NYCHSRO/MedReview’s Joe Stamm Joins Mike Huckabee on Israel Trip

NYCHSRO/MedReview’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph B. Stamm joined former Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee and New York State the Hon. Assemblyman Dov Hikind on a two day fact finding visit to Israel.

The visit consisted of a broad range of sites starting in the Old City of Jerusalem archaeological excavations, proceeding to the Yemenite Village of Silwan and on to Ma’aleh Hazeytim on the Mount of Olives. On the second day of the visit, the group met with Israeli IDF soldier Benzi Gruber who outlined the Israeli military’s efforts to limit civilian casualties. The group then visited a “settlement” – Ma’aleh Adumim and the Shomrom including Beit El, Givat Hayoel and Givat Olam. The visit ended with an emotional visit to Nitzam, a Jewish refugee camp and a viewing of a video showing the horror of the destruction of Gush Katif. The mission concluded with a reception honoring Governor Huckabee for his continued support of the State of Israel. (see related article)

NYCHSRO Team Members Receive Commissioner Recognition Award

Three NYCHSRO employees received the Commissioner’s Recognition Award from the New York State Health Commissioner Richard R. Daines, M.D. on November 10, 2009.

The award was for their participation and work effort as members of the Monticello Manor Closure Monitoring Team. The award cited the individuals on the team for “performance/activities during the 2008 award period that were exemplary, above and beyond the expectations of their job duties.”

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Above: Dr. Richard Daines, State Health Commissioner. Left: Commissioner Daines with Harriet Starr and NYCHSRO Staff
On National Scale, New York Hospitals Fare Poorly on Readmissions - NY Times- July 10, 2009 – Hospitals in New York State are significantly worse than those elsewhere in the nation at limiting patients from having to return shortly after being treated for a major illness, according to federal data released on Thursday.

Critics of hospitals with high readmission rates have long accused the institutions of having a financial motive for creating what they call a revolving door for patients. Generally, hospitals are paid for each admission, regardless of how long the patient stays in the hospital. So when patients return, the hospital is paid again for the new treatment.

Some hospitals like Harlem Hospital Center, a city-run institution, managed to do well on re-admissions, while others, like Montefiore Medical Center, a large academic institution in the Bronx, did not, suggesting that there was more to the equation than demographics.

The information looks at how many Medicare patients had to be readmitted to hospitals within a month of being discharged after treatment for heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia or between July 2005 and June 2008. In all three categories, New York hospitals, when measured against the national rate, fared poorly.

N.Y. State, City Pay $540 Million to Settle Medicaid Case – WSJ – July 23, 2009 - New York state and New York City have agreed to pay $540 million to settle charges that they submitted false claims to Medicaid, the Justice Department announced.

The settlement is the largest dollar amount ever recovered for the Medicaid program, the department said. The deal settles allegations that the state and city knowingly submitted false claims for reimbursement for school-based health-care services from 1990 to 2001.

Under the Medicaid program, the federal government shares the cost of medical services for the poor and disabled with the states. The Justice Department said New York state passed on claims to the federal government for services it knew weren’t covered or properly documented.

The false claims allegedly were made through two New York programs that provide school-based health services to students with disabilities. The department also said New York City submitted false claims to the state for speech services, which the state then passed on to the federal government for reimbursement.

Basic Medicare Premium to Rise 15% Next Year - NY Times-October 20, 2009 - The basic Medicare premium will shoot up next year by 15 percent, to $110.50 a month, federal officials said Monday. The increase means that monthly premiums would top $100 for the first time, a stark indication of the rise in medical costs that is driving the debate in Congress about a broad overhaul of the health care system.

About 12 million people, or 27% of Medicare beneficiaries, will have to pay higher premiums or have the additional amounts paid on their behalf. The other 73 percent will be shielded from the increase because, under federal law, their Medicare premiums cannot go up more than the increase in their Social Security benefits, and Social Security officials announced last week that there would be no increase in benefits in 2010 because inflation had been extremely low.

Among those who face higher premiums next year are new Medicare beneficiaries, high-income people and those whose Medicare premiums are paid by Medicaid. Higher premiums will impose “an additional and significant burden” on states, which help pay Medicaid costs, along with the federal government.

Study Finds Steady Drop in Hip Fracture Rates, but Reasons Are Unclear - NY Times- August 26, 2009 - Rates of hip fractures, an often devastating consequence of osteoporosis, have been steadily falling for two decades in Canada, a new study finds. And a similar trend occurred in the United States, researchers found. But it is not clear why.

