



## President's Message

# A Call to Serve

William T. Durkin, Jr., MD MBA FAAEM

*"Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing."*

— John Stuart Mill

The Academy has now called for nominations for its board of directors (BOD) and Executive Committee. No doubt you have seen these announcements before, and may have thought of running for office. Not sure of what was involved or the time commitment, you hesitated. Others have thought to themselves, "Yes, it would be good to give back to the specialty someday," but then moved on. Well, it is time to take action, my friends. In order to accomplish our mission we need leaders — people who are dedicated and willing to do the work, not just burnish a resume.

The BOD and Executive Committee set the agenda for the Academy. A member of the board of directors serves a two-year term. During this time, it is expected that he/she attend an in-person business meeting each quarter, including one just before the Scientific Assembly and another on the last day of the SA, where the time and place of board meetings for the rest of the year are decided. Email is the primary method of communication between board meetings. The expectation is that emails will be answered within 24 hours. Email traffic tends to be busiest in the few weeks ahead of the in-person meetings. As the board takes on new projects or activities, a subgroup is generally assigned the task and then reports back to the full board. Each member also serves as liaison to one of the Academy's standing committees. That means attending committee conference calls, held quarterly by most committees, assisting the committee chair when needed, and reporting committee activities back to the BOD. All told, it will take you two to four hours per week on average.

Members of the executive committee are the officers of the organization. They are primarily responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Academy. In addition to attendance at all board meetings, there is a phone conference mid-way between the quarterly board meetings. They also assist in making residency visits. The secretary-treasurer is responsible for keeping track of our financial state. Don't worry, you do not need an MBA or degree in accounting, I can tell you from personal experience that our staff provides excellent support, and shortly after your election you spend a day at AAEM's headquarters learning about our finances. With the assistance of staff, each fall you present the budget for the coming year to the board. While serving in this position, one gets a good perspective on how the business end of the organization runs. The time commitment here is about five hours a week; a bit more before the conference calls.

Tom Scaletta once told me that the job of the vice president is to make the president look good. He/she helps with special projects and member

requests, and travels to some residency programs. Specific duties depend on the president and the opportunities that come along. The time required for this job varies, but should be about five to six hours per week. A flexible schedule is helpful, to allow for travel and for standing in for the president.

The president's job requires about 20-30 hours/week, depending on travel requirements, activities of the Academy, and member requests. It is the most demanding but, in my opinion, also the most rewarding job. There is always something to do. Ideally, those holding this office should have a flexible schedule without many collateral duties or demands from their main job.

AAEM is also in need of dedicated committee members. Serving on a committee is a good way to get an idea how the Academy works, get experience creating policy, help other physicians, and add value to membership. We want people who are willing to make suggestions and do the work. There is a special need on the Practice Management Committee for those of you who have experience managing and maintaining independent, democratic groups. Take a look at our list of committees and see where you might have something to offer. Have an interest but don't see a committee to match it? Not a problem: submit a proposal to the board and become the chair of a new committee! I promise you my full support.

The Academy has also called for nominations for annual awards. Please take a moment to look at the criteria for each award on our website. We would like much more input from members on these. In some years nominations have been a function of the executive committee, and I very much want to get away from that. I call your attention to a new award, Administrator of the Year. This is for a hospital administrator who has been supportive of an EM group and the specialty as a whole. If your CEO or COO has been helpful and supportive of your group, submit his/her name. This brings publicity to your group, your hospital, and the specialty organization for CEOs — the American College of Healthcare Executives — showing them that we provide recognition to deserving hospital administrators and realize that we are partners with them in providing the best care to our communities.

Like most professional societies, we use our annual awards to recognize those who have gone "above and beyond the call of duty" for us. In too many years it has been the executive committee that has chosen the slate of nominees. Please take some time to think about an appropriate

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### AAEM Antitrust Compliance Plan:

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nominee. Whether it's an exceptional teacher or someone from the Academy who has exemplified what an EP should be and served the EM community well. Please think of those who you feel deserve recognition.

The success of the Academy very much depends on the participation of its members. Please consider serving in some capacity. When you make your nomination or cast your vote, be sure those people have the energy and ability to make the commitment.

**AAEM Advocacy Day**

*"The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."*

— Plato

October 9th 2013, is our next day on Capitol Hill. Seriously consider taking advantage of this opportunity to come lobby for a day. Our lobbyists, Williams and Jensen (W&J), provide a teaching and briefing session in the morning, and then we head to the halls of Congress. You will meet in small groups with members of Congress and senior staff. A representative from W&J will accompany each group, so you need not worry about being alone or uncomfortable during the meetings. Lunch will be provided and a member of Congress has been invited to attend and have an informal session with the group.

This is a wonderful opportunity to influence law and policy as well as a chance to interact with other members of the Academy and our lobbyists. I hope to see many of you there. If circumstances prevent you from making it this time, please consider a donation to our PAC instead. ■



**NEW: AAEM PODCASTS**

AAEM is proud to unveil three new podcast series:

*Emergency Physician Advocates: Medical-Legal Issues in Emergency Medicine*

**Newest Episode:** The Liability Crisis

Larry Weiss, MD JD FAAEM, addresses the following questions: Do we have a liability crisis? If so, why? And what can we do about this problem?

*Critical Care in Emergency Medicine*

**Newest Episode:** ScvO2 vs Lactate Clearance in Early Goal Directed Therapy

David Farcy, MD FAAEM FCCM, speaks with Michael Winters, MD FAAEM.

The discussion covers a review of landmark articles as well as recent literature.

*Emergency Medicine Operations Management*

**Newest Episode:** Problems and Solutions in ED Throughput

Mark Graban, MS MBA, interviews Joseph Guarisco, MD FAAEM. In parts 1 & 2 of this episode, Mr. Graban and Dr. Guarisco discuss reasons for emergency department difficulties with throughput & patient flow and outline the critical drivers for improving the ED. They highlight a conceptual breakdown of the ED, creating an agenda for change and solutions for this difficult management area.



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