While summer blazed on and many CCMS member physicians’ thoughts turned to vacations and beating the heat, your MedPAC board and members have been hard at work interviewing candidates for Nevada State Assembly and Senate, as well as for district court judgeships. Meetings were held on six separate evenings in June and July, and candidates were vetted on their positions regarding upholding medical liability reform, transparency of payers to the public and to providers, skinny networks, telemedicine, scope of practice issues, truth in advertising to the public we care for, prescription drug abuse issues, expansion of Graduate Medical Education opportunities in Southern Nevada, and Medicaid payment updates.

Our lobbying team of Richard Perkins and Sara Partida of The Perkins Group, sat in with us on each set of interviews, guiding us with their institutional expertise on legislative procedure, historical perspective, and helping us navigate the Nevada political landscape.

Ultimately, we came to agreement on many endorsements, and gave several candidates financial support as well. Limited only by our budgetary constraints, we learned how respected our endorsements are by candidates and by the public they serve. Candidates vie for our support every election cycle because they want to be able to tout this to their constituents. It means a great deal to the public when organized medicine backs a candidate, indicating they, like physicians, have the public interest at heart.

As the election season approaches, there is still much to be done. We are still receiving requests for interviews and endorsements from candidates, and our MedPAC Legislative Mixer, being organized by MedPAC board member Jacqueline Nguyen and Loretta Moses and Natalie McKenzie, is just around the corner on
October 2. We invite all physicians and their spouses to come meet and greet our endorsed candidates on that evening, discuss the issues important to organized medicine, and socialize with your colleagues from throughout our community. Watch the County Line and your email for updated announcements of time, place and for a complete list of our endorsed candidates. Look for our candidate push cards you can hand out in your office and bring with you to the voting booth this fall.

In order for MedPAC to make a difference on behalf of medical care in our community, we need more members and participation. Our education of legislative and judicial candidates can mean the difference in protecting the physician-patient relationship, preserving the ability to practice in our state and preventing erosion of our hard-fought tort reform. Join us today, and come see for yourself what a difference you can make!

To become a member of MedPAC visit www.clarkcountymedical.org/legislative