Drugs that slow the rate of bone loss may be part of the reason, but they cannot be the entire explanation, osteoporosis researchers say. And although experts can point to other possible factors — like fall prevention efforts and a heavier population — the declining rates remain a medical mystery.

The risk of hip fractures can be lowered by a class of drugs, bisphosphonates, that can slow bone loss. They are likely to have played a role in the declining hip fracture rates in the US and Canada, researchers say, but other factors must also be involved.

Picking the Right Health Insurance Plan for Right Now - NY Times October 24, 2009 - “Most people choose more insurance than they really need,” said Randall Abbott, a benefits consultant at Watson Wyatt. Such overstuffed choices may have been fine back when premiums were low. But in the last 10 years, the contributions of workers for family health insurance coverage have risen 128% - from just $1,543 a year in 1999, to $3,515 in 2009, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

If you have a young family - Consider an H.M.O. - health maintenance organization. Your premiums will be relatively low, and most preventive services will be free or very low-cost. In some companies, these may be known as E.P.O.s - exclusive provider organization - which generally work much the same way.

If you want a flexible PPO - prefered provider organization — might be a good option, because you can use both network and non-network doctors. You can use whichever doctor you choose or use specific specialists who may not be part of a network. A P.P.O. with a low premium but high deductibles is generally best for someone who doesn’t use a lot of health care services. A P.P.O. with a high premium but low deductibles is a better choice if you or someone in your family has a chronic condition like asthma or diabetes, or you tend to see many doctors throughout the year.

Seldom see a Doctor? Consider a high-deductible plan, which trades lower monthly premiums for a high annual deductible -which starts at $1,200 for single employees and $2,400 for families in 2010. Such insurance can be an option for people who don’t use a lot of health care services and who have enough cash on hand to cover the initial costs of a medical emergency, should one occur.

Drug Makers Raise Prices in Face of Health Care Reform - NY TIMES- November 16, 2009 - Even as drug makers promise to support Washington’s health care overhaul by shaving $8 billion a year off the nation’s drug costs after the legislation takes effect, the industry has been raising its prices at the fastest rate in years.

In the last year, the industry has raised the wholesale prices of brand-name prescription drugs by about 9%, according to industry analysts. That will add more than $10 billion to the nation’s drug bill, which is on track to exceed $300 billion this year. By at least one analysis, it is the highest annual rate of inflation for drug prices since 1992.

The drug trend is distinctly at odds with the direction of the Consumer Price Index, which has fallen by 1.3% in the last year.

Drug makers say they have valid business reasons for the price increases. Critics say the industry is trying to establish a higher price base before Congress passes legislation that tries to curb drug spending in coming years.

And this means that the cost of many popular drugs has risen even faster. Merck, for example, now sells daily 10-mg pills of Singulair, the blockbuster asthma drug, at a wholesale price of $1,330 a year — $147 more than last year.
Huckabee Visits Israel

Former governor receives ‘education’ and avers staunch support

By JOSEPH B. STAMM

From the moment that I arrived at Newark Airport on Saturday night, Aug. 15, I knew that we were embarking on what would be a most memorable trip to the land of Israel.

A group of more than 20 doctors, lawyers and businesspeople — all concerned citizens of our great country, the USA — joined by the Hon. Assemblyman Dov Hikind, enthusiastically awaited the arrival of Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, who was a 2008 presidential candidate and is today a leading Republican candidate for the presidency in 2012.

Sponsored by Atret Cohanim/Jerusalem Reclamation Project (but funded by private individuals), the mission was designed to be educational in nature; to provide Huckabee with a detailed, living history of ancient Jerusalem; and to show him the so-called “settlements,” which, in most instances, are major population centers and suburbs akin to those in the U.S. The sponsors also wanted to demonstrate how Israel and Arabs do, in fact, co-exist peacefully in many towns and villages in Israel.

In introducing myself to Huckabee, I was immediately moved by his graciousness and desire to learn as much as possible from all who joined him on this brief trip.

Day One began with a drive to the Old City of Jerusalem and a visit to the City of David, where the governor witnessed archaeological excavations of sites dating back more than 3,200 years. Those “digs” have become so important because they provide irrefutable proof that the Jewish presence in Jerusalem goes back to biblical times and is not, as certain individuals falsely claim, only a recent phenomenon.

