

A Newsletter for the Members of the Louisiana Chapter

Summer 2016



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Annual Meeting

I apologize to our members regarding the delay in our annual meeting. There are many logistics that need to be worked out when it comes to setting up our annual meeting. Unfortunately, it took more time than expected to get all of our ducks in a row. Thankfully the time and effort paid off with a successful meeting. I would like to thank La-ACEP Executive Director, Nancy Bourgeois for her tireless efforts and all the hard work she put in to make our annual meeting a success. I would like to also thank the LSU New Orleans Emergency Medicine Residency for being such gracious hosts. Special thanks to Kathy Whittington and Dr. Sal Saua for all the help as well.

Our annual meeting was well attended by residents and faculty. Several attendees traveled quite far to attend and I believe these physicians were not let down. This year's meeting focused on legislative issues, mostly within Louisiana, but several proposed federal laws were covered too. Vibrant discussions on topics included balance billing, cost sharing, violence in the

ED and mental health boarding. I hope with our continued education and conversations we will continue to improve the practice of emergency medicine.

The planning for next year's meeting is already underway. I would like to continue having annual meetings at our state residency programs. I believe this will encourage resident participation as well as give some of us the opportunity to meet our up and coming colleagues. The location of the La-ACEP 2017 meeting has not been finalized, but we are strongly considering a Shreveport destination. Any member interested in helping with speaker and topic selection can contact our [office](#).

Leadership and Conference

Another LAC has come and passed. The time spent in Washington D.C. was fantastic and productive. Seven members of the Louisiana emergency medicine community met with all members of Louisiana representatives and senators. Louisiana is in a great position politically with regards to medicine. Four physicians currently represent Louisiana in Washington. And all were very receptive to the challenges facing emergency medicine.

Louisiana continues to sponsor resident participation at LAC. Dr. Ryan Cruz, MD; Dr. Benjamin Karfunkle, MD; and Dr. Brett Kaufman, MD traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for EM. The residents were accompanied by myself and seasoned LAC veterans Dr. Luke LeBas, MD, FACEP, Dr. Michael Cuba, MD, FACEP and Dr. Jay Kaplan, MD, FACEP. Several laws were discussed, including "Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016" and "Health Care Safety Net Enhancement Act of 2015." All of our congressional members were welcoming and cordial.

Executive Director Report

This has been a productive spring for La-ACEP. As you may know we have a great attendance at our annual meeting in New Orleans with the Residency Program in the beautiful new campus for the Medical Center. It was a pleasure working with the staff and I look forward to bringing the meeting to north Louisiana next year. We have not done so since 2008, so here we come! For those of you who have not ventured north in a while there is plenty to see and do for

families and adventurers alike.

Our elections have been held and we look forward to working with those returning to their positions as well as the newly elected board members and Councillors.

Dr. Rice did a remarkable job of covering topics from the national health care policy to what has ACEP done for me lately. There were several insightful comments from the audience and a myriad of opinions from the residents.

The state legislative agenda continues to be creative and challenging with several of the bills once again addressing balance billing and malpractice caps. We must still be vigilant and watchful. Without our knowledge a bill was passed to remove the mandatory helmet legislation much to our dismay. The session does ends on June 6 but I understand that the Governor has called for a special session almost right behind to address the financial problems for Louisiana.

Our goal is to line up physicians and legislators at the grass roots level and to develop and enhance our 911 legislative network. If you are interested in helping we need you to identify yourself for future initiatives and to donate to NEMPAC. Be alert and be informed, the times they are a changing! We will do our best to send forth legislative alerts as they become necessary.

One new state law we will be following is HB 210 by Rep. Moreno a law that allows for OTC Naloxone to be dispensed at area pharmacies. We would like your opinion on the law. If you would like a copy of the law please contact our office for a copy or follow on line through La-ACEP legislative network.

2016 LA-ACEP Elections

Please help us welcome the 2016 board members:

Newly elected

John Engel, MD, FACEP

Mike Smith, MD, FACEP

Shannon Atwood, MD, FACEP

Chuck Burnell, MD, FACEP **(returning)**

Jeff Elder, MD, FACEP **(returning)**

Charles Muntan, MD, FACEP **(returning)**

Keith Van Meter, MD, FACEP **(returning)**

2016 Councillors (5)

James Aiken, MD, FACEP

Luke LeBas, MD, FACEP

Mark Rice, MD, FACEP

Jon Michael Cuba, MD, FACEP

Mike Smith, MD, FACEP

Alternates

Randy Pilgrim, MD, FACEP

Richard McConnell, MD, FACEP

Owen Grossman, MD, FACEP

David Coffin, MD, FACEP

Seated Officers and Board Members

President- Mark Rice

President-elect- Jon Michael Cuba

Secretary/Treasurer- Roland Waguespack

Board Members

David Coffin

Thomas Jeider

Luke LeBas

Congratulations to all- Reminder our quarterly board meetings are held via teleconference and do not require travel so please keep that in mind if you are interested or considering a leadership position in the future.

