Thank you for the great work in the House in San Francisco! I am very excited to be writing my first official House update as your Speaker. For the first order of business, I would like to thank Theresa Tolle, our now Former-Speaker, for her service to the House. I want to thank her for mentoring and preparing me to fill her shoes as your Speaker. As we begin this new leadership year, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the outgoing Committee members and Committee Chairs who worked tirelessly this past year to move us forward.

Plans are in full swing for 2018. At this time the House leadership and staff are in the process of selecting committee appointments. In the coming months our Committee members and Chairs will be hard at work carefully deliberating the viewpoint of our peers, their patients, and the profession when writing their respective reports.

This communication serves as a review of the actions of the 2017 House and provides an update of activities currently underway in preparation for the 2017-2018 policy development process.

Activity from the 2017 House of Delegates
The House did excellent work addressing the topics, I cannot thank the 2017 Delegates enough for their engagement over the past year as we sought to address the issues of our profession. In March 2017, the House of Delegates (HOD) adopted a number of important policy statements related to: Patient Access to Pharmacist-Prescribed Medications, Pharmacists’ Role Within Value-Based Payment Models, Pharmacy Performance Networks, Equal Rights and Opportunities for Pharmacy Personnel, Drug Disposal Program Involvement, Indication on Prescription Labels and Medication Safety, Support for Clinically Validated Blood Pressure Measurement Devices, and Pharmacy Technician Education, Training, and Development. In addition, the House amended and archived existing policy statements in its annual review of current policy. For specific information regarding the actions of the House, please see the 2017 House Actions Report.

The 2017-2018 House Rules Review Committee has already completed two conference calls to evaluate the proceedings in San Francisco, discuss survey feedback from delegates, and offer suggestions for improving the processes and procedures of future House sessions. A full report from the 2017-18 House Rules Review Committee will be available later this year.
Policy Implementation Progress and Proposed Policy Topics for 2017
In April, the Joint APhA-APPM/APRS/ASP Policy Standing Committee met to review the 2017 APhA House actions and made recommendations for the implementation of adopted policies that will be presented to the APhA Board of Trustees during its June 2017 meeting. This group also evaluated 21 proposed policy topics suggested by delegates and members and made recommendations regarding the topics most important for deliberation by the 2018 House of Delegates. The Board of Trustees will meet in June to review the committee’s recommendations and assign policy topics for statement development to the 2017-2018 Policy Committee for consideration of the 2018 House.

Update from the 2017 APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) House of Delegates
The 2017 APhA-ASP House of Delegates adopted resolutions in the following areas:

- Expanded Utilization of Pharmacist- and Student Pharmacist-Provided Care Transitions Services
- Mandatory E-Prescribing of Schedule II Controlled Substances
- Durable Medical Equipment and Medical Devices Ease of Access
- Efforts to Reduce Mental Health Stigma

While APhA-ASP adopted resolutions are not official policy of APhA, they do provide a sense of what topics are most important to student pharmacists and guide the work of the Academy of Student Pharmacists.

The APhA-ASP House also elected the 2017-2018 National Executive Committee. Congratulations to the following student pharmacists: Michael Murphy (The Ohio State College of Pharmacy), President; Nimit Jindal (The State University of New Jersey Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy), President-elect; Allyson Cagle (Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy) and Meryam Gharbi (University of Maryland School of Pharmacy), Members-at-large; and Jason Gaines (Mercer University College of Pharmacy), Speaker of the APhA-ASP House of Delegates.

Delegate Appointments for the 2018 House
Delegates are appointed for a one-year term (serving from June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018). As a Delegate you will have numerous opportunities to be involved in policy-related activities, such as participating in webinars, serving on a House committee, and commenting on topics and statements throughout the year. State pharmacy associations, APhA Academies, and other recognized national associations have been notified of their delegate allotments for the 2018 House with instructions to confirm their delegates by August 1. If you are interested in representing a delegation in the House, I encourage you to contact your state pharmacy association, APhA Academy, or recognized national organization as soon as possible. Please note that registering for the House of Delegates does not register you for the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Take On A Leadership Role – Run For Speaker-elect
The House of Delegates Committee on Nominations is seeking applications for the office of Speaker-elect. The Speaker-elect will be elected and installed during the 2018 Annual Meeting and will complete a three-year term through the 2021 Annual Meeting. The elected official will serve the first year as Speaker-elect and the subsequent remaining two years as Speaker and APhA Trustee.

If you are interested, candidate information must be received in the APhA House of Delegates office by March 15, 2018. Please review the qualifications, duties and nomination process found here.
Upcoming Webinar Opportunities
The House will provide webinar opportunities beginning in September to help you prepare for the 2018 House of Delegates. The webinars listed below will provide you background information related to committee discussions and offer an opportunity for you to participate and learn about the topics.

- Open Forum on Policy Topics – Coming in September
- Proposed Policy Statements – Coming in January
- Policy Review Committee Overview – Coming in January
- New Business Item Review – Coming in February
- Delegate Orientation Recording – Now Available Online

If you are unavailable to attend any of the webinars above, all recordings will be posted on the HOD website at http://www.pharmacist.com/apha-house-delegates

Save the Date
Get ready for APhA2018! APhA will celebrate its 164th Annual Meeting & Exposition, March 16-19, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Over the course of the next year, periodic reports will be posted on the House of Delegates web page to update you on the implementation of adopted policies and highlight associated activities. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding the House of Delegates policy development process, please feel free to contact me or APhA staff directly at hod@aphanet.org. Thanks again for your participation and interest in the House of Delegates, and I look forward to working with you over the next year!

Sincerely,

Michael D. Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP
APhA Speaker of the House of Delegates

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