



EDITOR'S LETTER

Time Passes and Stuff Happens

by David Kramer, MD FAAEM

Each year at the AAEM Scientific Assembly, many of you talk about getting involved and leaving your mark on our society. Some follow through, but many do not. I was going to make an impassioned plea for all of you to strongly consider elevating your involvement to more than simply being a member. More than most other organizations, AAEM is led by its members who directly elect their board of directors. I was going to say much more about this but could not possibly say it more eloquently than our Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. William Durkin, has elsewhere in this issue of *Common Sense*. Please read his article. Then remember that the rest of us on the board feel the same way.

Our annual Scientific Assembly was a smashing success. As always, the presentations were first-rate. The information was clinically, administratively and academically relevant, timely and up to date. The

resort was excellent, and the food was too good. Our organization continues to grow, and every year our Scientific Assembly continues to impress. Old friends were reacquainted, and new ones were made. For those of you who were present, I'm sure this is all old news. For those who weren't, there is always next year (March 2-4, 2009) in Phoenix, AZ.

In AAEM, you determine what happens. You decide on the course the organization will take. You can just sit back and watch time pass and stuff happen. Or you can make stuff happen, effect change, chart the future and help mold a legacy. Don't let time pass without leaving your mark on your organization. Being a member is great. Doing more for the organization and your emergency medicine colleagues is even better. Get involved. AAEM needs you.



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AAEM Mission Statement

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society of emergency medicine. AAEM is a democratic organization committed to the following principles:

1. Every individual should have unencumbered access to quality emergency care provided by a specialist in emergency medicine.
2. The practice of emergency medicine is best conducted by a specialist in emergency medicine.
3. A specialist in emergency medicine is a physician who has achieved, through personal dedication and sacrifice, certification by either the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM).
4. The personal and professional welfare of the individual specialist in emergency medicine is a primary concern to the AAEM.
5. The Academy supports fair and equitable practice environments necessary to allow the specialist in emergency medicine to deliver the highest quality of patient care. Such an environment includes provisions for due process and the absence of restrictive covenants.
6. The Academy supports residency programs and graduate medical education, which are essential to the continued enrichment of emergency medicine, and to ensure a high quality of care for the patients.
7. The Academy is committed to providing affordable high quality continuing medical education in emergency medicine for its members.

Membership Information

Fellow and Full Voting Member: \$365 (Must be ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM or Pediatric EM)

*Associate Member: \$250 (Associate-voting status)

Emeritus Member: \$250 (Must be 65 years old and a full voting member in good standing for 3 years)

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AAEM/RSA Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

Student Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

*Associate membership is limited to graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved Emergency Medicine Program.

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