

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Medical Association
515 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60610
800/262-3211 (members)
312/464-5000

Board of Medicine
4042 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C03
Tallahassee, FL 32300-1753
850/245-4131

Drug Enforcement Administration
8400 NW 53rd Street
Miami, FL 33166
407/333-7046 or 800/667-9752

Florida Medical Association
P.O. Box 10269
Tallahassee, FL 32302
850/224-6496 800/762-0233

First Professionals Insurance Company
P.O. Box 44033
Jacksonville, FL 32231
904/354-5910 800/741-3742

Professionals Resource Network
P.O. Box 1020
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
800/888-8776



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ORGANIZED MEDICINE WORKS FOR YOU

VOLUSIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Membership in the Volusia County Medical Society is the first step into the community of organized medicine - a federation that speaks for you, works for you, and provides services for you. Founded in 1925, the VCMS is one of 45 component medical societies chartered by the Florida Medical Association.

FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Florida Medical Association, founded in 1874, is the hub of organized medicine in Florida. Radiating from the hub are the 45 component county medical societies and the 38 state specialty groups recognized by the FMA.

As the largest medical organization in Florida, the FMA represents the interest of more than 16,000 physicians, in all areas of medicine from professional liability to medical ethics and health planning.

As the conscience and voice of its physician members, it speaks in support of the continued high quality of medical care in this state. It supports the free enterprise system of health care delivery. And it stands fast against those who would turn the best health care system in the world into a public utility.

VCMS membership does not require FMA membership.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The American Medical Association is the national voice of medicine. It is your medical organization on the national level and represents your profession to Congress. It battles the regulatory agencies on your behalf. It operates the nation's largest physician placement service. It develops programs for physician-hospital relations. It brings health care information to the public.

With your AMA membership you receive the benefit of the world's largest scientific publishers: The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), The American Medical News, and, in addition, one of the ten medical specialty journals.

VCMS membership does not require AMA membership.

HOW THE VCMS IS GOVERNED

The VCMS is governed by officers elected democratically by the membership. Officers are President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer; each serves a one-year term, beginning in November.

Assisting the officers in guiding the society is the Executive Committee, a twenty-plus-member group consisting of the officers, the society's immediate past-president, and members appointed by the current President from the general membership.

VCMS members also elect delegates and alternate delegates to the Florida Medical Association House of Delegates, which convenes annually in August. This House, in turn, elects the American Medical Association delegates from Florida.

Officers of the Society also include the Censors Committee, which is made up of nine elected members of the society. This board has jurisdiction in the interpretation of all VCMS regulations pertaining to ethics and conduct. When one physician member brings charges against another, the Censors Committee conducts the investigation.

Much of the VCMS work is carried out by its various committees. Active committee participation is critical to the proper functioning of the medical society.

LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATURE: VCMS joins with the FMA to effectively lobby the legislature and offer testimony before legislators on issues including managed care, licensing and regulations, medical liability reform, health care access, cost containment, and numerous other health care topics.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATES: Working with the FMA, VCMS provides member physicians with up-to-date information on legislative and regulatory issues concerning doctors via broadcast faxes and emails.

KEY CONTACT PHYSICIAN PROGRAM: VCMS assigns one or more physicians to each legislator in Volusia County in an effort to forge a relationship with them. This allows a continued dialogue with legislators year round.

Volusia County Medical Society
P.O. Box 9595
Daytona Beach, FL 32120-9595
386/255-3321 or 386/254-4105
FAX 386/254-4296
www.VCMS.org

WHAT DOES VCMS DO FOR YOU?

Your Volusia County Medical Society does a great deal for you. It does this through its various comprehensive committees, through its other recently formed organizations, through its many publications and through its numerous other activities. Following is a brief description of the services provided by the VCMS and its related organizations. Please choose from the list one or more areas if you would like to participate. By doing so, you will not only make a valuable contribution to your society of peers, but you might also be laying the groundwork for the future of medicine in our country.

VOLUSIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

PHYSICIAN REFERRAL SERVICE: The VCMS receives hundreds of telephone calls from individuals seeking physicians. The staff provides referrals only to VCMS members. This is provided as a public service to the Volusia County community. It is an excellent way for a physician, who is either starting or expanding his practice, to obtain new patients.

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION SERVICE: The Society is pleased to answer the numerous inquiries from the public about member physician's medical backgrounds, board certifications and fellowship training. A wide variety of other patient questions are also answered on a daily basis. The office also assists with questions from members' office personnel.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: VCMS serves as the official spokesperson for the medical profession in Volusia County. It does this usually through its officers, primarily the president. Every attempt is made to present the positive side of medicine, being ever so mindful that the physician's primary responsibility is to excellent patient care. The Communications Committee provides information to the media and other key medical personnel. The Communications Committee also assists other local television and radio stations in their presentations of medical news subjects. Every attempt is made to be accurate and impartial.

