trade Show

April 1-3, 2005 Sheraton South Portland

Once again, the Maine Pharmacy Association has teamed up with the Pharmacy Group of New England to bring you the premier pharmacy event in Maine! We will be offering 12 hours of live continuing education, including law. There will be free breakfast and lunch and a full trade show with vendors offering door prizes and buying specials. Bring the family and enjoy all that the Portland area has to offer, such as the Old Port and Freeport outlets, and don't forget to get your tickets to the gala banquet and awards celebration on Saturday evening. Registration materials can be found in this newsletter.

8am - 4pm Registration & Welcome * Lighthouse Foyer

8am - 10am Exhibitor's Continental Breakfast * Lighthouse A

Friday CE Programs will be held in Lighthouse B

8:30 am - Noon Pharmacist Training Program: Emergency Contraception In Maine

Don Downing, R.Ph. / Continuing Education: 3 CEs

Sponsor: Barr Laboratories

10 am Break: Exhibitors/Refreshments * Lighthouse A

Noon: Lunch w/Exhibitors * Lighthouse A

1:00 -3:00pm Electronic Prescribing

Ken Whittemore /Continuing Education: 2CEs

Sponsor: SureScripts

3 pm Break: Exhibitors/Refreshments: * Lighthouse A

3:30 -4:30pm Maine Rx Monitoring Program

Chris Baumgartner / Continuing Education: 1 CE

Sponsor: Maine Office of Substance Abuse

Saturday, April 2nd

8am - 4pm Registration & Welcome: *Lighthouse Foyer

8am- 10am Exhibitor's Continental Breakfast: *Lighthouse A

8am- 1pm Exhibits Open: * Lighthouse A

Saturday CE Programs will be held in Lighthouse B

8:30 - 10 am New Pharmacy Rules

Greg Cameron, R.Ph. / Continuing Education: 1.5 CE

Sponsor: Department of Professional & Financial Regulation

10am Break: Exhibitors/Refreshments * Lighthouse A

10:30 - 11:30am Pharmacists Lobbying & Political Action

Douglas Carr, Esq. / Continuing Education: 1 CE

Sponsor: Rite Aid

11:30am - MPA Business Meeting (everyone is welcome!)

Noon: Lunch w/Exhibitors *Lighthouse A

1 - 2 pm Project Aware Players

Continuing Education: 1CE

Sponsor: Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs

2 - 3 pm / TBA / Speaker

Continuing Education: 1CE

3:00pm: Break, Refreshments

3:15 -4:15pm Pharmacy Technicians

Curt Cyr, R.Ph., Ph.D / Continuing Education: 1CE

Sponsor: Southern Maine Community College

Saturday Evening Festivities! *Sebago Room

6pm Cocktail/Social Hour

7pm Gala MPA Banquet

8pm Awards, Prizes & Raffle!!

9-11pm Music & Dancing

Sunday, April 4th

8:30 - 10am Continental Breakfast: *Sebago Room

Sunday CE Presentation will be held in the Sebago Room

9 - 10 am Pathology & Treatment of Small Cell Carcinoma

Jeanne Lebish,MSN, CRNP, CS / Continuing Education: 1CE

Sponsor: Genentech

10 - 11 am TBA / Speaker

Continuing Education: 1CE / Sponsor

11 - Noon TBA / Speaker

Continuing Education: 1CE / Sponsor

Thank you / Adjourn

Don't forget about the Web!

The association is currently working to make our web presence much better than it already is. We are looking at adding the ability to register for conventions, the golf tournament, even renew your memberships right online. Check the sight often and let us know what you like and don't like. This is your association and your association's website. Let us know how to make it work for you! Remember this address – www.mparx.com! Check it out!

Maine Pharmacy
Association
PO Box 1450
127 Pleasant Hill Road
Scarborough, ME
04074

Phone:
207-396-5340

Fax:
207-396-5341

E-mail:
info@mparx.com

We're on the Web!
www.mparx.com

MPA/PGNE SPRING 2005 Convention Registration

This 2-part form must be used to register for the convention and to order meals whether or not you plan to stay at the Sheraton Hotel or attend on a daily basis. To register and/or order meals please fill in , circle, or check- off the appropriate information and **return the form and a check payable to the MPA office by 3/26/2005** (for early registration). No refunds will be given for cancellations after 3/26/2005. Meal reservations received after 3/26/2005 cannot be guaranteed.

• CONVENTION REGISTRATION: **April 1st - 3rd, 2005**, So. Portland, ME.

NAME: Nickname for Badge: _____

Pharmacy/Company Name _____ Phone#() _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

FEES: (Please circle one) MPA/PGNE Members Non-members

<u>Pharmacists:</u>	EARLY - AT DOOR		EARLY - AT DOOR	
Full Weekend (Fri.-Sat.- Sun.)	\$ 90	\$ 110	\$140	\$ 160
Daily (Please check) Fri. ___ Sat. ___ Sun. ___	\$ 45	\$ 65	\$ 70	\$ 90
<u>Pharmacy Technicians:</u> Full Weekend	FREE!		\$25	\$ _____
<u>Pharmacist & Technician Students:</u> Full Weekend	FREE!			

MEALS: Check applicable meals for

	SELF	SPOUSE	OTHER	
Saturday - Banquet Meals: Roasted Stuffed Chicken.....\$29.50	_____	_____	_____ =	\$ _____
Garlic Crusted Prime Rib...\$37.50	_____	_____	_____ =	\$ _____

Mail this part of form w/Check to: Maine Pharmacy Association
c/o PGNE, 127 Pleasant Hill Rd. PO Box 1450, Scarborough, ME 04070

Total \$ _____

Also register at the MPA Website: www.mparx.com

• SHERATON SO. PORTLAND RESERVATIONS: Notice by February 28th, 2005 required!

MPA/PGNE Spring Convention & Trade Show, April 1st - 3rd, 2005

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel.() _____

No. of People _____, Room Request: Single _____ Double _____, Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____

Arrival Date 4- -05, Arrival Time _____, Departure Date 4- -05

Complete the following if applicable: Sharing Room with _____

Guaranteed Reservation: _____ Deposit enclosed(one day) / Special Request _____

Credit Card _____ Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Sheraton So. Portland Hotel: RATES: Single *\$ 96 Double *\$ 96 Check-in Time is 3 pm Reservations must be canceled 24 hours prior to arrival to ensure advanced deposit refund. Advanced deposit will be applied to the last confirmed night of your stay. Reservations requested beyond the cut-off date are subject to availability. Rooms may still be available after the cut-off date, but not necessarily at the above rates.

All rates are subject to 7% state tax. No connecting rooms available. PGNE/MPA Group Commitments guaranteed only through February 28th, 2005. Check with hotel after this date @ (207) 775-6161 for rates and availability.

*** Members who stay at the Sheraton will receive \$20.00/night rebate directly from PGNE / MPA.**

Mail to: Sheraton Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, ME 04106 / Fax to: (207) 772-1267