

**American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
Membership Meeting
Loew's Portofino Bay Hotel and Spa
Orlando, Florida
October 2015**

Members Present

F. Shan Ahmed DO, MS, FACOEP, FACEP	Jean E. Dorce DO
Michael P. Allswede DO	Trace M. Dotson DO, FACOEP
Jason Ashbaugh DO	John Downing DO
John V. Ashurst DO, MSc	Daniel Engelberg DO
Modinat Balogun DO	Schakia Yolanda Eze DO
Stacey Ann Barnes DO, FACOEP	Stuart A. Friedman DO, FACOEP
Stephanie K. Barnhart DO	Kaitlin M. Fries DO
Peter A. Bell DO, MBA, HPF, FACOEP-D	Kevin P. Gerrity DO
Tanaz T. Berahman DO	Martina M. Ghiardi DO
Justin T. Binstead DO, CPE, FACOEP	Elizabeth A. Gignac DO
David Bohorquez DO	Chelsey Coburn Gilbertson DO, MBA
Joseph J. Bove DO	Benjamin R. Godfrey DO
Joshua Bowers DO	Christopher M. Gooch DO, FACOEP
Donald L. Brizendine DO	Thomas E. Green DO, MPH, FACOEP, FACEP
James Boyd Bronson DO	Karen Greenberg DO, FACOEP
Howard A Brown DO	Justin Grill DO
Steven R. Burkholz DO, FACOEP	Satheesh Gunaga DO
Nikolai Butki DO, FACOEP	Christine Hall DO
Curt W. Cackovic DO, FACOEP	Dan Hampton DO
Joseph Hayes Calvert DO	Mary K. Harper DO
Victoria A. Camba DO, FACOEP	Christine S. Hickey DO
Bradley J. Campbell DO	Douglas M. Hill DO, FACOEP-D
Angela I. Carrick DO, FACOEP	Heather Hughes DO
Anthony Catapano DO	Raymond G. Hughes DO, FACOEP
Christopher D. Chancey DO	Ira B. Husky DO FACOEP
Michael A. Chipman DO	Yoo Joo Hwang DO
A. Dale Chisum DO, FACOEP-D	Kimberly Irvin DO
Eric Clarke DO	Rodger D. Jackson DO, MPH
Patrick M. Cody DO, MPH, FACOEP	Alan R. Janssen DO, FACOEP-D
Christopher P. Conrad DO	Edward J. Jelonek DO
Colin Croshaw DO	Brooke N. Johnson DO
Hung Hoang Dang DO	Julie K. Johnson DO
Frederick A. Davis DO, FACOEP	Wayne T. Jones DO, FACOEP-D
Stephanie L. Davis DO, FACOEP	Mark D. Kalna DO
Brian S. Dean DO	Michael L. Kelley DO, FACOEP
Paula Willoughby DeJesus DO, MHPE, FACOEP-D	Judith M. Knoll DO, FACOEP
William D. DiCindio DO	Megan McGrew Koenig DO, MBA, MS
Irene Dmitruk DO	William M. Kokx DO, FACOEP-D

Chad M. Kovala DO
Beth J. Kushner DO
Johnny R. Larsen DO, FACOEP
Lionel H. Lee DO
David L. Levy DO, FACOEP
Kevin J. Loeb DO, FACOEP-D
Joseph M. Manchester DO
Jennifer B. Matzner-Abrams DO, FACOEP
Dennis Mays, DO
Matthew McCarthy, DO, FACOEP
Terrance R. McGovern DO
James L. McMullen DO, FACOEP
Sarah K. Minor DO, FACOEP
Lamont Mitchell DO
Mark A. Mitchell DO, FACOEP-D, FACEP
Meghna P. Nagabhushan DO
Matthew C. Nelson DO
Daniel J. Olsson DO, FACOEP-D
Michael H. Oster DO, FACOEP
Chioma Oti DO
Nicole Y. Ottens DO, FACOEP
Steven J. Parrillo DO, FACOEP-D
Brady N. Pennig DO
Mark Petrarca DO
Donald G. Phillips DO, FACOEP-D
Elizabeth Placzek DO
Mark Plexousakis DO
Catherine B. Polera DO, FACOEP
Heather Poskevich DO
Justin Quinlan DO

