

# CAPA Presidential Address 2023

By: Susan Benivegna, R.Ph.

It is truly an honor and privilege to represent the Capital Area Pharmacists Association (CAPA) as the incoming president this year. As I enter into my term as president, I look forward to helping our members become engaged with organized pharmacy. For 24 years, I've been an MPA and CAPA member enjoying the continuing education programs. In 2020, after one of the CE programs, when Dr. Curtis Smith asked for volunteers for Advent House, I asked a few questions to understand how meals could be made with the COVID restrictions in place. My son and I volunteered to help make 168 bag lunches with some CAPA members. We had a great time doing something we love to do, that aligns with CAPA's core values too. Participating with these projects throughout the year and learning more about our local organization, inspired me to say "yes" when asked to join the executive board. I've received some great mentoring which gave me the confidence to move into this leadership role and renew my passion for our great pharmacy profession. Now I hope to lead the challenge to grow the pipeline of new pharmacy leaders and increase membership during the "new normal".

Our local association provides a multitude of ways that pharmacists and technicians can add quality to their professional lives. Your membership in CAPA provides many tangible benefits such as continuing education, community outreach, advocacy and providing scholarships. With these membership offerings, CAPA strives to remain relevant to its members at every stage of their career. CAPA and MPA are guided in this effort by our mission statements "to encourage and support its members as professionals" and to "unite and empower Michigan Pharmacy Professionals".

CAPA has always been known for offering engaging continuing education programs five times per year. This year, we are shaking things up with a new line up of speakers from Wayne State University (Law Update, Pharmacists Role in Poison Prevention and Renal Bone Disease), University of Michigan (Bioethics) and our partners from Ferris State University (the popular Wits and Wagers). We are looking forward to offering more in-person CE programs mixed with live virtual programs this year. Look for more information in your e-mail and Sign-Up Genius.

Our volunteer work and meal preparation with Advent House Ministries in Lansing, five times each year, allows members to give back to their community. In 2022, our members held community

events for both Poison Prevention Week at Impression 5 Museum and for Pharmacy Week event at the Burcham Hills community, as well as Capital Area District Libraries. We hope to expand our outreach even more in 2023.

We are the voice of advocacy for our profession by taking our concerns and resolutions from our local component level to the MPA Annual Convention & Exposition to benefit and protect the profession of pharmacy, as well as our patients. The Board would love to hear from our members with their ideas. Our advocacy group may even reach out to the Michigan Nurses Association, which represents Pharmacists, for more ways we can improve quality and staffing issues.

CAPA Social events help us network and share both ideas and friendship with others navigating these often challenging times. We welcome all members to get involved in one of our association's various committees. There is something interesting for everyone. Many hands make the work light and can even forge new friendships.

As this new year begins, I extend my gratitude to the past CAPA Executive Board and Officers for their devotion to our organization and its mission. With excitement and energy, I welcome and challenge them and the members-at-large to get involved, bring a friend and help make CAPA a relevant, fresh and fulfilling component for 2023 and into the future!