

# NASCSCA NEWS

December 9, 2009

## President's Message

NASCSCA's 25th Anniversary Meeting in San Diego in October was well-received, according to participant evaluations, and credit for that success is largely due to the Program Committee as well as the Executive Director. A new Program Committee has been formed and has already begun planning for next year's conference, including considering the many good suggestions regarding topics and logistics that were offered by attendees in the evaluations. While the annual conference is NASCSCA's flagship event, the organization is undertaking other projects as well, including some aimed at achieving long-term strategic goals. A number of committees, explained in greater detail later in this newsletter, have begun their work on these projects for the coming year. Members, both regular and associate, are encouraged to volunteer for committees of interest. NASCSCA is largely a volunteer organization and it is through broad participation of the membership that the organization will be able to sustain and improve upon its important activities in the next year and beyond.

*Grant Carrow, President, NASCSCA*

## NASCSCA's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Criteria to Be Announced Next Week

NASCSCA's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Program was announced at the annual NASCSCA conference in October. The Program is funded by a \$200,000 grant from Purdue Pharma, LP to support the operation, expansion and awareness of appropriately-designed state prescription drug monitoring programs.

Grant criteria and a full description of the program will be posted on NASCSCA's website on **Monday, December 14, 2009**. The deadline for grant submissions is **January 15, 2010**. NASCSCA will manage the solicitation, review and funding of grant proposals. State government agencies or departments will be selected based on an independent review by the NASCSCA Special Projects Committee, which consists of association members with expertise in the field of prescription drug abuse and diversion and prescription drug monitoring. Purdue Pharma will not participate in the selection process.

## NASCSCA's 25th Anniversary Conference Sets Attendance Record

Despite financial difficulties facing many states throughout the country,

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## State Regulatory Developments

State Regulatory Developments is a monthly compilation by NASCSCA of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website [www.nascsa.org](http://www.nascsa.org) under "News."

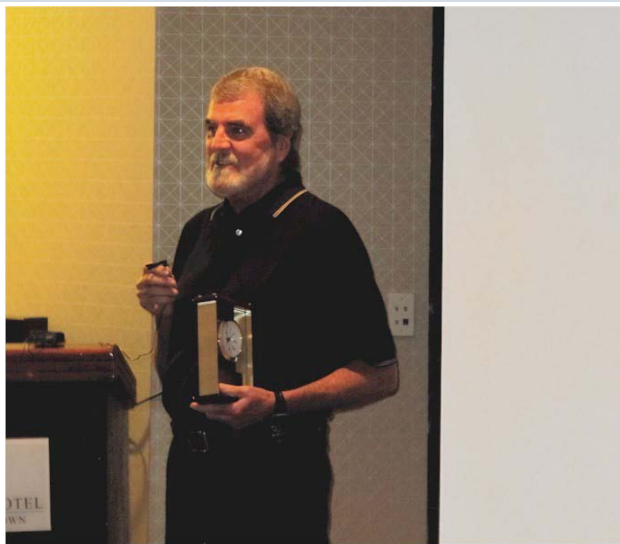
this year's 25th annual conference featured record attendance, with 137 attendees representing over 30 states as well as representatives from a number of federal agencies and industry. In recognition of the 25th Anniversary, this year NASCSA held an anniversary luncheon, co-hosted by Thomas Wyatt, Jr., one of the founding members and former Executive Director, along with current Executive Director Kathy Keough. At the luncheon, NASCSA recognized the corporate sponsors of the organization, for their role in ensuring the continued success of the organization in providing valuable services to members and others interested in controlled substances issues (for a complete listing of sponsors visit the 2009 Conference link at [www.NASCSA.org](http://www.NASCSA.org)).

## NASCSA Executive Committee Elected



During the annual conference, members elected the 2009-2010 slate of officers including: Karen Tannert, TX (Chair); Grant Carrow, MA (President); and Mark Keeley, OH (Vice President); Ralph Orr, VA (Secretary-Treasurer). In addition, members elected Executive Committee members, including: Frances Kelley, IN; Dean Wright, AZ; Brian Howes, AK and Ronald Klein, MT.

## President's Award Presented to Bill Ward



Karen Tanner, TX, outgoing NASCSA President and current Chair, presented the 2009 President's Award to Bill Ward, former head of Connecticut's Department of Consumer Protection, during the 25th anniversary luncheon. Mr. Ward had served as an officer of NASCSA for many years as well as President of the organization. Since his retirement, Mr. Ward has served as NASCSA's webmaster and has continued to be a constant champion of the organization.

## NASCSA Embarks on New Clearinghouse Initiative

As part of NASCSA's strategic planning initiative, the Executive Committee, with the support of the membership, is embarking on an effort to become a central repository of information related to controlled substances that will be helpful to members as well as those interested in controlled substances issues. The first such project will be state-specific profiles that will provide a brief recap of state contacts, web-links, applicable regulations and statutes and additional information. Over the next several months, member states, districts and territories will be contacted to provide their specific information. Members are encouraged to participate so that the information will be accurate and comprehensive in nature. More details on other planned enhancements will be communicated over the coming months.

## 2009-2010 Committees Formed

The Executive Committee formed several committees to work on a variety of NASCSA issues during the coming year. These include the following: Special Projects Committee; Program Committee; Membership Committee; Survey/Data Committee; Bylaws/Resolutions Committee; and Policy & Procedures Committee. All members in good standing, including associate members are welcomed and encouraged to participate. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Kathy Keough at [kathykeough@nascsa.org](mailto:kathykeough@nascsa.org) for further information.

## NASCSA Participates in NABP Task Force Meeting

Ralph Orr, VA, recently represented NASCSA before a task force convened by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to discuss state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP's). NABP convened a meeting of the Task Force on Prescription Monitoring Program Standards in late October in Northbrook, IL. The Task Force has been charged with reviewing and identifying variations in existing prescription monitoring programs as compared to the Model Prescription Monitoring Act found in the Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act); and potentially recommend revisions, if necessary, to the NABP Model Act addressing this issue. Additional details will be made available upon publication by NABP.

## Documentary Available on Oxycodone Abuse

At this year's annual conference, attendees had the opportunity to view a compelling documentary on the abuse of oxycodone. The documentary is 50 minutes in length, but well worth the time to watch as it does an excellent job framing the issue. The documentary, is available online at no cost at:

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/100279/vanguard-the-oxycontin-express>.

## Proposed Placement of Carisoprodol Into Schedule IV, and Deadline for Comments

The Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) issued a proposed rule to place the substance carisoprodol into Schedule IV of the Controlled Substance Act. This proposed rule is based on a recommendation from the Department of Health and Human Services and on an evaluation of the relevant data by DEA. Data from several databases shows that carisoprodol is abused in the United States. A number of states regulate carisoprodol under their controlled substance regulations. Written comments regarding the proposed federal rule must be submitted and postmarked by December 17, 2009 or submitted electronically before midnight EST on December 17, 2009. More information is available in the Federal Register and can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> using docket number DEA-333.

We hope you have enjoyed our our most recent edition of the NASCSA Newsletter. This electronic newsletter is sent periodically to update and inform members and other interested parties of matters that may be of interest. If you have news items to share or other information that may be helpful to our members, please forward to me.

On behalf of NASCSA, we wish you and your family Happy Holidays!

.Sincerely,

Kathy Keough  
Executive Director, NASCSA  
72 Brook Street  
Quincy, MA 02170  
Phone: (617) 472-0520  
Fax: (617) 472-0521  
Email: [kathykeough@nascsa.org](mailto:kathykeough@nascsa.org)