

## A Message From the 2017-18 CCMSA Presidents



**Alexia Crowley**



**Jessica L. Kartzinell**

While the CCMSA does not meet during the summer, we have been hard at work planning for the coming 2017-2018 year. We are planning for our 17th annual fashion show to benefit the Nevada Medical Center as well as our annual Holiday Scholarship Project that raises funds for deserving nursing and medical students. We are already looking for sponsorship opportunities in our community to support these projects. To keep connected with us you can follow-up on Facebook and LinkedIn under Clark County Medical Society Alliance. We've also started our 2017-2018 membership drive. Our website is [www.ccmsa-lv.org](http://www.ccmsa-lv.org) Please visit our website to renew/join your membership today.

We are excited to continue our opioid healthcare initiative. Beverly Daly-Dix has volunteered to be the chair of this important committee. Beverly is a past CCMSA President. She was also instrumental in the passing of the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act back in 2006. She is passionate about the opioid agenda. Her committee plans to continue to educate Southern Nevada about opioid abuse. She is accepting new committee members. To join her opioid committee please email Beverly at [Bdalydix@aol.com](mailto:Bdalydix@aol.com).

We hope that everybody is enjoying their summer and staying cool!!



medical staff was in our office. We have a defibrillator but it is downstairs at the nurse's station while this occurred upstairs. It took paramedics more than 15 minutes to get a heartbeat.

Unfortunately, Leslie had significant hypoxic brain damage and had to be taken off life support after about a week in the ICU. Her family flew in and I know that her daughters were able to visit her while she was in the hospital. No reason was found for her heart stopping and the doctors believe that she had a malignant arrhythmia which caused her heart to stop.

This whole episode, needless to say, has been devastating to our office in so many ways. When I think about my own mortality or the ones closest to me, I think of dying when I get old of cancer or a heart attack. For some reason, I never think that someone so young can just be sitting at her desk working and die so quickly that she cannot even ask for help. I think how horrible it must have been for her friends, who have worked with Leslie for more than a decade, to have had to perform CPR while they waited for the paramedics to arrive. I feel terrible that I never had them learn CPR upstairs or that I never showed them where the defibrillator was. I know that it would have been too late by the time they found her, but it possibly could have empowered them and had them feel as if they had done everything possible to save the life of their friend and co-worker.

I feel bad that I rarely told Leslie what a great job she did for me and for the practice. I feel even worse that I never really told her how special she was or what a great person she was in so many ways. I rarely paid her compliments and did not make the time to get to know the children that I delivered. Since she did such a great job, I rarely had to talk to her very much. I believe other doctors that own their own practice understand this. It can be difficult to find the time to tell your employees when they're doing a great job since, many times, your time is taken up by employees that are difficult.

I feel fortunate that Leslie was still working for us when she died so she would at least have some life insurance. I feel bad in that I never encouraged her to try and get the maximum amount of life insurance possible. I wish that I had. This will certainly change.

There are many things that her death has taught me, but most of all, I will miss seeing Leslie sitting at her desk and I will miss her smile. I know that my life and the lives the workers at Desert Perinatal Associates are better for having known Leslie and getting to work with her. I can tell you that Desert Perinatal Associates will be a sad place for a very, very long time.