



## HISTORY

The Forsyth County Medical Auxiliary officially began on April 13, 1937. Members joined and organized to promote friendliness among families of the medical profession and to assist the Medical Society with its functions and obligations. The group met irregularly during its first four years.

With changing social and economic conditions of the ensuing decade, the Auxiliary expanded its focus in 1941 to include service activity in addition to socialization. A constitution was drafted. Much of the early service activity focused on wartime considerations. During this era, the local Auxiliary provided officers and project support for the state, including our first state president. It boasted the largest paid membership of any auxiliary in North Carolina and has remained one of the largest and most active of those in our state to date.

The 1950's, with a beginning membership of 102, was a decade of firsts: the Christmas Social, originally called the Silver Tea; monetary support for AMA-ERF nurse recruitment, scholarships and loans; production of a news sheet and yearbook; and the establishment of a Medical Careers Day were new activities that, except for the latter, continue in revised form to the present. Medical legislation, particularly as it concerned socialized medicine, was also a major focus. Health-related programs and projects continued and expanded. The Auxiliary provided a second state president.

With membership at 161 by 1960, the new decade was a continuation of earlier health emphases. Medical Careers Day expanded. Doctors' Day now included physical examinations for physicians. Increased financial contributions funded the nursing scholarship programs as well as other worthwhile community and state endeavors. New directions took shape in the form of a display of the community's early medical heritage at Old Salem, in the promotion of health education in the public schools, and

through a series of educational radio programs called “Spotlight on Health”.

As the organization expanded to just over 200 members, the Auxiliary was able to undertake an even greater scope of educational projects and programs in the 1970's. In addition to nursing scholarships, Allied Health scholarships were awarded annually. Donations of service, money and equipment promoted health education for the public and there was increased interaction with the community's schools. The Auxiliary was instrumental in the formation of the School Health Council and actively supported funding for a health educator in the schools. Higher membership numbers and added personal involvement now required attention to interests of individual members. Interaction through small interest groups, the formation of the past-presidents' club, and changing the meeting sites from more formal settings to the intimacy of homes facilitated this effort. The 1970's also saw a focus on archives, organization of committee work, and efficiency in recordkeeping. Three local auxiliaries became presidents of the state organization.

Continuing the early directives of the founding members, Auxiliary members in the 1980's geared their expanding services to community needs. Adolescent health continued to be a major focus. The formation of the GALS committee for support of members in need met an early Auxiliary goal of fostering friendship.

The group also gave renewed attention to assisting and cooperating with the Medical Society in accomplishing its own goals and continued to support the state organization where many of our local members served in board positions. By the close of the decade, the group began to recognize outstanding service by an individual member and in 1981, presented its first Outstanding Service Award. Local membership climbed to its highest level of 350.

The early 1990's saw the beginning of many organizational changes. In 1990 the FSDCMA Health Education Foundation was created to oversee and direct charitable contributions. June 1, 1991 marked the beginning of a federated Auxiliary. For the first time, all members participated at the county, state and national levels. In 1992 the Bylaws were revised and another local auxilian became a state president. The Auxiliary accepted an invitation to house its archives in the Dorothy Carpenter Medical Archives at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. In April, 1995 our local Auxiliary name was changed to The Medical Alliance of the Piedmont, and members were given their choice of

dues participation; the Bylaws were again revised to reflect this change.

The 1990's decade and the early years of 2000 can best be described as a period of commitment to fundraising support and advocacy for the medically underserved and uninsured of our community. The Medical Alliance and the Medical Society jointly produced "Med Bowls I-V" during the mid 1990's. These were very popular charity basketball events between Bowman Gray School of Medicine and Forsyth Hospital which benefited Crisis Control Pharmacy. These successful annual events, as well as the Talent Show benefits also produced in the ensuing 3 years, involved the entire medical community and generated over \$530,000 in donations to the Pharmacy. The new millennium 2000 also ushered in a new focus for our advocacy of the medically underinsured in the form of a new clinic called the Community Care Center. Our Alliance and the Medical Society again joined hands in producing a series of casino nights, "Med Rolls I-V", to help fund this new center. It is now the largest free care clinic in the state of North Carolina, serving over 1600 patients a year through the volunteer services of physicians, nurses, Alliance members and numerous other concerned groups. It is estimated that during a 10-year period beginning in the mid 1990's with Med Bowl I and ending in the mid 2000's with Med Roll V, the Medical Society, with the help of our Alliance and the participation of the medical community, has raised over a million dollars for underinsured people in our area.

The new millennium offers exciting technological opportunities for our Alliance to continue to serve and grow. We hope our new website, created in 2007, will allow the group to be even more connected and sensitive to the needs of Alliance members, our local medical community, and the medical world at large. Through our historical ongoing focus on health and our most recent support for the Community Care Center, Addiction Recovery Care Association and the Battered Women's Shelter, we continue to be invested in community service, support for the medical profession and the needs of the medical family.

**Revised 2007**

