

# AzSAM News

The News of Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine

June 11, 2008

## Letter from the President



Welcome to the first issue of the AzSAM News. We are excited to be bringing this inaugural newsletter to you along with other exciting strategic changes to AzSAM. This newsletter marks the Board's first effort to enhance communication with you, our membership, as well as inform other organizations about important industry news. AzSAM News will publish quarterly and be mailed to you via

email. If you know others who would benefit from receiving this, please email their contact information to us at [info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org](mailto:info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org).

At the March Board of Director's meeting, a five-year strategic plan was adopted which calls for membership growth, enhanced educational programs and increased community awareness of addiction medicine. We also made minor wording changes to our Mission and Vision Statements. And to help us achieve all of these goals we have retained the help of a local marketing firm, Swivel Marketing. To see the new Mission and Vision Statements, please log on to the [AzSAM Website](#).

With this newsletter we are also kicking off our first ever Membership Drive. It is our goal to double our membership by the end of the year. In order to achieve this we are offering incentives to those members who recruit new members. For more information please see the article in this issue for more information.

It is our goal to make AzSAM a great organization; one that you can count on for networking support, educational seminars and industry information. If you have any ideas for further enhancement please email me.

Remember, this is your organization too and its growth and success depends on all of us.

Warmest Regards,  
- Steven C. Boles, D.O., FASAM

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- ★ Member Kudos: Member Receives ASAM Fellowship

## Calendar of Events

- ★ The AzSAM Fall Conference  
Friday & Saturday  
September 26-27, 2008  
Arizona Biltmore

## Legislative Update

### We Need Your Help to Make SBI a JCAHO Requirement

As an organization and addiction medicine professionals, it is important that we support policies and legislation that may have a significant impact on our field. One such issue currently being reviewed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is that of Screening and Brief Interventions (SBI).

If approved, this brief screening would take place during patient intake and serve as an assessment of current intoxication levels (by various means) to help clinical management guide treatment. This screening standard is currently in the "wiki stage" at JCAHO and we need

# Membership Update

## Tell Your Colleagues About AzSAM!

To grow our field and have a voice we must increase our exposure. One way we can do this is by actively increasing our membership.

AzSAM will be implementing it's first-ever Membership Drive where we're asking every member to recruit one additional member. By recruiting new members you will have the opportunity to win a FREE copy of "The Principles of Addiction Medicine" by Allan W. Graham and Terry K. Schultz. This book sells for nearly \$180. Books will be given to the three members who recruits the highest number of new members before the start of the Fall Conference on Sept 26, 2008. To be entered in the contest just e-mail us at [info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org](mailto:info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org) with your name and the new member you recruited.

With a membership to AzSAM you receive:

- Monthly networking opportunities
- Educational seminars
- Quarterly newsletter
- Discounted rate to the AzSAM Annual Conference
- The opportunity to give back to the community
- Promote the field of Addiction Medicine

## June Special Offer

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is offering a half-price national membership to new members joining during the month of June. The special offer is valid on Regular and International Memberships. Members joining in June for half of the regular membership rate receive membership benefits and services through December 2008. New members will have access to items such as the ADM 101 Powerpoint presentations, Journal of Addiction Medicine, ASAM News newsletter, and discounts on ASAM conferences and courses

To register as a new member, the member just needs to log on to [www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org) and click on the "Member Center."

## Member Profile



### Bernice Roberts, D.O.

After completing medical school in Kirksville, Missouri, Dr. Roberts headed west for warmer weather. She settled in Tucson in 1985 with plans to open her own family practice. But when the only opening available to her was at Tucson General Hospital's WestCenter, an early alcohol and drug rehabilitation center

to post as many positive comments on this requirement as possible.

We urge every member to take 10 minutes and post a POSITIVE comment on this site. Start by [clicking here](#) to receive your email password.

If SBI is made a JCAHO requirement, insurers can no longer refuse to pay the costs for patients injured while under the influence as stated by the Uniform Policy Provision Law (UPPL). If you would like more information on this subject please contact Larry Gentilello, the author at [larry.gentilello@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:larry.gentilello@utsouthwestern.edu).

## Parity Bill Update

The House of Representatives was not satisfied with the Senate version of the parity bill, and prepared a formal 'counter-offer' to the Senate after both houses had passed their differing bills. ASAM kept very close to the negotiations for what would be in the House offer, which was a realistic proposal based on the likelihood of Senate sponsors being able to secure the 60 votes needed for passage of any bill in the Senate (60 votes are the number needed to end a filibuster carried out by opponents of any proposed legislation on the Senate side). ASAM could not have been as involved, and thus as influential, had we not retained the services of our contracted lobbyist firm, Capitol Decisions. A stand-alone communication to you on Parity will be sent to members by our Public Policy Council Co-Chairs, Ken Roy and Don Kurth, within about a week.

## Steve Boles Receives ASAM Fellow Designation

Colleague and AzSAM President, Steve Boles, D.O., is to be congratulated on being granted

she realized “it was a greater power than me that brought me into this field.”

From 1987 until now, Dr. Roberts has worked at some of Tucson’s most established treatment centers - Sierra Tucson, Cottonwood de Tucson and Compass Behavioral Healthcare. She has specialized in eating disorders since 1990, and has given numerous talks on this subject and others. She has published several articles and been a guest speaker on many local broadcast programs. Her passion is public speaking which she has done internationally on the subjects of women’s health issues, eating disorders and addiction.

Dr. Roberts has been involved with AzSAM since the mid-1980’s, and stays involved with the organization by giving talks on eating disorders, tobacco independence, addiction health consequences and women’s issues. She also helps train medical students and residents at Sierra Tucson.

“AzSAM is a wonderful fellowship of medical providers who all have expertise and are willing to share their support. Whenever I’m faced with a difficult treatment situation, I [know] I can consult with my AzSAM colleagues for advice.”

ASAM Fellow status, a prestigious designation given to only 250 professionals throughout the country. Steve’s application was approved earlier this year for his contributions to ASAM and commitment to the field of Addiction Medicine.

Steve was honored at the ASAM awards luncheon at the annual Med-Sci Conference held in Toronto this past April.

All members are encouraged to keep their membership current (for at least 5 years), to become certified by ASAM, become involved, and consider the requirements to apply as an ASAM Fellow. ASAM mails out the applications every year to everyone who may be qualified.

If you, or someone you know has received an award or honor, please email us at [info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org](mailto:info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org) so we can recognize them in our next newsletter.

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