

NEXT MEETING! 05/18/06

When: Thursday, 05/18/06
Where: Coliseum Restaurant and Bar
Time: 12 Noon - 1:15PM
Format: 12:00 Noon - Lunch
 12:15 - 1:15 - Announcement &
 Open Discussion and Meeting

*Please RSVP to Jean Vogel @273-6300 x160 or
 jeanv@sergenians.com by Noon on Tues 5/16*

www.SMBA-Madison.org

2005-06 Officers & Board of Directors

Rob Waterman President rwaterman5615@charter.net	Edward Jones Investment	271-5100
Mike Flynn Past President mflynn@mononabank.com	Monona State Bank	223-5148
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Karen Johansen karenjo@madison.tds.net	Johannsen Greenhouse	271-6211
Margaret Miller mamiller@ecidesign.com	Electric Construction, Inc.	271-2046
Amy Hansen ahansen@magnapubs.com	InBusiness Magazine	204-9655
Joe Campana campana@prepaidlegal.com	Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.	244-4772

This Month's Meeting...

SMBA is co-hosting with the Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce to present Wisconsin Health Plan. This is a thoughtful presentation on addressing the current crisis in health care. This presentation is an informational session to gain insight into this plan, ask questions and provide input.

Please Note: This plan is just one of several that is currently being presented to the public. This meeting is not an endorsement of the plan by either SMBA or Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce.

The *Wisconsin Health Plan* was unveiled on June 15, 2005, before a committee of the Wisconsin State Assembly. The plan's authors are David Riemer and Lisa Ellinger of the Wisconsin Health Project, and State Representatives Curt Gielow (23rd District) and Jon Richards (19th District).

Wisconsin currently faces a triple crisis in health care: the skyrocketing cost of health care, increasing numbers of uninsured, and a severe deficit in the state's Medicaid program.

Data show that employers now spend an average of 15% of payroll for employees' health care premiums. With health care costs rising 10-25% per year, this results in an adverse economic effect on wages, profits, job creation and new investment in Wisconsin.

At some point over the course of the year, over 500,000 Wisconsinites -- 10% of our population -- have no insurance coverage.

Lack of insurance is a significant factor in premature death and bankruptcy.

Wisconsin's Medicaid program is facing a structural deficit because costs and caseloads are rising significantly faster than state revenues. The state has relied on short-term fixes to get by, yet this ongoing structural deficit continues to undermine other state priorities.

The authors introduced the Wisconsin Health Plan to encourage a genuine, thoughtful public debate about how we should address the health care crisis in our state. **One of the main goals is to reduce the cost of doing business in Wisconsin, by lowering both health care costs and taxes and making it easier for Wisconsin employers to create jobs, pay higher wages and earn solid profits.**

The proposal has changed in a number of significant ways in response to feedback over the past several months. Finding reasonable solutions to such a complex problem is going to require patience, open mindedness, and a willingness to move forward in the spirit of compromise.

Business and labor leaders, the insurance industry and health care providers, consumers and advocacy groups, elected officials, and the people of Wisconsin are all encouraged to share concerns, ask questions, and offer suggestions to further improve the proposal. Solving Wisconsin's health care crisis will not be easy. It will require input, discussion and compromise from all involved. This is a work in progress.

This Month's Speaker . . .

David Riemer – Project Director Wisconsin Health Project

Governor Jim Doyle appointed Mr. Riemer to serve as the State of Wisconsin's Budget Director in December 2002. He served until October 2003, when he left to run for Milwaukee County Executive. Mr. Riemer served as Director of Administration for the City of Milwaukee from December 1988 to September 1993 and again from June 1996 until January 2002. Mr. Riemer also worked as Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist's Chief of Staff from September 1993 until June 1996.

From 1985 to 1988, Mr. Riemer was employed by Time Insurance Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as Counsel for Cost Containment and later as Director of Managed Health Care Development. Mr. Riemer served in 1983 as Counsel for Health Care Financing with Wisconsin's Legislative Fiscal Bureau, where he assisted the Joint Committee on Finance and members of the Legislature in formulating the health care cost containment provisions included in the 1983-85 Biennial Budget Act.

Mr. Riemer worked in Washington, D.C., from 1981-82 as Senior Staff Director for Human Resources with the National Conference of State Legislatures. From 1978-81, he was Counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy. He served from 1976-78 as Special Counsel to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, and from 1975-76, he served as Legal Advisor to Governor Patrick Lucey.

