

Executive Director's Report

(Prepared January 20, 2014, for the January 23-24, 2014, Board meeting)

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION: Ann Gales of Bode, a public member of the Board who serves on the Executive and Licensure committees, has resigned, effective at the end of the Board's meeting on Friday, January 24, 2014. Ms. Gales, who practices law in Algona, has been appointed as an Iowa District Court associate judge for Judicial District 3A. She was appointed to the Board in June 2012 to complete the unexpired term of a public member who had resigned. She was re-appointed to a full three-year term in April 2013. Governor Branstad will appoint a public member to complete the remaining two years of Ms. Gales' term.

LEGISLATIVE WATCH: The second session of the 85th General Assembly began on January 13, 2014. The Board is seeking passage of **SF 379**, which would allow use of more Alternate Board members for contested case hearings; would allow administrative law judges to hear certain non-medical standards cases without the Board; and would raise the cap on civil penalties assessed by the Board. The legislation was approved by the Senate in 2013 and awaits consideration in the House. In addition, there are several bills the Board is watching, including:

- **HF 2015** – Directs the Legislative Council to establish a committee to study professional licenses administered or supervised by the Department of Public Health.
- **SF 2009** – Directs the Department of Public Health to establish a task force, including a representative of the Board of Medicine, to examine the prevalence and treatment of chronic lyme disease in the state.
- **SSB 3007** – Authorizes the Board of Pharmacy to exchange information from the prescription drug monitoring data base with other states.
- **SSB 3009** – Removes statutory requirements for joint recognition of the medical and nursing professions when determining the appropriateness of expansions to nursing scopes of practice.

CALENDAR: January 23, 2014, through March 31, 2014

Hearings

January 23 – Nathan Singer, M.D.
February 20-21
March 20-21

Meetings

January 23-24 – Board meeting
February 13 – Board teleconference
March 6-7 – Board meeting
March 28 – Iowa Physician Health Committee