The upcoming La-ACEP board meetings are as follows:

June 8th at 8 am

August 9th at 8 am

October 11th at 8 am

If you are interested in joining our call please contact the office and we will share the conference call numbers and code with you.

Clinical News

Avoid Airway Catastrophes on the Extremes of Minute Ventilation

Emergency airways commonly involve challenges of tube placement and oxygenation before and during the procedure. There are a handful of instances, however, when the issue is ventilation and, more specifically, extremes of minute ventilation. Minute ventilation is the amount of air the patient moves in one minute; it is a product of the ventilatory rate and tidal volume (minus dead-space ventilation).

[Read more](#)

When to Use Fluoroquinolones in Pediatric Patients

The best questions often stem from the inquisitive learner. As educators, we love—and are always humbled—by those moments when we get to say, “I don’t know.” For some of these questions, some may already know the answers. For others, some may never have thought to ask the question. For all, questions, comments, concerns, and critiques are encouraged. Welcome to the Kids Korner.

[Read more](#)

Benzodiazepine Prescriptions, Overdose Deaths on the Rise in U.S.

Even as opiate abuse has become a growing problem in the U.S., overdose deaths involving sedatives and antiseizure medications in the benzodiazepine category have also risen steeply, according to a recent study. Prescriptions for benzodiazepines have more than tripled and fatal overdoses have more than quadrupled in the past 20 years, researchers found.

[Read more](#)

Make A Difference: Write That Council Resolution!

Many College members introduce new ideas and current issues to ACEP through Council resolutions. This may sound daunting to our newer members, but the good news is that only takes two ACEP members to submit a resolution for Council consideration. In just a few months the ACEP Council will meet and consider numerous resolutions.

ACEP’s Council, the major governing body for the College, considers resolutions annually in conjunction with Scientific Assembly. During this annual meeting, the Council considers many

resolutions, ranging from College regulations to major policy initiatives thus directing fund allocation. This year there are 394 councillors representing chapters, sections, AACEM, CORD, EMRA, and SAEM.

The Council meeting is your opportunity to make an impact and influence the agenda for the coming years. If you have a hot topic that you believe the College should address, now is the time to start writing that resolution.

I'm ready to write my resolution

Resolutions consist of a descriptive Title, a Whereas section, and finally, the Resolved section. The Council only considers the Resolved when it votes, and the Resolved is what the Board of Directors reviews to direct College resources. The Whereas section is the background, and explains the logic of your Resolved. Whereas statements should be short, focus on the facts, and include any available statistics. The Resolved statement should be direct and include recommended action, such as a new policy or action by the College.

There are two types of resolutions: general resolutions and Bylaws resolutions. General resolutions require a majority vote for adoption and Bylaws resolutions require a two-thirds vote. When writing Bylaws resolutions, list the Article number and Section from the Bylaws you wish to amend. The resolution should show the current language Bylaws language with additions identified in bold, green, underline text and red strikethrough for any deleted text. Please refer to the ACEP Web site article, "Guidelines for Writing Resolutions," for additional details about the process and tips on writing a resolution.

I want to submit my resolution

Resolutions must be submitted by at least two members or by any component body represented in the Council. The national ACEP Board of Directors or an ACEP committee can also submit a resolution. The Board of Directors must review any resolution from an ACEP committee, and usually reviews all drafts at their June meeting. Bylaws resolutions are reviewed by the Bylaws Committee to ensure there are no conflicts with the current Bylaws. Any suggestions for modifications are referred back to the authors of the resolution for consideration. Resolutions may be submitted by mail, fax, or email (preferred). Resolutions are due at least 90 days before the Council meeting. This year the deadline is July 27, 2015.

Debating the resolution

Councillors receive the resolutions prior to the annual meeting along with background information and cost information developed by ACEP staff. Resolutions are assigned to reference committees for discussion at the Council meeting. You, as the author of your resolution, should attend the reference committee that discusses your resolution. Reference

committees allow for open debate and participants often have questions that are best answered by the author. At the conclusion of the hearings, the reference committee summarizes the debate and makes a recommendation to the Council.

The Council considers the recommendations from the reference committees on the second day of the Council meeting. The reference committee presents each resolution providing a recommendation and summary of the debate to the Council. The Council debates each resolution and offers amendments as appropriate. Any ACEP member may attend the Council meeting, but only certified councillors are allowed to participate in the floor debate and vote. Non-councillors may address the Council at the discretion of the Speaker. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Speaker before the debate. Include your name, organization affiliation, issue to address, and the rationale for speaking to the Council. Alternatively, you may ask your component body to designate you as an alternate councillor status and permission for Council floor access during debate.