Afterward, the group traveled to the Yemenite Village in Silwan and then on to Ma’aleh Hazeytim, a thriving Jewish community on the Mount of Olives. Scores of reporters accompanied the group on its travels, including representatives of Time, Ha’aretz and The Jewish Press, as well as international talk show host Zev Brenner. They questioned Huckabee and Hikind on the purpose of the trip and their views on a wide range of topics. For example, they were asked whether or not they agreed with the Obama administration’s call to freeze settlement development and expansion in the West Bank and Jerusalem, and whether a two-state solution is a viable route to peace.

The governor was very diplomatic but direct in his responses. He instead of segregation.

Huckabee voiced concern that the administration seemed more distressed with Israel’s innocuous renovation of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem than with the frightening nuclear weapons build-up led by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Hikind stated that, as a Democrat, he was very disappointed with his party’s inactivity and its support for the president’s one- sidedness in his peace initiatives between the Israelis and the Arabs. That evening, a private reception attended by a number of Knesset members and dignitaries, was held at the Shepherd Hotel.

Day Two of the mission featured a presentation by Benzi Gruber, a high-ranking IDF soldier who fought in Gaza. He outlined the painstaking steps taken by the Israeli military in trying to avoid, as much as possible, civilian casualties. The video presentation illustrated the cowardly acts perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorists.

Huckabee voiced concern that the Obama administration seemed more distressed with Israel’s renovation of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem than with Iran’s nuclear project.
NYCHSRO/MedReview had the opportunity to attend an “On/Off the Record” Breakfast at City Hall Restaurant on February 24, 2010 hosted by The City Hall News featuring New York City’s newly elected Comptroller, John Liu. The editor of the City Hall News spent time asking Comptroller Liu questions with a main focus on pension returns and investments.

In his remarks, Comptroller Liu stated that he has opened a new office for contracts and procurement that will concentrate on awarding contracts to smaller New York City based businesses. He then held an open forum for questions from the audience. NYCHSRO/MedReview’s CEO, Joseph Stamm asked the comptroller about New York City’s role in healthcare cost containment. Comptroller Liu stated that his office plans to play a bigger part in New York City’s healthcare cost containment effort along with a continued focus on wellness and quality of care.

NYCHSRO/MedReview was honored to attend the 25th anniversary of the Annual Teamster Center Health & Benefits Exposition. The Expo was once again held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City in September. This event has consistently proven to be a wonderful opportunity for NYCHSRO/MedReview to connect with its tri-state and national clients. It also afforded the organization an opportunity to network with welfare fund administrators, trustees and other service providers.

In addition to hosting its own booth and greeting current and future clients, NYCHSRO/MedReview also had the opportunity to visit over 50 diverse vendors and organizations. NYC-SRO/MedReview once again raffled off tickets for the New York Yankees to visitors to its booth (which was won by representatives from Local 1205). The organization was represented at the exposition by Joseph Stamm, Helen Mutchler, Missy Hamm and Lydia Murphy.

**News In Review Profile:**

**Marvin Leiberman, JD, PhD**

This issue’s News in Review Profile features one of the newer members of NYCHSRO/MedReview’s Board, Dr. Marvin Lieberman. Marvin Lieberman JD, PhD, has a history steeped in healthcare economics and public policy. He has been a progressive and insightful member of the Board of Directors since 2008.

Dr. Lieberman received his Doctorate from New York University School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Politics and Mental Health at which time he did a fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health. He attended New York University where he obtained his JD and is a member of the New York Bar Association. Dr. Lieberman also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public Law and Government.

In addition to serving as an active member of NYCHSRO/MedReview’s Board, Dr. Lieberman is President of the New York Citizens Committee on Aging. He is also associate Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, the American Political Science Association and the Public Health Association of New York City.

Dr. Lieberman’s professional background is based in public policy and public service. Throughout his distinguished career he has held positions as Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy at New York Wagner School of Public Service; Executive Director, Committee on Medicine in Society, the New York Academy of Medicine; Acting Director of the New York Academy of Medicine; Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Community Health; Staff Coordinator, New York Metropolitan Regional Program for Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke and Related Diseases; Senior Consultant in Medical Care, Committee on Special Studies, the New York Academy of Medicine. He has also served as a consultant for numerous public health programs and initiatives.

Dr. Lieberman has authored and co-authored numerous articles and books including *Critical Issues in Health Policy*. His texts continue to be sighted in current research and health care policy papers. His writing of these compelling issues remains significant in this time of health care policy uncertainty and change.

