

What Day Is It? Buyer Day!

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Groundhog Day, Arbor Day, Twins Day, Left-Handed People Day (*really!?*). Everyone wants to celebrate their uniqueness. Whenever a group of individuals feels their individuality should be recognized, a special day is set, decided upon, and celebrated.

Why not Pharmacy Buyer Day?

It's not that trivial. Physicians have a day, Physician Assistants have a day. Pharmacy Technicians have a day. Nurses and Pharmacists have a whole week! The purpose of having a "day" is not only to celebrate your uniqueness, but making the public aware of your presence in your community and also the contribution from that uniqueness, specifically in healthcare, is receiving.

Why do we need a Pharmacy Buyer Day? One amusing story I heard was when NPPA displayed at a national pharmacist convention. Many pharmacists just walked by, barely giving our booth a passing glance. Several did stop by the booth and even asked questions. But, when we questioned them, asking a simple question: "*Who is your Pharmacy Buyer*"; or even: "*Who buys your drugs for your facility*", many would stare blankly, like the proverbial deer in the headlights. The scarier response was when the Director said it was their secretary! Speaking from experience, I replaced the secretary at my facility, so I know this happens.

Although Pharmacy Buyer Day sounds like a unique idea, it has in reality, been around for over a decade now. The membership of NPPA has been aware of this celebration, but very few others know about it. We as members of NPPA, need to correct this. Pharmacy organizations, the government, and especially the roughly 4,500 medical facilities that employ pharmacy purchasing professionals need to know that they should be recognized and valued as vital members of the healthcare team, and not just a pharmacy assistant. Someone once told me that if the profession of pharmacy drives healthcare forward, it is the Professional Pharmacy Buyer that serve as the wheels, crucially important to move their facility smoothly with acute fiscal responsibility.

To the Pharmacy Buyers whose facilities recognize and celebrate the Profession of Pharmacy Purchasing, we at NPPA thank you for your contribution. Some facilities have a lunch or a pizza for the staff to celebrate. Others get the entire facility involved by holding an event, inviting the entire staff to participate. One unique example, being held this year at one of the hospitals of the Outstanding Pharmacy Buyer of the Year, the entire community will be recognizing our NPPA Outstanding Buyer of the Year, at a ceremony with the participation of the entire community. The important issue, be it a department-wide celebration, a facility-wide celebration, or a community-wide event is that those involved will have a greater awareness of the Pharmacy Buyer, and that their facility and the city it serves is richer because such a profession exists.

Pharmacy Buyer Day will be held on Friday, October 21 of this year. Aside from the lunches and any internal celebration, the hospital, including the Pharmacy Buyer as its representative, can petition that a proclamation can be made by your county, your city, your state, or as high as your effort allows.

Important Note: These proclamations take considerable time to weave through the bureaucracy of your government, so the earlier you start, the better your chances of receiving an official proclamation in time for a Pharmacy Buyer Day. Instructions on how to request these proclamations from your local officials can be found on the NPPA website (at www.PharmacyPurchasing.com), on the page titled "Pharmacy Buyer Day Information".

Your career in Pharmacy Purchasing is the most important contribution to your community's healthcare that you, as a Pharmacy Purchasing Professional can offer. Make sure that your peers, your friends, and your community become aware of it as well, so they can be cognizant of your importance and your service.