NEWSLETTER



Montana Academy of Family Physicians

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Summer 2005

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From The President...



Susan Gallo, M.D. MAFP President

Greetings from the Montana Academy of Family Physicians. First, let me introduce myself. My name is Susan Gallo. I am a practicing Family Physician in Miles City, MT. I have been involved with the MAFP for 8 years now-starting as the resident board representative. I am proud to be a graduate of the first class of the Montana Family Medicine Residency program in Billings. At the annual board meeting in Fairmont this June, I was elected to serve as the MAFP president for the 2005-2006 year.

I frequently hear people ask what the benefit of belonging to the MAFP and/or AAFP is. For me the individual benefits have been many. It allows me a way to meet and network with other Family Physicians across the state and across the nation; offers CME opportunities and leadership activities; keeps me abreast of changes locally and nationally in healthcare and family medicine; and most importantly, keeps me energized and excited about my specialty. In the fast paced and isolating world of every day practice, it can be easy to lose sight of the reasons we chose our profession.

As a group we benefit from the strength in numbers that can create political change. The MAFP uses a part-time lobbyist during the legislative season to keep us up on issues that most affect Family Medicine and we rely heavily on the Helena area physicians to promote our interests at committee hearings. The rest of us can be active in this process by contacting legislators in our respective areas to discuss important

issues. By banding together with other groups who share our interests (i.e.; pediatricians, MT Council of Maternal/Child Health, etc.) we are even more successful in creating change. The last session was a great example of this when 9 important medical malpractice and tort reforms bills were passed. This was largely due to the hard work of the

Medical Association and will benefit all of our practices. If you are interested see

http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/ for a complete copy of the bills.

Finally, the MAFP works closely with the MFM Residency program and the WWAMI students. Many members offer clinical rotations for students and/or residents in their practices. Most recently the board has been working on getting a member on the selection committee at the University of Washington in an attempt to promote selection of students most likely to return to Montana and maybe even rural practice. If we are successful we will all benefit.

Currently only a handful of Family Physicians from across the state are actively involved in the MAFP. Although they are a fun group who I enjoy working with very much, I would love to see more physicians become involved. In an attempt to do this a bylaws change was enacted at the summer meeting expanding the number of director slots on the board from 3 to 6. The director position is simply another voice on the board to offer opinions and ideas. Expanding the number of slots is an attempt to get more people involved at the board level and foster leadership skills with minimal commitment. The requirements of the position are to attend 2 meeting a year. The winter board meeting is held at Big Mountain in February and the summer meeting at Fairmont (Red Lodge in 2006) in June. If you have an interest in getting more involved please consider running for one of these positions.

Also discussed at the summer meeting was the induction of a Montana Family Physician of the Year award. Details and criteria are still being finalized. Keep an eye on this newsletter and e-mails for your chance to nominate a colleague or mentor.

Upcoming opportunities to get involved with your state academy include the winter meeting at Big Mountain January 31-February 3, 2006. It is always a great meeting and the skiing is top-notch. The summer meeting is going to be moved to Red Lodge in 2006. It will be held in conjunction with the 10 year anniversary of the residency program and promises to be lots of fun. Education starts with an optional ALSO (advanced life support in obstetrics) course June 21-22 and kicks into full gear June 22-24 with CME lectures on a variety of topics. Come for the CME credits and if you like what you see consider getting more involved. We would love to have you!

Susan Gallo, MD President, MAFP



THE MONTANA FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY WELCOMES THE ENTERING CLASS OF 2005...



The Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) is getting ready to celebrate its 10th anniversary next year in 2006. The first and only graduate medical education program in Montana accepted its first residents in 1996 and as of this summer will have graduated 42 family physicians. Next summer, in conjunction with the June 2006 MAFP conference in Red Lodge, we are planning a Tenth Anniversary celebration to mark this milestone in our growth.

MFMR was started to address the shortage of family physicians in the state. With no residency programs, Montana was a total importer of physicians. In this state, about 70% of the physicians in rural and underserved areas of the state are family physicians, yet Montana was not yet growing its own locally taught and regionally educated physicians.