Dr. Lieberman’s knowledge and wisdom have proven a positive addition to NYCHSRO/MedReview’s Board of Directors. Now more than ever, his history and successful career in the areas of public health and health care finance are essential in the organization’s ongoing pursuit of improving fiscal responsibility in health care today.

The International Foundation of Employee Benefits, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing leadership in objective and global source of employee benefits, held its 55th Annual Employee Benefit Conference on November 8th 2009. The event attracted 5,500 various employers’ trustees, public plan representatives and administrators representing both pension and welfare funds. Currently, health benefit plans are faced with critical market declines and stringent funding restrictions of health and welfare benefits. Attendees rely on this convention to enhance their educational experience regarding these concerns and meet service providers with the ability to target their individual needs.

MedReview attendance as an exhibitor met with great success. We were fortunate to have over three hundred participants visit the booth expressing interest in our medical management review services. MedReview was pleased to welcome current clients and business associates from the New York area and also met with other service entities from various states.

NYCHSRO Team Members Receive Commissioner Recognition Award

Continued from page 1

Ms. Petra Capozzalo, R.N.; Ms. Angela Puglisi, L.M.S.W. and Ms. Maria Sweeney, R.N. member of the New York County Health Service Review Organization (NYCHSRO) Adult Home staff were recipients of the Commissioner’s Recognition Award. The employees were recognized for their... “outstanding commitment to safeguard the health and safety of the resident of the Monticello Manor Adult Home who resulted in the closure of the facility and the immediate and sage transfer of all resident to appropriate facilities”. 

Commissioner Daines Recognition Awardees
During the second half of 2009 MedReview continued its ambitious goal of reaching out to many legislators who share MedReview’s concerns, most notably restoring integrity in ongoing health care utilization review. It is acknowledged that improved health care utilization review would assist in controlling the high spiraling costs of healthcare. To that end, MedReview’s staff participated in no less than eighteen events. With a busy primary season and subsequent Citywide elections for Mayor, Public Advocate and Comptroller, Joseph B. Stamm reached out to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Comptroller Bill Thompson, Public Advocate candidate, Councilman Bill de Blasio and City Controller candidate, John Liu. Mr. Stamm also spent the election night at the Democratic Headquarters congratulating the newly elected Public Advocate and City Comptroller. Joe Stamm and his wife Anne also attended a number of high profile events, most notably Congressman Charles Rangel’s Birthday Party and the New York City Democrats’ dinner honoring Comptroller Bill Thompson. Some of the dignitaries that attended these events were: New York Governor David Patterson; United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Former Mayor David Dinkins and Former State Comptroller Carl McCall.

Mr. & Mrs. Stamm also hosted a breakfast at their residence honoring Councilman Bill de Blasio for his outstanding commitment to being the voice of the silent majority.

Mr. de Blasio pledged continued support for MedReview’s efforts in controlling health care expenditures.

Other events included; special reception for Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and Senate Majority Leader John Sampson, a reception for Congressman Anthony Weiner and Councilwoman Melinda Katz and a welcoming reception for Senator Kevin Parker at his new headquarters in Brooklyn.
Year 2009 continued NYCHSRO/MedReview’s growth in terms of the organization’s gross income resulting in its highest amount in its thirty-six year history. In addition, its nationwide expansion of its utilization review services added the States of Tennessee, Texas, and Maryland.

NYCHSRO/MedReview rolled out its new website resulting in 37,630 visits from forty-seven (47) states and twenty-five (25) countries. Outside the United States, India, Philippines, Canada, Brazil and Russia were the most frequent visitors.

MedReview’s venture in exhibiting its services outside New York was a smashing success. At the International Foundation of Employee Benefits conference in Orlando, Florida, over three hundred different participants visited MedReview’s booth requesting information regarding its review activities.

NYCHSRO was proud that three of its staff members received special recognition from the New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. Richard Daines. Commissioner Daines cited Petra Capozzalo, Angela Puglisi and Maria Sweeney who are part of the review team on NYCHSRO’s Quality Assurance of Adult Care Facilities contract for “performance/activities that were exemplary above and beyond the expectation of their job duties”.

Other exciting events included Mr. Stamm’s Fact Funding Mission to Israel with Governor Mike Huckabee and Assemblyman Dov Hikind (see related article), long time employee Alan Messer’s original artwork “Wall Street Shop” being displayed at an art exhibit at the Federal Hall National Memorial; and Bob Rosenblom, one of the organization Vice Presidents, being honored by the Jewish Foundation School of Staten Island.