Mr. Riemer is a graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D., 1975) and Harvard College (A.B. in History and Literature, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1970).

**Lisa Ellinger – Assistant Director
Wisconsin Health Project**

Ms. Ellinger joined Governor Jim Doyle's Office as the Health and Human Services Policy

Advisor in January of 2003, and was the lead staff in developing the Governor's KidsFirst initiative, announced in May 2004. Before joining the Governor's staff, Ms. Ellinger worked in the state legislature as a legislative research assistant in both the State Senate and State Assembly.

Lisa Ellinger has a B.S. in Journalism and Political Science from UW-Madison and a Masters Degree from the UW-Madison LaFollette School of Public Affairs.

Board of Directors

Call for Nominations

Four SMBA Board Seats will expire this summer. We are seeking candidates for the SMBA Board. If you are a SMBA member in good standing, and you regularly attend SMBA lunch meetings, you are encouraged to give us your

name for consideration and nomination. Any member may submit their name or nominate another member.

The responsibilities of SMBA Board Members are: to attend and actively participate in the monthly lunch Board Meetings (1st Thursday of each month) in addition to the monthly lunch Member Programs (3rd Thursday of each month).

If you are interested in being considered, submit your name to Rob Waterman at 271-5100 or Jim Garner at 663-2520. New board members will be elected at the SMBA Annual Meeting on June 15, 2006.

Reminder: All members are welcome to attend our Monthly Board Meetings (held at Sergenian's on Fish Hatchery Road), please RSVP to Mike Flynn if you wish to attend a board meeting.

Park St. Flower Gardens

We did it! Thanks and congratulations!

-Submitted by Will Warlick

On April 29, 21 volunteers braved the rain to plant 286 perennials in 4 gardens in the median of Park St. from near Villager Mall to near Fish Hatchery Rd. The plants are doing well, and gardens are off to a great start. We couldn't have done it without the many people and organizations involved. Not only did many of you help, but also many of those who helped went beyond the call of duty to accomplish this. Thank you so very much.

I want to mention in particular Sindhu Raju, whose Irish Lane Greenhouses overcame adversity to provide us - free of charge - all of the perennials we requested. In addition, Lindsey Lee and Lynn Lee from Cargo Coffee provided behind the scenes muscle and heavy hauling, a home base from which to stage materials, and, last but not least, excellent food and drink. Also, Jeff Groth, who ushered a funding application through his Madison South Rotary Club. We were humbled to be among the awesome charitable projects that Madison South Rotary funded this year. We couldn't have reached many of you without the neighborhood networking that Jean Nielsen and Jodi Wortsman do at SMPC. We had the benefit of having beautiful color flyers thanks to the high quality graphics and communications work of a professional at St. Marys - Gail Lobdell. Thanks also to Laura Wyatt, our gardening expert who helped the less experienced of us. Her planting plans were a real help on planting day as we tried to beat the rain. Thanks to the City and several staff who made this possible, helped push through the approvals needed, and provided advice and important supplies for the project. We also have to mention Ken Kokesch and his company, Thorstad Chevrolet, who set the example with their median gardens and continue to offer support as we maintain ours. Thanks to Park Street Partners whose members provided the network of supporters who made this possible, and to the neighborhood associations of Bay Creek, Bram's Addition, Burr Oaks, and Greenbush, and the churches that helped spread the word. Of course, we have to thank the volunteers who worked in the rain on April 29, and those who did the heavy digging and spreading of compost last October. Thanks to all.



Mark Your Calendar

S.M.B.A. MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

When: May 18, 2006

Speaker: Wisconsin Health Plan
Presentation by
The Wisconsin Health
Project

SMBA meetings are held on the **third Thursday of every month at The Coliseum Bar from 12:00 Noon to 1:15 pm** unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter. Following is the meeting schedule for 2006:

May 18, 2006 – Wisconsin Health Plan
Presentation

August 17, 2006 - TBA

June 15, 2006 – Annual Meeting

September 21, 2006 - TBA

July 20, 2006 - Denis Collins,
Edgewood Professor

October 19, 2006 - TBA



P.O. Box 259893
Madison, WI 53725-9893
www.SMBA-Madison.org