The residency now attracts hundreds of applications from medical students around the country, hosts dozens of medical students on clinical rotations and welcomes 6 new residents each year. The residency mission is clear – to prepare family physicians for practice in rural and underserved Montana. Since opening, we have done just that, with over 60% of our graduates in Montana. The National Health Service Corps SEARCH program, administered by the residency, also annually places 100 medical, PA, dental and other health professions students throughout the state as another means of helping future health care providers learn about the opportunities for their career in our state. MFMR is an active member of the University of Washington WWAMI Family Medicine Residency Network. Our graduates practice throughout the state and many are active in the Montana Academy of Family Physicians. We invite you to pay a virtual visit to us at our web site www.mfmr.org and come and visit our residency in Billings to see your future colleagues in action.

We are pleased to welcome six new interns to the program this year as well as one new second year resident. Our new first year residents include:

Rachel Gaidys graduated from the University of Vermont. Rachel grew up in a variety of places from Vermont to New Mexico, graduated from Norwich University in Vermont where she majored in biology with a minor in criminal justice and spent one year of college in Ireland. She has long been interested in working with the underserved, worked with the Vermont Department of Health supplemental food program and has taught medically related topics to local school children through their SMILE-DOC program. She was a competitive All-New England team swimmer and runner in college and is interested in community sports as well. She enjoys running, swimming and hiking.

Larry McAleer graduated from Temple University. Larry was born in Altoona Pennsylvania where he met his wife, DeAna, and did his undergraduate work in Chemical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. He has many interests and activities including music, sports, has been a student radio talk show host, and has been involved in a number of community outreach programs including tutoring inner city elementary students and developing an urban garden with a kindergarten class and teaching children about gun safety. He has a strong interest in pursuing research along with his career in family medicine and has experience as a research assistant in a project studying childhood obesity. He enjoys tennis, basketball, mountain biking and plays the piano.

Deirdre McNamer is from Billings and graduated from the University of Colorado. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard in Archaeological Anthropology, and her masters from Montana State University in Microbiology. After college Deirdre spent one year teaching science in Venezuela where she also coached basketball and soccer, and then a year coordinating an ambulatory care quality improvement project at the VA medical center in San Francisco before going to MSU for her graduate degree. She has been active in research during graduate and medical school and was designated an ARCS Scholar(Achievement Reward for College Scientists). While in graduate school she obtained her

EMT license and worked as a volunteer with the fire department, at the local community health center and met her husband Eric. Her other interests include running and mountain biking, ultimate Frisbee, reading and movies.

Ben Phipps grew up in Deer Lodge, moving to Minnesota during high school living and working on the family dairy farm. He graduated from the University of Minnesota - Duluth where he was a part of the Rural Physician Associate Program, working in Crosby Minnesota for most of his third year. Ben graduated from the University of Minnesota in Duluth with an undergraduate degree in Biology, where he was active in sports. During medical school he volunteered in Crosby as an assistant varsity coach for track and field, presented information on healthy choices to elementary and high school classes, conducted a research project, and also managed to complete 4 marathons (including Boston) and other long distance races. He has worked with medical clinics in Honduras and Kenya and volunteered with homeless clinics during medical school. His other interests include fly fishing, hunting and other outdoor sports, long distance running and many other sports.

Sarah Stewart grew up in Belen New Mexico and graduated from the University of Iowa. She attended undergraduate school at Drake University where she earned a degree in biology. Between college and medical school she worked as an endocrinology research assistant for one year at a VA medical center. During medical school she spent one year in the Pathology Externship program, volunteered at the Iowa City free medical clinic and on the ethics committee, taught Sunday School and sang with a vocal group. She was inducted into the Golden Humanism Honor Society and AOA in recognition of her many strengths. She enjoys family time with her husband Kit and their two children, her church, scrap booking and reading. They look forward to being close to her husband's family in Billings.

Mike Sura graduated from the University of Nevada in Reno, and grew up in Carson City Nevada. Mike graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a degree in biochemistry. During college he coached little league, was an assistant scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts, and participated in the Big Brothers program. Before starting medical school, he worked as a research technician in the Department of Veterinary Technology, at the Gallatin County community clinic, as a elk hunting guide in Wilsall, a substitute teacher in Billings and a phlebotomist at St. Vincent Healthcare. He continued his interest in research during medical school including presenting work at the Western Student Medical Research Forum. His other interests include hunting and fishing, dog training, running and wood working. He and his wife, who is from Townsend, have two children.