The Council's options are: **Adopt** the resolution as written; **Adopt as Amended** by the Council; **Refer** to the Board, the Council Steering Committee, or the Bylaws Interpretation Committee; **Not Adopt** (defeat or reject) the resolution.

Hints from Successful Resolution Authors

Present your resolution to your component body for sponsorship consideration prior to the submission deadline.

Consider the practical applications of your resolution. A well-written resolution that speaks to an important issue in a practical way passes through the Council much more easily.

Do a little homework before submitting your resolution. The ACEP website is a great place to start. Does ACEP already have a policy on this topic? Has the Council considered this before? What happened?

Find and contact the other stakeholders for your topic. They have valuable insight and expertise. Those stakeholders may co-sponsor your resolution.

Attend debate concerning your resolution in both reference committee and before the Council. If you cannot attend, prepare another ACEP member to represent you.

I need more resources

Visit [ACEP's website](#). Review the "Guidelines for Writing Resolutions" prior to submitting your resolution. There is also information about the Council Standing Rules, Council committees, and Councillor/Alternate Councillor position descriptions. Of special note, there is a link to Actions on Council Resolutions. This link contains information about resolutions adopted by the Council

and Board of Directors in prior years.

Well, get to it

Writing and submitting Council resolutions keeps our College healthy and vital. A Council resolution is a great way for members to provide information to their colleagues and ACEP leadership. Please take advantage of this opportunity and exercise your rights as part of our Emergency Medicine community. Dare to make a difference by submitting a resolution to the ACEP Council!

ACEP's 2016 "Leadership & Advocacy Conference" brings hundreds of Emergency Physicians to Washington, DC and Capitol Hill

A record number of nearly 600 emergency physicians visited with federal legislators and staff on Capitol Hill on May 17 during the ACEP 2016 Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. Conference attendees (including residents and many first-timers) from 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico participated in 405 meetings in Capitol Hill offices with legislators and/or their health care staff.

The conference touched on several important topics such as ACEP's Registry (CEDR), recently released regulations shaping the new physician payment system, strategies to deal with out of network billing issues and the importance of physician involvement in the political process. During ACEP's "Lobby Day" on Capitol Hill, ACEP members:

- Asked legislators to re-engage legislative efforts to expand access to psychiatric services and provide appropriate mental health resources for constituents and patients with mental illness.
- Informed legislators and staff on emergency medicine principles for opioid prescribing.
- Asked legislators to "co-sponsor" bipartisan legislation to protect the current practice of using written "standing orders" by physician medical directors overseeing care provided in the field by paramedics and other EMS practitioners.
- Thanked the 100 plus sponsors of the "Health Care Safety Net Enhancement Act of 2015" (H.R.836/S.884), legislation that provides medical liability relief for physicians providing care under the EMTALA mandate, and asked other legislators for support.
- Invited legislators and their staff to visit a local Emergency Department.

The Lobby Day issue papers are available on the [ACEP Advocacy website](#) with your ACEP

login credentials.

ACEP President Dr. Jay Kaplan introduced LAC attendees to a brand-new advocacy platform powered by Phone2Action. The tool has many uses including social integrations, telephone services, and email tools that provide multiple ways to engage with lawmakers on critical public policy issues. Several state chapters have already utilized Phone 2 Action for advocacy campaigns on the state level.

During LAC, participants used the platform to alert legislators that ACEP members were coming to Capitol Hill and to provide materials in advance on the key issues that would be discussed in the meetings. In just a few minutes time, simply by using their smartphones, LAC attendees sent more than 1,200 communications to legislators instantly via email, Twitter, and Facebook.

[Watch Dr. Kaplan cheer on LAC attendees as their messages were sent live to legislators from all over the nation.](#)

If you were unable to attend the LAC16 Conference this year, you can participate in ACEP's "Virtual Lobby Day" by visiting the **[ACEP Grassroots Advocacy Website](#)** and clicking "Take Action."

Update on ACEP 911 Grassroots Network "Triple E" Campaign

Although the "**[Triple E Campaign](#)**" contest concluded last year, our work isn't over! Efforts to "**Expand - Enhance - Engage**" participation in the 911 Legislative Grassroots Network are ongoing.

Several chapters and organizations were recognized during ACEP15 for their **[outstanding efforts](#)** during the campaign:

Arizona Chapter ACEP (AzCEP),
Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA),
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians (MCEP),
North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians (NCCEP), and
Texas College of Emergency Physicians (TCEP).

ACEP continues to seek new participants in the 911 Network and there are still congressional districts that do not have ACEP member representation in the 911 Network. [View current](#)

Chapter progress and encourage ACEP members to sign-up with their login credentials on the [ACEP Grassroots Advocacy Center here](#).

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