

KMWA e-Newsletter



Kenya Medical Women's Association Bi-Monthly e-Newsletter

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Champion for the improved health and dignity of society, particularly vulnerable groups.

The Board is sharing the current update after the inaugural e-Newsletter in May 2016. We are looking forward to interacting and receiving feedback from members. We encourage you to send in any updates you would like to share with the KMWA fraternity. You are urged to share topics of interest, presentations made in local or regional fora, awards received and any other issue you would like members to note. Since last Newsletter several activities and events have happened.

All Saints Cathedral (ASC) Health Month



KMWA held a successful Health Camp at ACK-All Saints Cathedral in support of the Cathedral's Health Month which took place in June, 2016. The collaboration with several partners such as Philips, AMREF, Dettol and several Pharmaceutical companies made the camp a success. Over 600 adults and 2000 children were attended. The Association sincerely appreciates the health professionals (Doctors, Sonographers, Clinical Officer and Nurses) who offered valuable services. Special appreciation to our members who came out and gave services and to the Health, Education and Research Committee for their tireless effort in spearheading and providing the oversight during the Health Camp.



KMWA congratulates Dr. Wanjiku Gichuru a member of the Health, Education and Research (H.E.R) for her recent participation at President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

KMWA Update

- The Board is working tirelessly to strengthen the Secretariat and address the outstanding governance challenges and some compliance issues with the current NGO Act as pointed out by the NGO Coordination Board. We are glad to report that the CEO recruitment was finalized and he reported to the office on 25th July, 2016. Two other positions will soon be advertised.
- Since the Board took over, there have been three resignations. Members will be updated on the process of replacing office bearers once the revision of the Constitution is finalized and harmonized with the requirements of NGO Act and related regulations. During the review meeting convened on 5th July 2016 by the NGO Coordination Board, KMWA articulated the progress the Board has made and actions being taken. In this regard, the Board is confident that the notice that was to be served has now been averted and the rest of the issues will soon be resolved.
- The Board notes that members are not actively engaging in the existing Committees and would like to solicit for your views on what Members would like the Board and the Secretariat to put in place in order to motivate you and facilitate active participation. To get members' views a

questionnaire has been prepared and will soon be shared with members. We encourage all members to give their views. The email response rate is not encouraging and therefore a process of revamping the website to be more interactive including social media as a means to facilitate easier communication has started. You can now easily tweet us **@kmwaofficial**. You will also be given opportunity to give feedback on the website during the trial period.

- The Board reported that Strategic Plan development is an urgent priority as the last one ended in 2014. Members will soon be called upon to participate in this exercise. The Terms of Reference was finalized and approved. Currently, selection of a suitable Consultant is underway and more information will be provided when the process is concluded. The Strategic Plan development is an inclusive, interactive and participatory process requiring member's active participation. Members will be invited to the workshop, hence the need to keep this request in mind and prioritize to attend.
- KMWA participated and has been represented in several engagements in health and related sectors. KMWA appeared before the Senate to discuss the Health Bill 2015, on 25th June, 2016. Please take time to follow the Health Bill, your voice is required.
- The opening of the Medical Practitioners & Dentists Board Complex was another event graced by the First Lady and our member Prof. Mutungi played a key role and KMWA was represented by the Chairperson.
- KMWA continues to participate in policy-making and advocacy events. The Secretariat is calling upon members to sign-up and represent KMWA in these events and actively get involved in the affairs of the Association. We appeal that you join a Committee of your choice and indicate other areas of expertise that you are willing to provide as you mentor and also benefit from peer professionals support, nurture talents and be the expert to watch out for in Kenya.
- Feel free to let us know your suggestions on other committees for a more inclusive space and diversity. Below are the committees we currently have.