Joining our second year class is John Foster MD, moving into Family Medicine after completing four years in General Surgery. Dr. Foster graduated from Loma Linda School of Medicine and has just finished his fourth year of surgery at San Joaquin General Hospital in California. He plans on a career with a heavy emphasis on mission medicine and practice in rural and underserved areas. He is seeking further training in Family Medicine to enhance his skills enabling him to reach these goals.

We welcome all our new residents to Montana. We also thank the regional hospital systems, the Community Health Center, the State of Montana and all our partners in the communities of the state who have worked together to make this residency a great success.

Roxanne Fahrenwald, MD Director of Montana Family Medicine Residency

MAFP to begin annual "Montana Family Doctor of the Year" award.







Starting in 2006, the MAFP will be choosing a family physician of the year. We have impressive family doctors in a variety of practice types across our state, and the academy would like to recognize their service and dedication to patients and their communities.

To nominate a family physician for this award, please submit his/her name along with a short narrative stating why you feel recognition is merited.. Each nominee should be a board certified family physician, who is a member of the MAFP and actively practicing in Montana. Nominations must be received by December 31, 2005, and can be sent to the MAFP office (2021 11th Avenue, Suite 1 Helena, MT 59601-4890) or via email to the academy office care of Linda Edquest (Linda@mmaoffice.com).

The Board of Directors will review the candidates at the winter meeting, and the recipient of this award will be announced at the summer meeting of the MAFP in June. So, honor one of your deserving colleagues and nominate them to be recognized as:

"Montana Family Doctor of the Year"!

Big Mountain Medical Ski Conference
Jan. 31– Feb. 3rd., 2006
Whitefish, MT

Next MAFP Board MeetingSat. Feb. 4th, 2006



National Conference of Special Constituencies/ Academy Leadership Forum

Each year in early May, the AAFP puts on two simultaneous conferences aimed at fostering leaders at the state and national level. These are the Academy Leadership Forum (ALF) and the National Conference of Special Constituencies (NCSC). The NCSC is designed to promote leadership opportunities for members of groups which have traditionally been underrepresented in academy leadership positions. These groups currently include women, racial or ethnic minorities, new physicians, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered physicians (GLBT), and international medical graduates (IMG). The NCSC is run as a "mini-congress" in which the representatives write, debate, and vote on resolutions which are often passed along for a vote at the Congress of Delegates in the fall. Delegates are elected to represent the NCSC at the COD and a New Physician is elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

The ALF conference is an opportunity for chapter leaders and executives to meet, network, and participate in various educational sessions about how to improve leadership skills both individually and as a chapter. The AAFP provides funding for representatives from each chapter to attend both of these meetings. In spite of this, Montana has, in recent years, had fairly low attendance. This year, I had the opportunity to serve as one of the organizers of the NCSC and was dismayed that there were no other representatives to the NCSC from Montana. ALF was attended by our executive director. Linda Edquest, who received an award for her 25 years of service to the MAFP (Congratulations, Linda!) and by Jon Miller, MD, with a brief appearance by our president, Mike Strekall, MD.

These conferences are held every year in Kansas City and provide a great way to network with other Family Physicians as well as excellent opportunities to get more involved in academy leadership. I would encourage anyone who might be identified by any of the "Special Constituency" categories or who has an interest in chapter leadership to consider attending one of these conferences next year. You may contact me or any of the chapter officers or directors with any questions about what is involved or to state your interest in being considered for one of these funded representative spots for next year. Hope to see you there!

Rebecca Canner, Director, MAFP Board

WWAMI ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBER...

The Montana WWAMI Medical Education Program is seeking a physician to serve as one of three Montana representatives on the University of Washington School of Medicine Admissions Committee.

The required qualifications for prospective committee members are:

- 1. An M.D. degree from a medical school accredited by the American Association of Medical Colleges.
- The ability and willingness to donate without compensation (other than travel expenses) the time necessary to meet the responsibilities of the committee. Usually, this means two trips (of fourfive days each) to Seattle in late January and February to interview candidates and to meet as a committee, as well as time to review written materials before and after those meetings.
- 3. Interviewing skills.
- 4. A familiarity with current methods of medical education.
- An understanding of those qualities and attributes necessary to be a successful medical student and a competent and compassionate physician.

