



# Lexington Medical Society

Physicians caring for the community since 1799

## President's Message: A Worthy Alumnus

Thomas H. Waid, M.D.



The 2014 calendar has barely scratched the surface of this New Year and already an event of significance has occurred, that being a celebration of forty-three years of exemplary service to the Lexington Medical Society. I am speaking about the departure of Ms. Carolyn Kurz who guided the Society in laudable fashion for, should I say it, nearly half a century. Many society presidents have come and gone but she remained the “face of the Society.” The celebration at the Signature Club only touched on Ms. Kurz’s many achievements, I thought I would devote this “message” to her so our members can truly appreciate her impact on the Society, the community, and the Commonwealth.

Ms. Kurz’s list of professional society memberships and faculty appointments is quite extensive but I will summarize them here:

1. American Association for Medical Society Executives; Chair CAE Task Force and Chair Professional Excellence Task Force
2. Better Business Bureau of Central KY; Board of Directors 2000-2003, Member, Ethics and Education Committee
3. Commerce Lexington; President’s Council; Member, Lexington Health United, a Commerce Lexington initiative
4. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of KY; Member, Sixty Five Roses Winter White Ball
5. KET Women’s Health Task Force
6. KY Society of Association Executives
7. Bluegrass Medical Group Management Association
8. Mayor’s Training Center: Business Administration Advisory Council
9. Midway College: Business Administration Advisory Council
10. The Rotary Club of Lexington, First Woman President (2004-2005) of Rotary Club (founded 1915), Rotary Club Endowment Board Member
11. Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League
12. U.S. Congressman Larry Hopkins: Steering Committee for KY Seniors Conference, Committee for KY Women Conference
13. United Way of the Bluegrass: Fund Distribution Committee
14. University of KY: College of Business Planning Committee and Women Mean Business Conference; Board member, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Foundation.

By being involved and a working member of so many community institutions she has displayed leadership and in so doing has received many honors such as:

- Certified Association Executive, Oct. 1992 (the only Kentuckian certified in 1992)
- *The Lane Report*: Top Women in Business, 1994
- Lexington Medical Society Layperson Award, 1995
- KY Medical Association R. Haynes Barr Layperson Award, 1996
- The Presidents Cup of the Rotary Club of Lexington, KY, 2007

- AMA 2011 Medical Executive Lifetime Achievement Award.

Under Ms. Kurz's leadership and with the hard work of the staff members, the Society has grown to more than 1500 members. The Medical Society Exchange was initiated in 1984 and in 1994, the mini-internship program was created. In 1995, Commonwealth Credentialing commenced a centralized verification service for area hospitals and facilities. During her tenure, eight KMA Presidents and six Chair of the KMA Board of Trustees serving a total of eleven terms have come from the LMS membership. Most recently an AMA President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees have been added to that distinguished list.

In 1637 the French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes, also known as the Father of Modern Philosophy said the words "I think therefore I am". About 350 years later in the biographical book, "Grinding It Out," Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonalds, maligned the "thinkers" who did little else and praised the hard workers who brought a vision to reality. "I do, therefore I am" would be a fitting phrase for Ms. Kurz. Through her vision, sound judgment, and organizational skills she has guided the Society for fully one-fifth of its existence. Her total involvement in our community has been her journey and her reward, and a benefit to all of us.

For many years the Society has had the Jack Trevey Physicians Award, but there has never been an eponym associated with the Layperson award. It is with great pleasure that I can announce the Lexington Medical Society's decision to bestow that honor with the title of "The Carolyn Kurz Layperson Award," for all of her service to us. It will be a remembrance each time it is awarded.



*The mission of the Lexington Medical Society is to enhance the profession of medicine and to provide service and leadership responsive to the interests of members and their patients.*

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