

2009 Board

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# NKMS Society

## Rounds

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## All Northern Kentucky Workers Deserve to Breathe Clean Air

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the public health standard of care for eliminating secondhand smoke exposure is comprehensive smoke-free legislation that protects all workers and patrons in all public places and all workplaces without exemptions.

In H-490.913, the American Medical Association encourages, "...physicians and medical societies to take a leadership role in defending the health of the public from environmental tobacco smoke risks and from political assaults by the tobacco industry." Northern Kentucky physicians can respond to AMA's call to action by getting actively engaged in Northern Kentucky ACTION's comprehensive smoke-free workplace campaign. All Northern Kentucky workers deserve to breathe clean air. The goal is not to pass a law; rather, the goal is to protect all workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Northern Kentucky is the last major metropolitan area in the Commonwealth not covered by a smoke-free law. From Lexington to Paducah and Ashland to Louisville, 21 communities in Kentucky currently protect their workers from the more than 4,000

toxic chemicals in secondhand smoke. What is Northern Kentucky waiting for?

You may hear "any law is better than no law." This reasoning is flawed. The goal is not to pass a law; rather, the goal is to protect all workers from deadly exposure to secondhand smoke. All workers deserve to be protected from the 60 known carcinogens in secondhand smoke. Exemptions create an unlevel playing field and can lead to enforcement challenges and potential litigation. Comprehensive smoke-free laws with no exemptions are the gold standard and are the only way to truly protect workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

It is a myth that smoke-free laws are bad for business. The opposite is true. In 47 scientific, peer-reviewed articles, there was no negative economic impact from smoke-free laws. Further, secondhand smoke costs the United States \$10 billion annually in direct healthcare expenses and lost productivity among nonsmoking workers. Smoke-free laws reduce the economic burden on businesses and the local community by helping smokers quit. Comprehensive smoke-free

laws in Northern Kentucky are a good business decision in these hard economic times.

Local smoke-free laws vs. a state mandate are best at this time so that Kentucky can avoid a) passing a law with exemptions (as did Tennessee) that would create difficult loopholes; and b) experiencing enforcement problems similar to those experienced in Ohio. Premature passage of a weak state law could overturn hard-won comprehensive local laws that cover virtually all workplaces and enclosed public places. While Kentucky will someday be ready for a statewide smoke-free law, that day has not yet come.

The debate is over. The science is clear. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in nonsmokers. Further, smokers have a more difficult time quitting when they are exposed to secondhand smoke where they work, live, and play. To be part of the conversation on secondhand smoke, call 859-261-1721 today.

Dr. Sarah Kercksmar, Manager,  
University of Kentucky Clean  
Indoor Air Partnership

Board Members

# President's Report

At the recent Northern Kentucky Medical Society Holiday Party, we elected members to the Board of the Society. We need to thank those physicians for being willing to give up some of their time to serve and to try to make our community a better place for all physicians to practice. I would like to ask that all of you consider what you could do, as well, to help the Society meet its responsibilities. Certainly,

all of the members can't serve on the Board at once. We do, though, welcome your participation in the meetings. We are always looking for new ideas and new physicians to participate. Several of the Board members have served multiple terms. We value their experience and input, but new blood helps keep us current and relevant. If you feel that you can contribute to improving our medical community and

would like to participate, please contact one of our Board members and we will be happy to welcome your contributions. The Medical Society is looking to promote improved communication between physicians in an environment where there is increasing separation of physicians. We encourage you to join us in this effort.

Stephen Hiltz, MD  
President, NKMS

Membership

# Alliance Report

The Northern Kentucky Medical Society Alliance is commonly referred to as the Alliance. The Alliance is a group of Physician spouses.

The Alliance exists to help physicians address the various current public health issues. The Alliance is also concerned with the government bureaucracy and big

business influence on health care. The above information can be found on the website—[www.kyma.org](http://www.kyma.org). Once on the website you can then search Alliance for further information.

Over the last couple of years the Alliance has seen a steady drop in their membership. In order to be successful and continue with their

programs, the Alliance needs members.

Please encourage your spouse to join this worthy organization. Your spouse can contact Patty Heeb for more information about the Alliance. (859) 341-4211.

