Renewals for 2018-2019 Membership Dues

Dues notices for regular and associate members should have been received by now. Dues run from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. To download a membership form click here.

Nominations to Serve on NASCSA's Executive Committee

It is not too late to begin thinking about running for office on the Executive Committee. At the present time all officer positions are

President's Message

It is truly hard to believe how quickly the year has passed and that our annual conference is just around the corner. It has certainly been a busy year, which is probably why it passed in the blink of an eye.

NASCSA's Executive Board and all of the Committees have been hard at work to ensure NASCSA remains a strong leader in representing both CSAs and PMPs. It takes a collective effort to make an association like ours viable, and I think it is only fair that special thanks also go out to all the volunteer members on our committees, including the Executive Committee. Their tireless work to provide the membership with the best possible resources and oversight is truly appreciated.

NASCSA plays a vital role in our professions, and I hope that this next year each member will find a way to serve the organization that serves you. We will continue to provide affordable networking and continuing education opportunities. If you have stepped up in the past, we thank you. If you have not yet, please consider doing so this next year.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming NASCSA Annual Conference in Scottsdale, AZ.

Barbara Carter, President

Annual Conference Reminder
open and there are several Executive Committee positions that are open. If you are interested in serving please email Ralph Orr at ralph.orr@dhp.virginia.gov, indicate the position you are interested in running for and submit a copy of your resume.

Consider Donating to NASCSA

Did you know that you can contribute to NASCSA online? As a 501(C)(3) nonprofit is a great organization to consider donating to.

To donate please click here.

State Regulatory Developments

Did you know that NASCSA publishes a monthly compilation of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website here.

Follow NASCSA on Twitter

NASCSA is pleased to announce that it is now on

Longtime NASCSA Member and Webmaster William Ward Passes Away

It is with deep regret that we inform you that William Patrick Ward, 75, of Bloomfield, passed away at home with his family on August 22, 2018, following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Bill was a long time member of NASCSA since its inception and has been NASCSA’s webmaster for well many years. He truly will be missed. To view Bill’s obituary please click here. We encourage you to consider posting your thoughts to Bill’s wife Phyllis and his family. On behalf of the Executive Committee we offer our sincerest condolences and our appreciation for the many countless hours Bill contributed to NASCSA on our behalf.

NASCSA Committee Reports

The 34th annual conference will take place at the Hotel Valley Ho October 30-November 2, 2018 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Registration information as well as information on hotel accommodations is available on our website here. We strongly urge members to book your hotel early as this is a particularly busy time of year and the hotel is extremely popular. As a reminder, the latest program is available here as is the registration form. We ask that attendees send in your registrations as soon as possible.
Twitter and the number of followers continues to grow each month so please follow us at @NASCSA.

NASCSA is on Twitter
NASCSA is pleased to announce that it is now on Twitter and the number of followers continues to grow each month so please follow us at @NASCSA.

On behalf of NASCSA we wish to extend a very special thanks to our sponsors who help support us during the conference and throughout the year. A list of sponsors can be viewed here.

FDA warns companies selling illegal, unapproved kratom products marketed for opioid cessation, pain treatment, and other medical uses
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently has issued warning letters to three marketers and distributors of kratom products - Front Range Kratom of Aurora, NASCSA President Barb Carter created a number of committees that have been meeting throughout the year on a variety of projects. Committee members, comprised of volunteers from member states as well as associate members are the backbone of the organization. We encourage all members to consider volunteering. For a list of committee members click here.

Membership - In addition to developing the criteria for this year's travel scholarship, members of the committee reviewed the applications and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The committee also recently updated its communication policy to reflect current operations. The committee will be identifying other individuals and organizations to expand its membership and sponsorship base to continually ensure that NASCSA continues to be self-sustaining in the future. If you are aware of potential organizations please contact us!

Program Committee - Members of the committee have finalized the 2018 conference program which is outlined above.

Survey/Data/IT - The committee has begun its work of developing potential surveys of the membership. We ask that state agencies check the state profile page here for their respective states and let us know whether any information needs updating. If there is information you feel would be helpful, please forward those suggestions.

Prescription Monitoring Program - The committee is meeting on a monthly basis and has a number of important tasks. The PMP committee has reviewed the Model PMP Act, has been working on a guidance document around data integrity to share with data submitters, and has been updating data on the NASCSA website.

Policy and Procedures - A committee has been formed to review NASCSA's written policies and procedures to ensure that these documents are up to date. These policies ensure the smooth operation of the organization and provide a roadmap for overall operations of the organization.

