

# MPA and Secretary of State Urge Michigan Residents to

# Use Caution, Drive

## Avoid driving drowsy. Ask your pharmacist.

Brought to you by the  
Michigan Pharmacists  
Association

**Sandra Taylor**  
Pharmacist



On January 9, MPA, along with spokesperson Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, held press conferences in Livonia and Grand Rapids to kick off a new public awareness campaign sponsored by the two organizations. In each of the venues, local pharmacists joined Secretary of State Land and MPA CEO Larry Wagenknecht at the podium to increase awareness of the citizens in the state about the dangers of driving after taking certain over-the-counter and prescription medications which have side effects that could affect driving. In Livonia, pharmacists Ronald Coleman of the City of Detroit Health

Department and Bob Armstrong of Sax Discount Pharmacy helped to get the message across to the attendees. On the opposite side of the state later that afternoon, MPA President Sandra Chase, a pharmacist for Spectrum Health, and Jim Byington, owner of Village Pharmacy, joined the organizations to help emphasize the message.

The public awareness campaign consists of informational materials, including posters and palm cards, which were distributed to each pharmacy and Secretary of State office in Michigan. Additionally, approximately 20 billboards carrying the message "Use Caution,



Pharmacists Jim Byington (far left) and Sandra Chase participated in the Grand Rapids press conference with Secretary of State Land and MPA CEO Larry Wagenknecht.



Secretary of State Land visited with MPA convention attendees and exhibitors in the exhibit hall, and even caught a magic show.



**Terri Lynn Land**  
Secretary of State

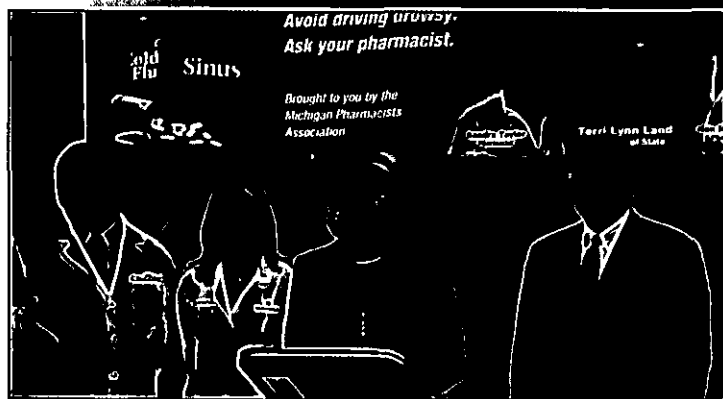
**Ron Melaragni**  
Pharmacist

Drive Safely™ have been placed in different locations around the state. Along with the Secretary of State Land, pharmacists and MPA members Ron Melaragni of Sparrow Pharmacy Plus and Sandra Taylor of Annapolis Hospital grace the billboards and informational materials. Radio public service announcements, featuring the Secretary of State and Melaragni, have also been distributed to stations throughout Michigan.

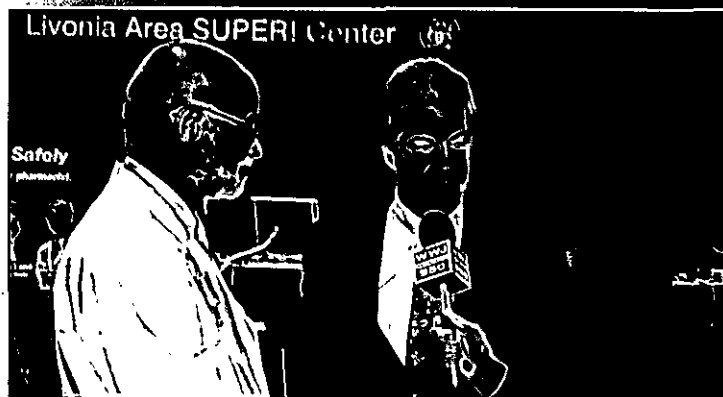
During the MPA Annual Convention & Exposition in Dearborn, Secretary of State Land spoke about the project to attendees of Friday's Opening Session and later greeted convention-goers in the exhibit hall. A reception was held later to thank Secretary of State Land for her participation in this effort, which is aimed at making our roads safer and encouraging the public to consult their pharmacist about any side effects before taking over-the-counter or prescription medications.

This campaign was made possible through the generous support of a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation. Additional generous funding was provided by AmerisourceBergen, Dohmen, Partners in Pharmacy Cooperative, McKesson and the Michigan Pharmacy Foundation.

If you would like more information about this project or would like to obtain additional informational cards for your pharmacy, please contact Karen Jonas, MPA Director of Professional Practice, at (517) 853-2781 or by e-mail to [kjonas@michiganpharmacists.org](mailto:kjonas@michiganpharmacists.org) or Andrea Rybicki, MPA Director of Communications, at (517) 377-0232 or by e-mail to [andrea@michiganpharmacists.org](mailto:andrea@michiganpharmacists.org).



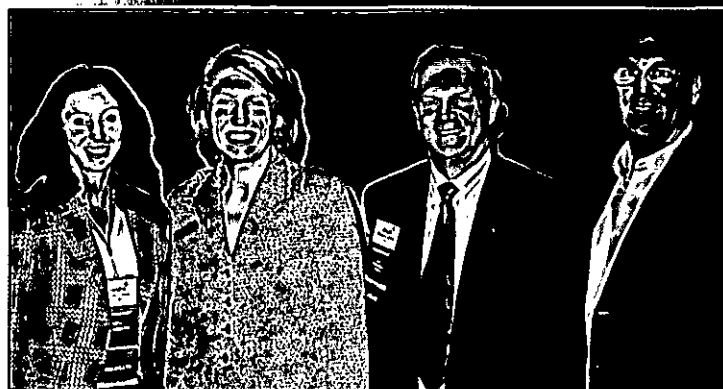
Secretary of State Land addresses the group during the Grand Rapids press conference.



Pharmacists Ron Coleman (left) and Bob Armstrong spoke with a reporter after the Livonia press conference.



A mobile billboard for the campaign was positioned outside of the Hyatt during the Annual Convention & Exposition.



Secretary of State Land posed with MPA President Sandra Chase, MPA President-Elect Chuck Hastings and MPA CEO Wagenknecht.