NYCHSRO/MedReview’s staff had the honor of meeting a number of high profile political figures including; President Bill Clinton, Governor David Patterson, Mayors Mike Bloomberg and Rudy Guiliani, Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver, State Senator John Sampson (Leader of the Democratic Conference), Congressmen Charles Rangel and Anthony Weiner, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and NYC Comptroller John Liu.

MedReview staff also participated in a number of charitable events including; The Cooley Anemia Foundation, First Candle Charity Gala and Ezra Torah Breakfast.

NYCHSRO/MedReview also takes special pride in the on-going volunteer charitable work by two of its Executive Staff; Helen Mutchler, Executive Vice President who established the HRM Children Foundation and Janet Stieg, Director of Special Projects who helped found People Helping People (PHP) (see related articles).

Rounding out the 2009 year NYCHSRO/MedReview hosted Maimonides President/CEO Pam Brier at one of our organization breakfasts, as well as hosting NYC Comptroller Bill Thomson, and continued its long standing tradition of hosting its annual holiday party and company outing.

Lastly, MedReview once again witnessed the Yankees win the World Series!!
NYCHSRO/MedReview takes special pride in the ongoing volunteer work being performed by two of its executive staff members: Helen Mutchler, Executive Vice President and Janet Stieg, Director of Special Projects. Without fanfare, both have devoted extensive time and effort in promoting their respective charitable projects:

- Helen Mutchler: HRM Children’s Foundation
- Janet Stieg: People Helping People (PHP)

HRM Children’s Foundation (“HRMCF”) is a not-for-profit organization under 501(c) (3) IRS code. HRMCF supports indigent children in undeveloped rural areas in the province of Cebu, Philippines and also supports other charitable organizations which aid needy children in the US. The Foundation provides these children the basic necessities such as food, clothing and housing, as well as educational scholarships. It is HRMCF’s mission to afford these children a structured environment and proper education, thereby giving them a chance to transform their lives and break the cruel cycle of poverty.

HRMCF was established a year ago by Helen Mutchler to help over twenty poverty-stricken children in rural villages, providing them three meals a day, separate housing for boys and girls, each equipped with running water, electricity and indoor plumbing, luxuries to these children we may take for granted. The Foundation also pays for their school tuition, supplies and all other school related expenses through college. Without the support of HRMCF, these children would not be able to go to school and would be resigned to working along their parents to help put food on the table. Unfortunately, despite their efforts many of the children go to bed hungry.

The Foundation receives donations from friends and colleagues with 100% of money raised, going to help the children since HRMCF is operated by volunteers. For more information please email hrmfoundation@comcast.net.

People Helping People is a 501 (c)(3) private, non-sectarian foundation which Janet Stieg helped found that takes on projects on a need to serve basis. PHP is a virtual organization that comes together when there is a project need; consequently it has no administrative overhead. All donated money goes directly to the projects.

PHP’s focus areas are: children, disaster relief, economic development, education, health, and poverty and gender equality.

Among its activities, PHP founded and supports the Azama project based in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. Through the Azama project PHP provides funding for medical, dental and educational projects that serve the indigenous Inca Indian population of the region. The Azama School was founded in 2004 and currently serves 130 students as well as helping 8 young students attend university.

The medical and dental clinics serve the community of Azama and surrounding areas. Basic medical and dental care is now provided for the first time. The children of the villages receive needed vaccinations and dental care. Ms Stieg is the Director of the Health Care clinics and serves as a fund raiser for the organization.

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**HRM Children’s Foundation**

**People Helping People**


It is December and it's cold outside but NYCHSRO/MedReview staff and friends know that it is also time to return to Moran's for the annual year-end holiday. Moran's has become a special place for NYCHSRO/MedReview. The quiet ambience is expected and warmth generated by the spectacular fireplace and the outstanding staff is unforgettable. As always, the food was delicious, from the finger foods passed around during the cocktail hour through the succulent offerings at the buffet and concluding with dessert. There was something to please every palate served by an eager staff.

While dinner was served, the D.J. revved up the crowd with a constant flow of lively music. There was plenty of time for the partygoers to burn off all the extra calories and many of the staff and guests took full advantage of the opportunity while others relaxed and enjoyed the show.