Finance Committee - A committee has been formed to review NASCSA's finances on an ongoing basis and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Education Committee - The Education Committee meets via conference call nearly every month to
Colorado: **Kratom Spot** of Irvine, California and **Revibe, Inc.**, of Kansas City, Missouri - for illegally selling unapproved kratom-containing drug products with unproven claims about their ability to help in the treatment of opioid addiction and withdrawal. For more information, please visit: **Kratom Warning Letters**.

On behalf of NASCSA we wish to extend a very special thanks to our sponsors who help support us during the conference and throughout the year. A list of sponsors can be viewed [here](#).

**HHS Announces Second Meeting of Pain Management Task Force**

The second public meeting of the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force will convene September 25-26, 2018, at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC, according to a US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announcement](#). The

**DEA Acts Against Synthetic Drug Linked to 151 Overdose Deaths**

The Drug Enforcement Administration today announced action against a dangerous designer synthetic cathinone linked to 151 overdose deaths in the United States between 2015 and 2018.

Published in today's Federal Register, DEA's action puts N-Ethylpentylone into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I substances refer to those with no legitimate, accepted medical or industrial use in the U.S. This action is based on a finding by the DEA Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon that the placement of N-ethylpentylone in Schedule I is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. DEA published its Notice of Intent to take this action in June 2018.

This temporary scheduling action lasts for 24 months, with an additional 12 months if necessary to conduct the necessary research to determine whether it should be controlled permanently. This research will include an eight-factor analysis conducted by DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services.
task force will receive presentations from three task force subcommittees established at the inaugural task force meeting. The subcommittees will discuss recommendations for updates to best practices and recommendations for chronic and acute pain management and prescribing pain medication. The task force will also deliberate and vote on the draft task force recommendations.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments at the meeting. In addition, individuals can provide written comments until September 17, 2018, using the instructions provided on HHS’ [web page](#).

**Industry News: NIC Launches RxGov, a Best-in-Class Technology Choice for Government to Combat the Opioid Epidemic**

NIC Inc. (Nasdaq: EGOV), the dominant provider of digital government services, today announced the launch of [RxGov](#), a comprehensive prescription drug monitoring system.

In 2017, DEA labs nationwide identified nearly 3,000 fentanyl and fentanyl-related compound exhibits, 922 synthetic cannabinoid exhibits, and 369 cathinone exhibits. Of the 369 cathinone exhibits submitted to DEA labs for testing and identification, 201 of those were N-Ethylpentylone.

As a result of this order, the regulatory controls and administrative, civil and criminal sanctions applicable to Schedule I controlled substances will be imposed on persons who handle (manufacture, distribute, reverse distribute, import, export, engage in research, conduct instructional activities or chemical analysis or possess) or propose to handle N-ethylpentylone.

To see the Federal Register Notice, click here.

N-ethylnpentylone Fact Sheet [here](#).

**Comings and Goings**

The following changes in personnel have occurred. If you know of any changes/updates in personnel contact Kathy Keough at Kathy.Keough@nascsa.org.

**Arkansas** - David Shane has been named as Director of the Arkansas Department of Health Pharmacy Services following the retirement of James Myatt. Denise Robertson has left her position as PMP Administrator to start her own consulting company. In the interim, Mr. Shane will also cover PMP issues until a replacement has been named.

**California** - Tina Farales, Staff Services Manager II has taken over the PMP following the retirement of Steve Small.

**Mississippi** - Stephanie Mueller has assumed the role of PMP Director following the retirement of Dana Crenshaw.

**Mississippi** - Frank Gammill, Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy retired May 31st.

**Linda Barefoot** - who worked as Regional Director of State Government Affairs for Purdue Pharma, recently retired.
program (PDMP) technology platform to help government combat the opioid epidemic. The platform is driven by the Company’s acquisition of the RxOrbit suite of technology assets from Leap Orbit, a privately held, Maryland-based company with extensive healthcare IT expertise in health information exchanges, clinical decision support, and state and federal government markets.

NIC has been managing PDMP solutions since 2011, and launched its flagship, comprehensive ePDMP system in the state of Wisconsin in 2017. This acquisition is a purchase of assets only by NIC, and no Leap Orbit employees will be joining the Company. However, as part of the purchase agreement, NIC will have an ongoing strategic relationship with Leap Orbit to actively collaborate on future business development efforts and the product roadmap for RxGov.

Illegal Veterinary Medicines Affect Health and Safety for Both Animals and the Public, Reports Global Animal Medicines Association

Counterfeit, falsified, and unregistered illegal veterinary medicinal products, including bulk supplies, are a growing problem for companion animals in the United States, Canada, and in other developed countries, indicates a new report. Such products are distributed via internet pharmacies, other e-commerce sites (e.g. eBay and Amazon), and more recently, via social media (Facebook and Twitter), according to the report Illegal Veterinary Medicines: Impact and Effective Control. Illegal internet sites distributing authorized veterinary medicines is also a growing problem across all regions.