Tara S. Reilly DO
Jeffrey R. Respecki DO
Brian L. Risavi DO, FACOEP
Rose Anna Roantree DO
David P. Ruby DO
Michael Sabatino DO, FACOEP
Cary N. Schneider DO, MPH, FACOEP
Joseph Sedlock DO
Jeremy K. Selley DO, FACOEP
Juan I. Sinisterra DO, FACOEP
John Sireci
Gregory Skowronski DO
Greg Sorkin DO, FACOEP
Andrew K. Terry DO
Jasmine Thomas DO
Lindsay Tjiattas-Saleski DO
Danielle K. Turrin DO
Timothy R. Vayder DO, FACOEP
Stephen J. Vetrano DO, FACOEP
Katherine Vlasica DO
Jordan Wagner DO
Jennifer J. Walker DO
Michael D. Ward DO
Nancy W. Weber DO
Brian D. Wiley DO, FACOEP
Ernest R. Williams DO
Joanna Wronko DO

Dr. Mitchell, the President, called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone to this meeting. He explained that for the sake of timing the meeting format was being changed to allow more members to participate, recognize and honor award recipients and those physicians receiving fellowships and distinguish fellowships. This experimental format may be adopted should it be successful. He directed everyone to the app so that they could sign in this meeting to maintain their membership requirements and to download written reports for information on the College.

At this time, he provided the members with a brief update on the activities of the President, since the spring meeting. He stated that the Single Pathway continues to evolve as both the AOA and ACGME get deeper into the process. The question still plaguing the emergency medicine community is the difference in training length and how this will affect those applying for accreditation. Since this is a continuing and evolving process he asked the members to continue to watch for newsbriefs from the various agencies.

Dr. Prestosh, President-elect, was invited to the stage to present his report. Dr. Prestosh stated that during the last few months. He reported that he was privileged to attend the very first ACOEP Social event

that brings College members together at no cost to meet other members in their area to renew old friendships and initiate new ones. He also was the Keynote Speaker at the second ACOEP-SC Regional Event held in Patterson, New Jersey.

At this time, Dr. Mitchell asked that a promotion for the new AOA advertising campaign be shown. Following the video, Dr. John C. Prestosh was asked to the stage to take the Oath of Office as the 20th President of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Prestosh expressed his thanks to those who supported him in this venture and spoke about the challenges confronting not only the College but medicine in general. He stated that this is a special time to evaluate the ACOEP and plan for its future; to make changes in its operation, its look and its purpose and to embrace these changes much as the past presidents had during the tumultuous beginnings of the specialty. He asked all members to unite to build membership support of the college and to promote its activities not only to their DO colleagues but to their MD counterparts, PAs and NPs. But mostly to recognize the special talents that they bring to the emergency department on a daily basis and grow in their passion for the specialty of emergency medicine.

Dr. Prestosh, then announced the results of the electronic voting. Votes were tallied by computer and found that the following physicians were elected to the Board: Drew A. Koch, DO, FACOEP-D; Duane Siberski, DO., FACOEP; Gary Bonfante, DO, FACOEP, and Timothy Cheslock, DO, FACOEP. The newly elected members were asked up to the stage to take the Oath of Office along with the newly elected Presidents of the Student and Resident Chapters, Timothy Bikman and John Downing, DO and were issued the Oath of Office to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Prestosh entertained a motion to adjourn and stated because individual reports were not given, that they would be attached to the Minutes when compiled. A motion was made and duly seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Levy, DO, FAOCEP
Secretary

Attachments

President's Report

Mark A. Mitchell, DO, FACOEP-D

FALL 2015

This marks the final report I give to the membership as President of this great organization. Over the past two years we have continued to grow and meet the needs of our membership. Our Resident and Student Chapters continue to grow, not only in membership, but also in the quality of programs they produce. Regional Symposiums have started and give the student members the opportunity to learn more of what emergency medicine is all about, get hands-on experience in common procedures, and interact with some of our EM Residency Programs. We continue to attract the best and brightest Osteopathic students into our EM Residency Programs. We have several new Osteopathic Emergency Medicine Residency Programs that have been approved and are in the process of starting up to meet the ever-increasing demand for more EM Residency positions.