Patty Heeb, President,  
NKMS Alliance

Upcoming Events

# Calendar of Events

- |          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| March 19 | Trustee Dinner               |
| March 24 | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| April 21 | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| May 19   | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| June 16  | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |

# KMA Report

## Declared Disaster Liability Relief Act

Pursuant to a 2008 House of Delegates resolution, KMA joined a coalition of professional, trade, and business associations in support of [House Bill 434](#), the Declared Disaster Liability Relief Act. Sponsored by [Rep. Brent Yonts](#) (D, Greenville), the bill would exempt those providing emergency services, including medical services, in times of de-

clared disasters from liability in civil actions unless such acts constitute willful or wanton misconduct.

Considering Kentucky has been battered by ice and wind storms in the past six months and thousands of emergency workers have flocked to the state to restore power, provide medical care, and return things to normal, Rep. Yonts strongly believes it is time to protect those individuals from Kentucky's,

often times, overly litigious liability system. In an [Associated Press article](#) about House Bill 434, Rep. Yonts said, "It's the right thing to do. It's good public policy in light of the fact that we just went through and are still going through one of the greatest disasters Kentucky has ever experienced.

To demonstrate your support for House Bill 434, the Declared Disaster Liability Relief Act, call (800) 372-7181.

NKMS

Welcomes  
New  
Members

## Practice Update

We want to welcome the following physicians who became members of the Northern Kentucky Medical Society in 2008.

Kenneth Heberling, MD  
Mark Schroer, MD  
Michelle Veazey, MD  
Anthony Miller, MD  
Thomas Schussler, MD  
Michael Geiger, MD

Kristi Day, MD  
Ty Brown, MD  
Donn Burns, MD  
Michael Fletcher, MD  
Kevin Moreman, MD  
Kerri Sobolewski, MD  
Todd Horn, MD  
Jennifer Ernst, MD  
Meredith Donnelly, MD  
Macon Bradley, MD

Cheryl Chacko, MD  
Jason Crimmins, MD  
Sarah Flora, MD  
Susan Feeney, MD  
Patricia Isaacs, MD  
Andrew Mueller, MD  
Fred Pfenniger, MD  
Brian Walters, MD  
Bradley Williams, MD  
Van Young, MD

## 2009 Proposed Budget

Ordinary Income			
Mailing Labels	25.00		
Dues-Associate	1,620.00		
Dues-Active	52,000.00		
Dues-Resident	120.00		
Dinner Meetings	<u>12,250.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>66,015.00</u>		
Expenses			
Website	600.00		
Dinner Meetings	22,500.00		
Gift	300.00		
		Post Office Box	72.00
		Dues & Subscriptions	475.00
		Insurance	2,000.00
		Licenses & Permits	8.00
		Postage & Printing	4,000.00
		Professional Fees	2,000.00
		Repairs	50.00
		Telephone	840.00
		Contracted Services	21,800.00
		Office/Supplies	<u>1,300.00</u>
		Total Expenses	<u>55,945.00</u>
		Net Income	10,070.00



**Northern Kentucky  
Medical Society**

P.O. Box 18255  
Erlanger, Kentucky 41018

**Contact Information**

Phone: (859) 496-NKMS (6567)

E-mail: [nkms@nkms.org](mailto:nkms@nkms.org)

Web: [nkms.org](http://nkms.org)

Northern Kentucky's  
Physician Network

Address Correction Requested

## Trustee Dinner

The Kentucky Medical Association Eighth District Trustee Dinner, hosted by Theodore Miller, MD, will be held at Summit Hills Country Club, (236 Dudley Road, Crestview Hills, KY) on Thursday, March 19, 2009. The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM.

This is the chance for the KMA President, Dr. James Beattie, to address the Northern Kentucky Medical Society on current KMA issues.

The dinner menu will feature a Caesar Salad, Surf & Turf (4 oz Filet Mignon, and 4 oz Halibut), green beans with almonds, and

parmesan red-skin potatoes. For dessert, white chocolate mousse with fresh fruit and Baileys caramel sauce.

For special dietary needs, a substitute entrée may be requested. Please make requests known to Karla Kennedy (859) 496-6567.



Summit Hills Country Club

Dinner for NKMS Physician members and their spouse/guest will be \$25 per person and dinner for non-member Physicians and their spouse/guest will be \$50 per person. Please make checks payable to NKMS and send to PO Box 18255, Erlanger, KY 41018.

Make plans to attend this year's District Trustee Dinner. Please RSVP on or before March 12, to the Northern Kentucky Medical Society, Karla Kennedy, at

(859) 496-6567.

Reservations will also be accepted by email: [nkms@nkms.org](mailto:nkms@nkms.org)