It is desirable if committee members have the following additional qualifications:

- Familiarity with the operation of the University of Washington School of Medicine and the WWAMI Medical Education Program.
- Previous experience with medical school admissions procedures.
- Familiarity with the physician workforce needs of Montana and how WWAMI medical school ad missions may impact that need.
- 4. Familiarity with undergraduate education programs. WWAMI and the University of Washington strive to maintain balance among its admission committee members with respect to gender and geography.

Physicians who may be interested in serving on this committee are encouraged to mail an application consisting of a C.V. and a cover letter explaining their interest and qualifications to Linda Hyman, Ph.D., Director, Montana WWAMI Program, 308 Leon Johnson Hall, PO Box 173080, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-3080. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Linda Hyman at the WWAMI office by e-mail at lhyman@montana.edu or by phone at 406-994-4411. You may also contact Dr. Jay Erickson at jerick@u.washington.edu. The deadline for applications is November 21, 2005. The selection of the admission committee member will be done by a committee appointed by the Montana Commissioner of Higher Education.

Jay Erickson, MD



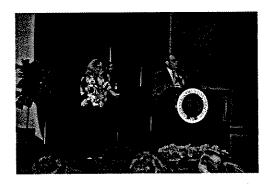




Let's take a minute to thank Mike Strekall for serving as the MAFP president for the past year. Mike has been involved with the academy for many years now and always represents us well. Besides his duties as president, he has been instrumental in getting the newsletters put together and sent out. He is actively involved in representing us at committee hearings and meetings with legislative groups. This year he has taken on the promotion of the new prescription drug assistance program(www.PPARxMT.org) and meets frequently with the WWAMI students in Bozeman to stimulate their interest in Family Medicine. At the summer meeting in Fairmont, Mike was presented with a plaque, pin and gift certificate in appreciation for all the he does to make Family Medicine in Montana the best that it -Susan Gallo, MD President MAFP

Montana Chapter Executive Honored in Kansas City for 25 yrs of service!!







Mrs. Linda Edquest, MAFP Chapter executive, has been involved with the Montana Academy of Family Physicians for 25 years! The Board of directors wishes to congratulate Linda, and thanks her for her dedicated service to the Montana academy. Current past President, Mike Strekall, presented her with a "Montana Diamond", a Yogo Sapphire, during the luncheon meeting at the Annual Leadership Forum in Kansas City, April 29th, 2005. The following is an excerpt from his presentation:

Linda Edquest is truly a real Montana diamond, with qualities that are Gem-like, both on the surface and beneath her calm demure. She has a delightfully dry sense of humor that is never ending. She shines forth year after year with helpful enthusiasm at all of our meetings. Many times over the past 25 years, Linda has gently guided Montana's physician leaders, including myself, when we were uncertain with academy or local policy, sharing new ideas.

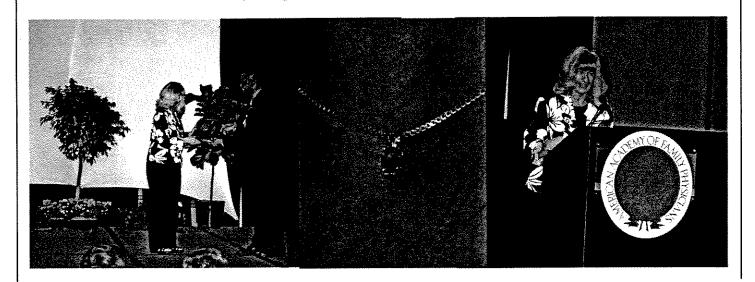
To explain how our state academy functions, we share Linda with the Montana Medical Association, but truthfully call her OUR OWN! As two of my colleagues from Montana said, 'she is ubiquitous'. For example, in our state, she is the administrative assistant to the MMA. She is very involved with the Montana Medical Legal Panel and its complex schedule of coordinating the hearing of over 130 claims yearly. This includes handling the transmissions from attorney's/Physician's/ Hospitals. For this, I think that she deserves Hazard Payl! She attends the MMA education and executive meetings, which convene several times yearly.