As noted in the report, the risks of illegal veterinary medicines include: lack of efficacy and safety for animals; risks to human safety through food from animals treated with illegal veterinary medicines; and less effective control of zoonotic infections and increasing antimicrobial and antiparasitic resistance. The report makes several recommendations and offers strategies for animal health companies, enforcement agencies, customers, and other stakeholders to take against illegal veterinary medicines.

NIH and ADA Partner to Address Dentists' Role in Opioid Crisis

A commentary recently published in the Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) addresses the vital role of dentists in helping to alleviate the opioid crisis. Dentists were the top specialty prescribers of opioids in the late 1990s, but due to a number of initiatives, prescriptions by dentists dropped more than 50% by 2012.

Despite these statistics, the authors argue that more needs to be done to continue to reduce opioid misuse and abuse, according to the news release from the
The commentary discusses several ways scientific evidence can help guide clinical care decisions, including:

- Continue research into dentists’ prescribing practices and emergency department use of opioids for dental pain to inform practices and minimize the risk of opioid misuse;
- Develop tools to improve clinical decision making related to the appropriate use of non-opioid pain medications;
- Develop targeted research interventions to address the use of opioids in rural communities; and
- Coordinate dissemination of the latest research findings and clinical guidelines and recommendations.

The commentary also highlights how the institutes are working together to support scientific research for those in clinical practice. The NIDA news release notes partnerships with the American Dental Association (ADA) pave the way for increased collaboration between clinicians and researchers.

Authored by Dr Nora Volkow, director of the NIDA, and Dr Martha Somerman, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, both parts of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the commentary, “The role of the oral health community in addressing the opioid overdose epidemic,” is available in the August 2018 issue of JADA.

**FDA Commissioner Addresses Role of Veterinarians in Opioid Crisis, Announces Resources and Recommendations**

In a statement, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, provides veterinarians with important information regarding the potential for people to misuse the opioid medications
that veterinarians prescribe to their animal patients. Dr. Gottlieb also discusses the lack of products that are FDA-approved specifically for use in animals, leaving veterinarians to prescribe products originally approved for use in humans when they determine a need for opioid pain medications for pets. He adds that the only FDA-approved opioid for use in animals (Recuvyra, a fentanyl product) is not currently marketed by the manufacturer, and carfentanil is no longer FDA-approved for use in animals after Wildlife Laboratories withdrew the application for Wildnil in Spring 2018.

FDA has developed a new resource, "The Opioid Epidemic: What Veterinarians Need to Know," providing information and recommendations specifically for veterinarians who stock and administer opioids. In this new resource, FDA provides information on proper disposal of unused medications; advice on how to keep opioids and other medications safe in a veterinary clinic or other veterinary facility; information on how to access federal opioid training; and a list of resources on opioid abuse.

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**DEA, DOJ Propose to Reduce 2019 Aggregate Production Quotas for CS in Schedules I and II**

In a recently issued notice with a request for comments, Department of Justice (DOJ) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have proposed a reduction for controlled substances (CS) that may be manufactured in the United States in 2019. The proposal decreases manufacturing quotas for the six most frequently misused opioids for 2019 by an average of 10% as compared to the 2018 amount, indicates a press release. The notice published in the Federal Register proposes to reduce more commonly prescribed Schedule II opioids, including fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, oxycodone, and oxymorphone, according to a DOJ chart.
Further, this notice of proposed rulemaking marks the third straight year of proposed reductions, which help reduce the number of drugs potentially diverted for trafficking and used to facilitate addiction, according to DOJ. The Proposed Aggregate Production Quotas for Schedule I and II CS reflect the total amount of CS necessary to meet the country's medical, scientific, research, industrial, and export needs for the year and for the establishment and maintenance of reserve stocks. Either electronic or written comments may be submitted by September 19, 2018, using the instructions in the Federal Register.

**Federal Register Notice - Schedules of Controlled Substances**

The Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration is issuing this temporary scheduling order to schedule the synthetic cathinone, 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)-pentan-1-one (N-ethylpentylone, ephylone) and its optical, positional, and geometric isomers, salts, and salts of isomers in schedule I. This action is based on a finding by the Acting Administrator that the placement of N-ethylpentylone in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. As a result of this order, the regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions applicable to schedule I controlled substances will be imposed on persons who handle (manufacture, distribute, reverse distribute, import, export, engage in research, conduct instructional activities or chemical analysis, or possess), or propose to handle N-ethylpentylone. Click [here](#) to read the notice.