- **Health Education and Research**
- **Finance and Administration**

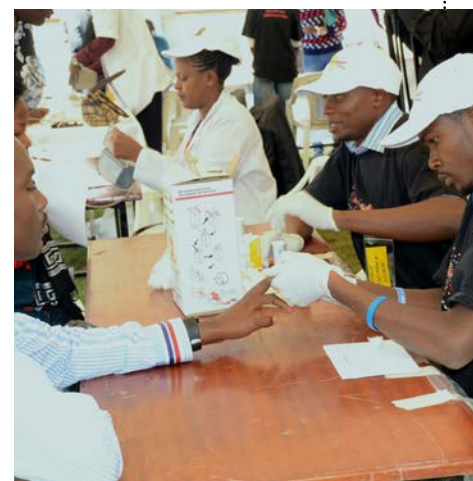
- **Endowment Fund**
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Standards and Ethics**
- **Gender and Development and Women Leadership in Health**
- **Projects**

There are already Functional Technical Working Groups such as HIV-Technical Working Group (TWG) and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group (TWG). We encourage branches to do the same as Health is devolved and therefore the Board would like to support the strengthening of branches for effective service delivery. In this regard, the Secretariat hosted representatives from branches for brainstorming – Drs. E. Khisa, Obara and Othigo.

The Events

KMWA has participated in numerous events and is being sought by both local and international partners. There are many invitations of diverse nature coming through the Secretariat for members to consider. The Secretariat is sending out these invitations to members and we request for your response and feedback.

- June 2016 was the Health Month for ACK – All Saint Cathedral in Nairobi. KMWA was requested to facilitate the organisation of medical/oral health camp and provide speakers for selected sermons. The collaborative activities between ASC and KMWA took place on 19th, 25th and 26th June, 2016. We are delighted that many people benefitted especially from the free ultrasound screening. Dr. Fitness, through our member Dr. Dindi did a fantastic education on wellness and fitness. The KMWA members and other teams of health professionals, worked tirelessly to offer Oral Health (Dr. Shako and Dr. Jenifer Ober). The services offered general screening of medical/oral health conditions, in particular, Blood





Sugar, Blood Pressure, Breast Cancer, and other conditions such as cervical and prostate cancer screening. Health promotion and education including self-breast examination and education. Interestingly the Male queue was one of the longest. We offered simple treatment and referred others for further management.



The Ultrasound picked out several serious problems – one very advanced renal condition – we have advocated and ACS has mobilized funds for the person's treatment. We are grateful to the All Saints Cathedral and KMWA sincerely thanks the Provost, Canon Wainaina. Lastly, I would like to give special accolade to Dr. Rispah Walumbe, Dr. Phenny Kachumbo, Dr. Elaine Yuko, Dr. Rose Rao and Dr. Brgid Monda.

- Kenya Medical Women Association held five Continuous Medical Educations (CMEs) in Kisumu, Eldoret, Mombasa, and Nairobi. The sixth CME will be held in Nairobi in the month of September. A total of 174 participants attended



the CMEs. The focus for the CMEs were HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care among adolescents. This topic was necessitated by the fact that adolescents are the most affected by HIV infection in Kenya. The participants agreed on the need for KMWA to work with other stakeholders in addressing the plight of adolescents and youth through age appropriate sexuality education and improved access to adolescent and youth friendly health services.



We would like to thank the facilitators for these CMEs – Joab Khasewa, Dr. Celestine Mugambi from NACC, Dr. Laura Onyiego from NASCOP, Dr. Leah Okiri from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, Dr. Samira Osman from Coast General Hospital and Dr. Fatma Jeneby from NEWA and supported by our members – Dr. Kizzie Shako, Dr. Lillian Kochollah and Dr. Christine Sadia.

CME held by KMWA on 16th July 2016 in Eldoret

Kenya Medical Women's Association North Rift Branch held a CME on HIV Prevention in adolescents at the Boma Inn Eldoret. This was sponsored by the International Partnership on Microbicides and facilitated by KMWA and National AIDS Control Council. Mr. Joab Khasewa from NACC was the speaker. The KMWA National Secretariat was represented by Dr. Kizzie Shako.



In total we had 31 attendants, female doctors (from Eldoret and surrounding counties- Baringo, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet), a few male doctors and female medical students. The speaker was very well versed in the topic and delivered quite an amount of information that most were not familiar with.