And, for the Montana FP chapter, Linda has the MAFP constantly in front of her with leadership meetings, regional chapter executive meetings, twice yearly board meetings, publishing the budget, and organizing our annual Summer meeting. She is pivotal at coordinating the different activities from the meeting brochures, reminder post cards, packets at registration, dinner and luncheon meetings, speaker transportation, and the list continues!

Speaking of leading, Linda frequently leads the shopping trips during many meetings! I am told that her husband, Chuck, allows additions to her shoe wardrobe only with the agreement that she remove two pairs for every pair added. This is a new and creative idea for me to discuss with my wife Brenda when we meet tomorrow in Montana.

In further describing Linda's qualities, I'd like to use an analogy, comparing her with a rare Montana gem, the Yogo sapphire. For the MAFP, Linda is such a precious gem, a rare find, one that endures, and is beautiful in character. As a way of explaining this analogy, I would like to offer you a little Montana gemology history. Yogo's are very unique in the world of sapphires. They are uniform in color, quality and their clarity is very high, with few imperfections. Just like Linda they rank among the world's finest. Unlike other sapphires, Yogo's are not heat treated to gain color or clarity. Linda isn't heat treated either... unless she is attending her 12 year old son's soccer games in the frigid spring weather of Montana. At those times, any of us who have stood in the snow watching our children play soccer, would welcome ANY HEAT TREATMENTI!

As the president of the Montana Academy Family, I can assure you that <u>we are proud of Linda for her award.</u>
In conclusion, when you think of Linda Edquest, I want you to be reminded of a Montana symbol, the Yogo Sapphire. We are forever thankful that she remains an important gem to our state academy!





PPARxMT.org



Would you like to do more to provide your low-income patients with free or reduced-cost medications? Try PPARxMT.org or 1-888-477-2669.

This is not "more of the same." This is not "one more program." PPARxMT is a terrific new tool that makes it much, much easier to access all available programs – private sector, federal, state and local government. Use of the website or the toll-free number gives a patients access to a data base of over 4000 medications. These prescriptions are made accessible via 475 different programs which are available through government entities, charitable foundations, and pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The project is part of a nationwide effort to help qualifying patients, who lack prescription coverage, get the medicines they need through appropriate public or private programs. Montana is the 28th state to initiate this program and the results have been encouraging to date.

By the middle of July, 2005, we had 5,152 Montanans call the toll-free number or initiate a search on the website. 3,550 of those contacts resulted in a patient qualifying for assistance. That's a 68.91% success rate, and real assistance for Montanans who need the help.

The Montana Academy of Family Physicians is proud to be one of 31 initial state-level partners for this project. You will find our name listed with the others on the back panel of the brochure. Since the official "launch" in late April, another 15 organizations from communities across the state have lent their names and their endorsements to the project. And partnership is easy. Nothing is required of us but our best effort at promoting the project. As partners, we have access to a small budget for mailings and meetings, and we are hopeful that, in addition to the interest that this article might spur, there may be a chance to host meetings this fall in several communities so that our doctors and nurses can learn more about the program.

The project began in late April with press conferences in Billings and Missoula. Coverage by both newspapers and television stations was very helpful. Since that time, a small detail of 1-3 persons has been visiting Montana communities at the rate of about one visit per week. They meet with small groups of service providers and community advocates, and despite small attendance, the project has drawn rave reviews.

This tool will help your patients. It will help your co-workers. It will help you. Please review the accompanying brochure. We can make the brochure available to every patient who requests it. Please contact MAFP past-president Mike Strekall, MD, at 442-0120, or Steve Yeakel, State Project Coordinator, at 443-1674 (888/446-1674, toll-free) for more information.

2005 Summer Meeting a success at Fairmont...

The Montana AFP Annual Conference was held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort June 16-18. Attendees to the Annual Conference heard from a variety of speakers about restless legs syndrome, acute otitis media, patient-oriented prescribing for hypertension and type 2 diabetes, respiratory tract infections, and the management of UTI's and URI's. After the regular MAFP meeting, the WWAMI Clinical Faculty Development Workshop was held on Saturday afternoon.

The weather held out, except for Friday afternoon... golfing was interrupted at the 3rd hole by mother nature.

Fortunately, an afternoon wine tasting event assisted those disappointed by the abrupt change in weather.