Many of our EM Residency programs are well on their way to obtain ACGME accreditation in the single common pathway. Drs. Alan Janssen and Kevin Weaver are representing the Osteopathic Focused Programs on the Review Committee for Emergency Medicine. These two gentlemen are working hard on behalf of the outstanding programs that have been developed over the years. In addition Juan Acosta, D.O., FACOEP is a member of the Osteopathic Principles Review Committee.

This summer at the AOA House of Delegates it was an honor to be present as John Becher, D.O., FACOEP-D was inaugurated as President. John has been a leader not only in Emergency Medicine, but also in the entire healthcare profession for many years. The AOA is in good hands under his leadership during this time of change in the healthcare environment. He is proud to be an Osteopathic Physician and is working diligently to insure that everyone in the US and abroad knows what is DO is.

Our CME programs continue to be outstanding and meet the educational needs of our membership. This is reflected by the increased number of participants at our programs. In addition, we now have online CME available and the number of hours offered via this venue continues to increase. We are getting very close to obtaining recognition as a CME accreditor via the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This has been a labor-intensive process and has taken much time from the ACOEP staff.

OMED 2015 is going on concurrently with our meeting. Much time was spent in working with the AOA leadership to coordinate scheduling between these two events. It is our hope that you will be able to participate in some of the events that OMED has scheduled and to rekindle

friendships with colleagues from other specialties that you may have gone to school or trained with in the past.

In turning over the gavel to Chuck Prestosh, D.O., FACOEP-D I know the college is in good hands. Chuck has years of experience and has made sure that over the past two years to become very familiar not only the processes of the ACOEP, but also to develop crucial relationships that are needed. He will need your continued support to lead our organization into the future.

President-Elect Report

John C. Prestosh, D.O., FACOEP

FALL 2015

Time has quickly passed since our meeting in Ft. Lauderdale and it is hard to believe that summer is gone and we are nearing the Christmas season. It has been a busy six months representing the ACOEP but a very rewarding time in spreading information regarding the ACOEP with other organizations representing emergency medicine.

Immediately after leaving Ft. Lauderdale, I headed to Chandler, Arizona to attend the ACOEP Program Director's meeting and also to meet with the leadership of the Council of Residency Directors (CORD). Their leadership was very welcoming and was very interested in working with our college to help our residency programs access the pathway to Single Accreditation in a successful manner. They were very accommodating in offering our college a specific time during their next conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to have a dedicated track in Osteopathic medicine. I know that there have been discussions to see if this can become a reality. I believe that a strong relationship with CORD can only strengthen the standing of Osteopathic emergency medicine residency programs. I will update the college as further information is known.

I was invited to attend the annual SAEM conference in San Diego, California in May but unfortunately I was unable to attend due to a family medical issue which required me staying home. However, this is another group that is beneficial to have close ties so the ACOEP's voice and opinions can be shared.

I attended the AOA annual House of Delegates meeting which was held in Chicago this past July. Although there were no dramatic issues such as the Single Pathway System being debated this year, many important issues were discussed and the leadership of our college met with the AOA hierarchy regarding several topics. The ACOEP also cosponsored a social event for the incoming (at that time) AOA president, our own John Becher, D.O., FACOEP-D.

I recently, with two ACOEP staff members, hosted the first ACOEP Social in northern New Jersey. This free event for members will be held throughout the year on a regional basis. This was a time

for old and new friends to share a time of relaxation, good food and drinks, and being updated on what is happening with the ACOEP and the house of emergency medicine.

The very next day I had the privilege to be the Keynote Speaker at the Regional Student Symposium held in Paterson, New Jersey at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. The turnout was fantastic and the enthusiasm of the students was overwhelming. This meeting was the second such symposium to be held and I believe this is something that should be continued in the future. This not only benefits students who are extremely interested in emergency medicine but also gives the ACOEP a time to share its vision with potential future leaders of our college. This concludes my report. As always, please feel free to ask any questions or share any concerns you may have. I consider it an honor to serve our college and its membership.

Secretary's Report

David L. Levy, DO, FACOEP

FALL 2015

The Secretary's position is one that works exclusively with the executive director of the ACOEP. The position fashions evaluations of the ED and works with her to develop policies affecting the operation of the College.

Last May, the College underwent its review by the AOA to determine the healthy operation of the College; we were notified in July that the College was found in good condition and was given high praise for the continued effective operation of the organization.