We learned that adolescents are a group with special health needs especially in terms of HIV/AIDS prevention. Quite a number of new infections are among adolescents- 50%, with more of these infections being amongst girls. We were informed of the current test and treat policy in case anyone tests positive whatever the CD4 count. Very few of us were unaware that currently the minimum age of consent for HIV

testing is 15 years. There were also guidelines on pre-exposure prophylaxis, guidelines for key populations. Our speaker also notably informed us of the fast track plan unveiled by the government consisting of updated information of HIV/AIDS, structural interventions to encourage young people to stay in school so as to delay their sexual debut, the Maisha County Football Leagues Campaign to increase testing and counseling among the adolescent population with the winning team being crowned on World AIDS day.

At the end of the CME, quite a number of the associates who attended were interested in formally registering and are in the process of paying their fees to the treasure Dr. Elizabeth Khisa. The female medics also seem to be getting a bit more interested, especially those who could not make it. This is especially because we also give informal feedback on our Whatsapp forum. We believe that through these events, we stimulate interest among potential members and this will lead to increased membership. As such to raise awareness on KMWA we are now gearing towards the Launch dinner that we hope to hold in August 2016.

The branch officials are grateful to NACC, and to the KMWA National Secretariat for making this event a success, we couldn't have done it without the two.

...Continuation of Events

- KMWA attended the just concluded UNCTAD Meeting held in Kenya and was specifically invited to participate in Women in Business Meeting. As a result, a request has been sent to KMWA to participate in the Commonwealth Business Women Meeting and spearhead health sector in Kenya.
- KMWA continues to participate actively as a member of the Kenya Health Federation (KHF) and active in PPP and HRH Committees. The AGM is expected to be held on **23rd August, 2016.**
- We thank all our members, especially those who are supporting various activities of KMWA for their valuable commitment, time and contribution to our noble Association.



Partnerships

There are upcoming partnerships, which are currently under discussions. Notably, if you follow us on twitter, you are already aware that UNFPA and KMWA held a high level consultation on areas of mutual interest and collaboration. The Board will provide more updates to members. Several other partnerships are being discussed including Women's Leadership and mentorship as well as other products for professional growth for KMWA members.

Our ongoing collaboration with National AIDS Control Council (NACC) is deepening and we have had immense support from NACC. Soon KMWA will be discussing areas of mutual collaboration with the Director and her team.

Conferences & Seminars



- KMWA will be hosting **MWIA Regional Conference in 2018** we are in the process of establishing a secretariat to manage the conference. The confirmation has been sent to MWIA.
- During the recent teleconference with IPM, **several advocacy and education materials have been revised** and are being shipped to KMWA. Members will be informed when the documents have been received.
- **MWIA Conference 2016** took place and unfortunately KMWA was not represented, but we have been sent a **link to the Manual on Violence Against Women (VAW)** for use. We hope to organize training and share it with members.
- The Secretariat will inform you of the preparation towards **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violation** from **25th November to 10th December, 2016**.

Welfare

The Board has noted the concerns of some members and all our branches regarding the amount being received towards welfare. It is a matter that is under discussion by the Board and soon guidelines will be worked out. Currently, members receive Ksh 10,000 upon the demise of immediate family members (spouse, child and a parent). The Board is looking at modalities to transform the funding so that it is broad based and beneficial to most members. This matter was discussed during the 2013 AGM.



We would like to thank the members who have sent messages of condolences and encouragement to both Dr. Jane Miano and Dr. Esther Ogara following the demise of their loving mothers. We appreciate Dr. J. Kitulu a former KMWA Chairperson and current KMA Chair who was the first to send her condolence to our colleagues. The Board would like to thank Dr. F. Manguyu, Dr. Jean Kaggia, Dr. Lorna Sangale and Dr. Betty Musau and many others who attended the Memorial Service and burial for Mama Nancy Gacheke Moll. Dr. Ogara's mother will soon be buried in Ghana. Let us continue to uphold our colleagues in prayer for God's strength.

Announcements

- ✓ Check if your contact at the Secretariat is updated.
- ✓ Do sign up more members from the colleagues you interact with.
- ✓ The e-newsletter and twitter @kmwaofficial are now important communication media.
- ✓ The email is now faster and made more secure. Please motivate the staff by acknowledging or responding to information sent out to members.
- ✓ The Board welcomes your suggestions and active participation in the affairs of the Association. Speak out! Your voice counts.
- ✓ Look out for the upcoming events and the Strategic Planning Development Workshop.