NYCHSRO/MedReview also entertained numerous clients and guests. In addition to former employees, the guests included Assemblyman Dov Hikind, City Councilmen Bill de Blasio, David Weprin, State Senator Kevin Parker, and newly elected Councilman Brad Lander.

NYCHSRO/MedReview is grateful for all the people and events that made 2009 special and was delighted to help everyone bring the year to a close on a high note. The staff in particular looks forward to the opportunities to socialize for a while without the day-to-day concerns of work. We are all looking forward to 2010 and getting together again for the summer outing as well as the holiday party.

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NYCHSRO/MedReview’s Chairman of the Board, Norman B. Medow, M.D., is the recipient of the W.Morton Grant Visiting Professorship at the New England Eye Center of the Tufts University School of Medicine.

Upon completion of an ophthalmology residency at Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital (MEET), Dr. Medow did a cataract fellowship with Dr. Charles Kelman. This experience stimulated his interest in anterior segment problems in children. Dr. Medow has been director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and fellowship director at MEET for 23 years. He has written in excess of 100 articles and book chapters. His area of special interest is cataracts, glaucoma and corneal disorders in children. Dr. Medow is also the Chair of the Museum of Vision of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; writes frequently on subjects of Ophthalmologic Medical History and was cited by New York magazine in 2009 as one of the best ophthalmologists in New York City.

Dr. Medow was also invited by the Israel’s Council of Optometrists to present a series of lectures in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Topics included:
- Muscle Disorders in children’s eyes.
- Corneal Disorders in the pediatric age group.
- Ophthalmic surgery in children.
- Ocular emergencies in children.

Janet Stieg, RN, MS was promoted to the newly created position of Director of Special Projects in December 2009. Her previous position was that of QARR/HEDIS Coordinator.

Ms. Stieg has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from West Texas A&M University and a Masters of Science with a focus on HealthCare Administration from Texas Women’s University. She completed an administrative residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

Ms. Stieg comes to this position from a widely varied background. She has a 6 year history in coordinating HEDIS/QARR reviews throughout New York State. She also participated in a year long research project at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and has spent time as a Director of an Emergency Department in Texas as well as a sexual assault examining nurse and flight nurse.

Ms. Stieg participates in various non-profit organizations including performing as Clinical Director of a small medical clinic in the Andes of Ecuador. She spends her free time with her children and her horses.

Please Visit Our New Website
www.medreview.us
As it has been MedReview’s policy, the organization continuously meets with prominent Government Officials, Clients and Business Associates: a) to update legislators as to our activities as well as to represent client concerns, and b) to be certain that clients and business associates are please with the current status of events and review results.

Of significance was a meeting held in Assemblyman Dov Hikind’s office attended by the former chairman of the New York State Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee and currently a Partner and Chair of the Municipal and Regulatory Affairs Department at the prestigious law firm of Ruskin, Moscou and Falitscheck along with the MedReview leadership, Joe Stamm and Helen Mutchler. The topic of concern focused on preventing individual carriers from restricting utilization review which would have a negative impact on healthcare quality and costs for all New Yorkers in an already stressed economy.

In addition to the previously mentioned activity, MedReview had the privilege of meeting with New York State Governor David Patterson, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Speaker of the State Sheldon Silver, New York State Senators John Sampson, Dean Skelos, Kemp Hannon, Kevin Parker and Assemblyperson Nettie Mayersohn.

Among the clients and business associates with whom MedReview met with were:
The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), Amalgamated Life’s President/CEO David Walsh, Alicare’s President Claire Levitt and Executive V.P. Paul Malven, E-Plans’s Vice President, Matt Davis, and Staff members of the Christian Care Ministry. The meeting with HRA, which included several of the most prominent members of the administration, focused on ways HRA and NYCHSRO can jointly develop more effective strategies in assisting the City with additional cost containment approaches during the current economic crisis.

