

INDEPENDENT— WITH A LITTLE HELP

LANE AIENA, MD

Independent Physician, *TMA Member since 2010*

Operating an independent practice in a smaller Texas city might feel like you're on your own. You must be a resourceful constant in the community, a leader. That's when you value the support of organizations like the Texas Medical Association, to augment your influence beyond what you can do yourself.

"I can sit in my office and wring my hands and complain, or I can get involved with TMA ... to try to actually change things," said Huntsville family physician Lane Aiena, MD.

He is one of five physicians running his small group practice that's been the community clinic for 40 years.

"We treat all kinds of patients from cradle to grave. It's a traditional practice," said Dr. Aiena. "We call ourselves 'your hometown clinic,' that's kind of our tagline."

He loves his practice's small-town vibe, and his helpful staff. "Patients are in a good mood by the time they get to me."

And when he's out playing with his children in the yard, patients who are neighbors stop to chat.

"You can really make a difference through the Texas Medical Association."

Stronger Advocacy Voice

Dr. Aiena says TMA amplifies his voice through state and federal advocacy efforts, as well.

"It's the opportunities TMA affords you to not just help 20 to 30 patients a day – which we're blessed to do – but to help thousands or millions of people. If you can get something passed [legislatively] and you influenced that, that's huge."

As his vaccine clinics exemplified, Dr. Aiena seizes opportunities to lead. He is the Walker-Madison-Trinity County Medical Society president, and he even co-hosts a weekly health information program on local radio.

His personal drive – bolstered by organized medicine – makes all this possible.

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TMA SUPPORTS INDEPENDENT PRACTICE PHYSICIANS.

- **Free** continuing medical education and staff trainings through TMA's Education Center
- Access to **TMA's Policies and Procedures Guide for Medical Practices**
- Access to seasoned practice management experts in **TMA Practice Services**
- **Member-only access** to a myriad of free online resources, checklists, and physician practice toolkits
- **Dedicated resources** for independent physicians, practice operations, and practice transitions accessible on TMA's website