Minutes, Spring Membership Meeting, March 27, 2008

The President, Peter A. Bell, D.O., FACOEP, convened the Spring Membership Meeting at 12:30 p.m. and entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 2007 as written. A motion was made and duly seconded to approve these Minutes as written. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved as written.

Dr. Bell gave a brief President’s Report informing the members present that since this last report there has been a lot of activity going on at the ACOEP. The College continues to build bridges with the AOA and we have made strides to ensure that our members are duly represented on the Committees of the...
AOA. We have petitioned them to allow members to attend Alumni Luncheons and according to the Alumni Associations they may do this, however, we recommend that members let their college alumni associations know that they will attend their luncheons and functions. Unfortunately, the AOA has maintained its stance that it cannot allow members not registered with them to attend events on their convention floor. Dr. Bell stressed throughout his update that the ACOEP is not leaving the AOA we are only discontinuing their management of our Scientific Assembly and assuming control of our own events. He stated that currently we continue to work with AOA to remove this barrier for future events, but this is not a Unity Convention so there may not be resolution as to entrance to the Convention Floor for this year. He did announce that the ACOEP would be sponsoring its own exhibits that were more pertinent to the emergency medicine physicians and asked anyone who knew of a company that may be interested in exhibiting to contact Jan or Yvonne at the ACOEP Office.

At this time, he introduced the ACOEP staff and thanked them for their assistance in making this meeting successful.

He also informed the members that the ACOEP is currently negotiating with AOA on building space, and the office may be relocating either within the AOA Building or outside of it. He stressed that as a business, the ACOEP is growing and additional space and staff will be needed and added as we move forward. He stated that the ACOEP’s Scientific Assembly would be held in conjunction with the AOA’s meeting and we will be at Caesar's Palace. The CME amount will be between 30 – 35 Category 1A credit. This is being done because we are no longer restricted because of the AOA’s scheduling of events and we hope to continue to expand this conference to better meet our membership’s needs.

Dr. Bell informed the members that two of ACOEP’s Past Presidents were not at the meeting because of illnesses that have caused them to be hospitalized. He read a statement from Dr. Ben H. Chlapek, President from 1991 – 1993 who has been a mainstay of the Spring Meeting and passed along his well wishes to his colleagues. He also informed the group that Dr. Victor Scali; President from 2002 – 2004 has been hospitalized in New Jersey and should be on the mend soon.

Dr. Bell asked the members to please check out the AOA’s GOAL website and demonstrated how easy it was to reach out and become familiar with issues impacting on emergency medicine physicians as well as how easy it was to contact your Congressmen or Senators through this site.

He provided the members with a synopsis of the Board’s activities including meeting with MESH and the publication of a letter of response to an article appearing in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings in February 2008. (www.mayoclinicproceedings.com - Letters to the Editor, February 2008).

At this time he turned the floor over to Dr. Kuchinski to provide an overview for the Foundation for Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.

**Foundation for Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.** Dr. Joseph Kuchinski, President of the Foundation thanked Dr. Bell and the members of the ACOEP for their continuing support of the Foundation and its research programs. He reported the in 2007, the Foundation was able to fund all the research activities at the Scientific Assembly and the Board voted yesterday to continue and increase levels of funding for 2008.

He stated that as the Foundation enters its 10th anniversary year, they are instituting a Student Grant for Research of $1000 as well as funding three students who conduct research at the $1500/$1000/$500 levels. This fall, the College will present the first Field Cup for Research, which will be awarded to the hospital submitting the most original and pertinent research in emergency medicine. This Award will be rotated on an annual basis, much like the Stanley Cup, and winning residency programs will be able to display this award at their location for one year.

He expressed his continuing thanks to the ACOEP and its members for their support and urged them to get involved with the Foundation’s Committees and Board.
Dr. Bell thanked Dr. Kuchinski for his report and turned the floor over to President-elect, Thomas Brabson, D.O., FACOEP

**President-elect's Report.** Dr. Brabson reported that the College has been very busy updating its Strategic Plan that will be finalized over the next few weeks for implementation in 2009. He was currently soliciting applications for positions on Committees of the College and would be defining the membership of these Committees as his term approached. All Committee appointments would be reviewed and these appointments would be effective on a January – December basis.

Dr. Bell thanked Dr. Brabson and turned the floor over to Secretary, Anthony Jennings, D.O., FACOEP.

**Secretary's Report.** Dr. Jennings reported that the College will be working on its new budget this summer and said that Treasurer, Gregory Christiansen, D.O., FACOEP, will be reaching out to the various committees to ensure that they meet the needs of the College's membership. He stated that this is an exciting time for the College as it grows and redefines itself and he looked forward to hearing from the members if he could assist them in any way possible.

He reported that the College would be working more closely with the AOBEM and hoped to be meeting with the Executive Committees of both groups later this year to make both agencies function for the good of the emergency physician.

Dr. Bell then introduced Ms. Wachtler, who provided an update on the College Office.

**Executive Director's Report.** Ms. Wachtler reported that the College Office will be increasing its staff and hopes to include a permanent part-time IT person to assist with the website and member database. She announced that the database is up and functioning and members will have to establish their own passwords, which will not be maintained by the ACOEP. Members should log onto the ACOEP website (www.acoep.org) and click onto the Member Center tab. They should then go onto the appropriate member section and log into the page with their last name and AOA number (smith12345) and use the word “password” as the temporary password. After June 1, members should be able to log onto the site and make donations to FOEM, pay for dues and tuition.

Dr. Bell then introduced Jeremy Selley, D.O., Vice President of the Resident Chapter.

**Resident Chapter Report.** Dr. Selley thanked the ACOEP and its members for the support of the Chapter and informed members that the Chapter raised over $1300 on its Silent Auction. He informed the members that the Chapter would be working with the ACOEP Finance Committee to develop a more cost-effective tuition for the residents at major meetings.

Dr. Bell then introduced Elizabeth Sibley and Nancy Steiner from the CECBEMS who asked Dr. Paula Willoughby DeJesus to come to the podium. Ms. Steiner announced that for her contributions to the EMS profession, Dr. DeJesus was being recognized as the Janet Head Founders Award for 2008.

At this time, Dr. Bell asked the audience to join him in congratulating Dr. DeJesus and asked if there were any further business items that the members would like addressed. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anthony W. Jennings, D.O., FACOEP
Secretary

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