HRA attendees included:
- Mary Harper, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Medical Insurance and Community Services Administration
- Sandra Glaves-Morgan, First Deputy Commissioner (HRA)
- Mike Eisner, Assistant Commissioner of Home Care Services
- Annette Holm, Director of Field Operation – Home Care Services Program (HCSP)
- Arnold Ng, Director of Contracts (HCSP)
- Agnes Mak, Director of Contract Relations (HRA)

NYCHSRO was represented by:
- Joseph Stamm, President/CEO
- Helen Mutchler, Executive Vice President/CFO
- Robert Rosenbloom, Vice President City Contracts
- George Bopp, Vice President Planning and Development/CIO
- Anita Aisner, MD, Home Care Medical Director
- Maurice Fleishman, Director of Home Care Services
- NYCHSRO

MedReview was also proud to participate in a number of important and meaningful charitable events that included: a fundraiser for the Cooley’s Anemia Foundation which does incredible work on behalf of people that have the fatal blood disorder Thalassemia. Thanks to the Foundation children born with this disease now have more and better treatment options, leading to longer more healthier and meaningful lives. The Foundation took time to honor its National President Anthony J. Viola on his 50th Birthday.

MedReview staff also participated in the First Candle Charity Gala. First Candle is one of the nation’s leading non for profit organization dedicated to safe pregnancies and the survival of babies through the first year of life. The Organization’s priority is to eliminate Stillbirths, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) with programs of research, education and advocacy.

Finally, MedReview attended the 7th Annual Legislation Breakfast honoring the work done by Shema Kolainu (Hear Our Voices) a non-for-profit, non-denominational organization committed to enhancing the quality of life of children and their families who have been diagnosed with Autism. For other MedReview events please visit MedReview’s web at www.medreview.us. (see related article regarding charitable activities).
The sun rose in the east and set in the west. The sky was blue. The oceans were wet. And the New York Yankees won the World Series. After a one year hiatus from post-season play, the Yankees opened their new stadium with a bang by returning to and winning the World Series in 2009.

MedReview continued its support of the most successful franchise in sports history by obtaining tickets for the World Series games at Yankee Stadium. C.E.O. Joe Stamm and other senior staff were in attendance to witness the return of the championship to New York. Although the Philadelphia Phillies put up a good fight, the Yankees won their 27th championship which was culminated by a spectacular hitting display by World Series M.V.P., Hideki Matsui.

Several senior staff members also took a break during the day and walked over to the Canyon of Heroes (on Broadway) for the Ticker Tape Parade celebrating the championship. MedReview wishes the Yankees continued success and looks forward to celebrating with them again next year.

T-B: Barbara Kasa, Director of WECare, Harriet Starr, V.P. Government Affairs
Closing Ceremonies “Go Yankees”. Joe Stamm enjoying his Team’s Celebration

ALAN MESSER EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN FINANCE

NYCHSRO/MedReview longtime Facilities Coordinator, Alan Messer is an active artist and published illustrator. The organization is pleased to announce that his original art may now be seen in museums and exhibits in the city and the State capital. His painting, Wall Street Stop, completed for the Eye on Wall Street was shown at the Federal Hall National Memorial October 2009, and now can been seen in the Museum of American Finance.

Additionally, some of his work appeared in the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State with illustrations in the Mapping of Birds of New York Exhibit which traveled from the State Museum in Albany to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. Other illustrations can been seen in Bird Watcher’s Digest featuring the Focus on Nature XI Show, and the State Museum in Albany till October 2010.

To see Wall Street Stop in full color and other paintings of the Brooklyn Bridge viewed from MedReview’s 27th floor office space at the Seaport Port, explore the “gallery” and studio pages of Alan’s website alanmesser.net. NYCHSRO/MedReview looks forward to seeing what springs from his sketchbooks and off his palette next season.

T-B: Barbara Kasa, Director of WECare, Harriet Starr, V.P. Government Affairs
Closing Ceremonies “Go Yankees”. Joe Stamm enjoying his Team’s Celebration

ALAN MESSER EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN FINANCE

NYCHSRO/MedReview longtime Facilities Coordinator, Alan Messer is an active artist and published illustrator. The organization is pleased to announce that his original art may now be seen in museums and exhibits in the city and the State capital. His painting, Wall Street Stop, completed for the Eye on Wall Street was shown at the Federal Hall National Memorial October 2009, and now can been seen in the Museum of American Finance.

Additionally, some of his work appeared in the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State with illustrations in the Mapping of Birds of New York Exhibit which traveled from the State Museum in Albany to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. Other illustrations can been seen in Bird Watcher’s Digest featuring the Focus on Nature XI Show, and the State Museum in Albany till October 2010.

To see Wall Street Stop in full color and other paintings of the Brooklyn Bridge viewed from MedReview’s 27th floor office space at the Seaport Port, explore the “gallery” and studio pages of Alan’s website alanmesser.net. NYCHSRO/MedReview looks forward to seeing what springs from his sketchbooks and off his palette next season.