During the rest of the week, participants and their families enjoyed great weather for swimming, tennis, bike riding, and hiking. The children's program was enthusiastically received by all who attended, parents included. Friday evening, the barbecue allowed installation of our new President, Susan Gallo, and installation of Rebecca, Laura, and Jon as officers of the MAFP (see last page photos in this newsletter).

Credit for the success of the 2005 summer meeting goes to Dennis Salisbury, MD! Dennis selected the topics and coordinated superb speakers from two leading Universities. He was also responsible for setting up the successful family and children's programs. If he had any control over the weather, he would have fixed the Friday afternoon golf/rain party! Thank you Dennis for all of your work, and we will be looking to using your talents in the future. You have been a wonderful and committed leader for the MAFP.

New for next year's conference is a change of location. The Montana Family Medicine Residency program celebrates its 10th year anniversary, so we will have a combined meeting at Red Lodge, MT. This event is scheduled for June 22-25, 2006, at Rock Creek Resort.. We plan to have an ALSO course, June 21-22, 2006, preceding the conference. Mark your calendars now, plan to bring your family, and enjoy time with your colleagues and fellow residency graduates from across the State!

56th Annual Meeting of the Montana Academy of Family Physicians Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, MT June 22-24, 2006

This program will be reviewed and is acceptable for Prescribed hours by the AAFP. AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the AMA as equivalent to AMA/PRA Category 1 for the Physicians Recognition Award. (When applying for the AMA/PRA, Prescribed hours earned must be reported as Prescribed hours, not as Category 1).

Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics Program Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, MT

Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, MT June 21-22, 2006

This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for Prescribed hours by the AAFP. AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the AMA as equivalent to AMA/PRA Category 1 for the Physicians Recognition Award. (When applying for the AMA/PRA, Prescribed hours earned must be reported as Prescribed hours, not as Category 1).

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MISSION STATEMENT

As the representative of Family Practice and Family Physicians in Montana, the Montana Academy of Family Physicians: promotes Family Medicine, provides education for Family Physicians, represents the personal and professional Interests of Family Physicians, and is the guiding force for quality primary care in Montana.







Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign - Free Outreach Materials Available!

Throughout August and September, thousands of activities will take place across the country to inform working families about the availability of low-cost and free health care coverage through Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Covering Kids & Families offers free planning guides and materials.

Download the Back-to-School Action Kit at http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications/bts/kit. You can also order free fliers, bookmarks, posters and stickers promoting the 1(877) KIDS-NOW number at http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications/materials.

Whether you're distributing fliers or planning an outreach fair, Covering Kids & Families wants to hear about it!

Complete the Covering Kids & Families Event Participation Form at http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications/bts and fax it to(202)338-2334 to let them know how you're getting involved.

Thank you for your help in connecting uninsured kids with the health care coverage they need.

Lindsay Shannon

lshannon@aafp.org

MAFP ANNUAL MEETING 2005 INFO...

********** INSTALLED **OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

***KIRK C**REWS PRESIDENT ELECT

* *Jon Miller-1ST VICE PRESIDENT

* ★LARRY HEMMER-2ND VICE PRESIDENT

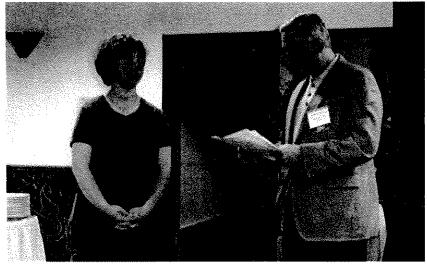
*LAURA BENNETT DELEGATE TO AAFP

*REBECCA CANNER DIRECTOR

^{*}KAREN CODY-MILLER DIRECTOR

Å ★WILL SNIDER ★ SEC./ TR SEC./ TREASURER

^**********



Sue Gallo installed by Ted Epperly, AAFP Board of Directors.



Rebecca Canner, Laura Bennett, and Jon Miller are installed as officers of the MAFP by Ted Epperly, AAFP Board Member.



Linda Edquest receiving her 25 years of service award and a YOGO sapphire from the MAFP board.



Sue Gallo presenting out-going president, Mike Strekall, with a plaque, President's pin, and gift.