OFFICE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: The VCMS, through its own resources and in consultation with the FMA and AMA, provides answers to members' questions regarding practice management, retirement from practice, and regulations affecting the profession.

NETWORKING: The VCMS hosts two annual events: A Joint Meeting with the Alliance and a meeting with the Volusia County Bar Association. These two events are great opportunities for physicians to meet and network with fellow doctors and others in our community.

MEDICAL SOCIETY SERVICES

PERSONNEL FILE SERVICE: The file service is designed to assist physicians in finding qualified office personnel. The file service deals with all types of office personnel: receptionist, secretaries, transcriptions, RNs, LPNs, etc.

MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATIONS:

THE STETHOSCOPE: This magazine, published quarterly by the Society for the physicians, is also distributed to other health care providers. It contains articles and other informational pieces related to the medical profession. Physicians receive their copies free.

VCMS DIRECTORY AND WEBSITE: The VCMS publishes a roster of members semi-annually that lists current office addresses, phone & fax numbers. The VCMS website, vcms.org offers information to patients and physicians, along with a pictorial directory of physician members.

NEWS BRIEFS: A weekly newsletter containing up-to-the-minute information on medical news and other areas of importance pertaining to such issues as managed care, legal issues, risk management, etc.

MEMBERSHIP MAILING LABELS PROGRAM: In order to assist members in communicating with each other, the VCMS provides an up-dated mailing list with labels at a nominal fee.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE: Society staff members are certified as Notary Publics and will notarize any documents you have, free of charge. Just call ahead of time to set up an appointment, and our staff member will be happy to help you.

ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNTS: VCMS members receive discounts to Florida amusement parks, including Sea World, Universal Studios, etc.

WORK WITH FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: The VCMS works closely with the FMA, AMA and specialty societies on local, state, and national issues. VCMS members may serve on committees of these associations.

COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: This group prepares a budget for the fiscal year, thus advising the Society of its financial responsibilities and capabilities and presents a report at the annual meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee transacts all business for the Volusia County Medical Society. It also approves all applications for membership and acts as the final board in suspending and expelling members.

This committee meets on the first Tuesday every other month and is always open for any member to attend.

MEDIATION COMMITTEE: The Mediation Committee considers grievances made by patients against physicians. The complaints may concern the physician's competency to practice medicine, the cost of physician services, and whether the physician's delivery of care matches the community standards.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: This very important committee has as its primary function that of making the state political structure aware of our desires and needs. It does this through regular contact between key physicians and Florida State Representatives and Senators.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The Membership Committee reviews new member applications, in conjunction with the Executive Committee.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE: This group is a fact-finding and advisory committee on matters pertaining to the Bylaws.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE: The Public Health Committee consists of members willing to render medical advice, which is beneficial to the public in specific medical problems. Under the auspices of this committee, a committee on school health has developed a very active program with regard to physical examinations for school athletes. It also ensures that an M.D. or D.O. physician is present at all major athletic events.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: This committee monitors all governmentally-sponsored Health Programs, including Local Health Councils. It is the responsibility of this committee to keep the Executive Committee informed on governmental intervention into the practice of medicine.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: It is the responsibility of this group to provide a long-range plan for growth and development of the Society. It has also become the privilege of this committee recently to interview various VCMS members who have criticisms and compliments to pay the Society. By evaluating these remarks, the committee is better able to plan for the future. If you should like to make a recommendation or presentation to this committee, please call the Society Executive Director.

PHYSICIAN RESOURCE NETWORK COMMITTEE: VCMS representatives participate in the FMA's statewide Impaired Physicians Program to compassionately assist physicians whose practice is disrupted or threatened due to age, emotional problems, chemical dependency, etc. This work is handled discreetly. Through the years, many physicians have been significantly helped after initial contact with this group. The Physicians Recovery Network telephone number is 800/888-8776.

MEDICAL/LEGAL COMMITTEE: Through a joint committee with the Volusia County Bar Association, the VCMS attempts to promote better understanding between physicians and attorneys. Periodically, the two groups cosponsor a social and/or educational event.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: To review disaster plans in the community to determine adequate coverage by area physicians in the event of an emergency.

MEDICARE & PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE: To maintain a liaison with health insurance agencies. To serve as a clearinghouse on all questions affecting the economics of medicine.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: To monitor and participate in the activities of health education for children, which includes scoliosis screening.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: To provide suggestions and coordinate programs for the quarterly membership meetings.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: To write and publish the Society's quarterly periodical, *The Stethoscope*.

YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION COMMITTEE: Provides a means for physicians aged forty and under or those over forty who are in their first five years of practice to meet and network.

