

## **LONESOME POLE CAT!**

Next year is loaded with opportunities and as this year has been so successful, we can build on good projects that were accomplished because we pulled together on common causes to benefit medicine.

Our membership is almost 2,400 doctors strong and as our membership continues to increase substantially, we together can assist our patients, our colleagues and our country.

The decision makers – albeit politicians – know that Medicare reductions of 5.1% will begin in January of 2007 and eventually go down 37% over the next 9 years. Do your patients know this? Post a sign. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that their doctors will be out of business. Remember your federal politicians receive their 4% salary increase every year.

I am determined to achieve justice and together we can overcome if you and your patients contact the decision makers (politicians). For example, we must support our brave and valiant E.R. physicians who are out on a limb and struggling alone. United we have a great impact, divided we will be "lonesome pole cats" struggling alone! We are at the crossroads of opportunity for all of medicine.

An AMA notice meant to communicate to the patient was received in our office and given out to every patient. We have given so many out that we've had to copy it over and over again to refresh our supply. Go to [www.patientsactionnetwork.org](http://www.patientsactionnetwork.org) or call 1-888-434-6200 to register and get your copy of promotional materials to hand out to your patients. Just because you have only 7% Medicare patients, let's help our colleagues who have 40% Medicare patients. They will come to your aid when your ox is being gored. E.R. doctors need your help today!

Our mutual futures will be determined in how we band together on all medical issues. Can you imagine what we could accomplish with 5,000 active members such as Dr. Leland Fairbanks (initiator and champion of the Smoke-Free Arizona campaign)?

If not us, who? If not now, when? Every doctor in America, every patient can call or write the politicians to change this injustice.

Let's have 100,000 Arizonans (patients and doctors) send a message. Shoulder to shoulder, we will prevail! May God bless our efforts.

**Barbara A. Berry, M.D.**  
**President**