As we prepared for this evaluation we noted that some of our policies needed to be reviewed, some needed revision and others probably removed from active consideration. Similarly, we issued a new Employee Policy Manual, and presented the revised Bylaws to the AOA Basic Document Committee.

The Employee Policy Manual, reviewed by the Executive Committee and Legal Counsel was approved and distributed in mid-August. The revision of the policies will begin to be placed on committee agendas in the fall and will continue through the spring meeting of the College. Some of these policies require multiple source verification and legal review, while others do not. However, all will be reviewed by the pertinent committees and ultimately the Board.

As to the Bylaws revision, the AOA requested that the College remove all options for MD membership from the document as they currently do not have the capability to certify MD physicians or to elect them on the Board or place them on committees. To make the other relevant changes that needed to be made in this document, the College's representatives at the House of Delegates, agreed to this amendment.

The College has been further advised that it can create a membership policy to allow full membership to MD physicians. A draft of this policy appears on the Executive Committee and will be reported to the Board for further discussion and potential action or acceptance.

At this time, no evaluation of the Executive Director has occurred and she has been requested to develop a self-evaluation for submission and review. This is due on October 1. However, a new job description has been developed using updated information for the executive director, this is being presented to the Executive Committee in October.

Treasurer's Report

Christine Giesa, DO, FACOEP-D, Treasurer

FALL 2015

In July, 2015 the Finance Committee met to develop a budget for the upcoming fiscal year of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. At the meeting the Committee was unable to develop a balanced or zero budget, and the task was put on the Treasurer, the Vice Treasurer, Dr. Drew Koch, and the executive director.

In the months since that meeting we were able to look more thoroughly at the income and expenses that the College has had during the current year and make appropriate changes to produce a balanced budget that will be presented to the Board for final approval. These changes were made through a series of conversations with staff to get 'real' numbers, adjustments made in contracts to lower costs as well as some decisions by executive staff to use allocated raises divided between the upcoming fiscal year and the following fiscal year for tax purposes.

As the months passed the Executive Committee and Executive Staff of the College evaluated the location and costs of remaining in the AOA Building or moving to another North Michigan Avenue location. Utilizing the skills of a real estate brokerage firm, the College was able to negotiate with the AOA to lower a proposed \$10 escalation in per square foot rent that is currently in the lease through January 31, 2017 to a \$.50 escalation in per square foot rent from the period of February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2024. This is an on-average rate of escalation in other buildings that the College reviewed. Additionally, the AOA has allowed us a 7 month rental abatement that can be used from the date of the signing of the new lease through the end of the lease and a tenant improvement allowance of \$10 per square foot beginning in 2020 with \$5 per square foot available for rental abatement if not used. This is a very generous offer. At this time the signing of the lease has begun with a letter of intent signed by both parties and will provide the College with substantial savings.

Through September 23, 2015, the budget for the current fiscal year, the College's budget shows a profit of approximately \$195,000. This may change as end of the month expenses for September are gathered; however, at this time large expenses, like rent, have been paid through the end of the month.

The annual audit of the financials has been set for December 1 – 3, 2015 and will be done by the Audit Bureau of Dugan and Lopatka, a CPA firm in Wheaton, IL. The outcome of this audit will be presented to the Membership in March/April at the spring meeting and will appear in the April edition of [The Pulse](#).

I would like to thank Drew Koch, DO, FACOEP-D, Jan Wachtler, and the staff of the ACOEP for assisting in developing the budget for the upcoming year as well as the other members of the Committee, Drew Kalnow, DO, Treasurer, Resident Chapter; Jeff Weeks, Treasurer, Student Chapter, Joseph Kuchinski, DO,

FACOEP-D, J.P. Pazevic, DO, FACOEP, Mark Mitchell, DO, FACOEP-D, John Prestosh, DO, FACOEP, David Levy, DO, FACOEP, and Gregory Christiansen, DO, M.Ed, FACOEP-D.

Immediate Past President

Gregory M. Christiansen, DO, MEd, FACOEP-D

FALL 2015

It has been a sincere privilege to serve the College members and partner with its excellent leadership over these many years. I must acknowledge a special ‘thank you’ to the staff who have carried the load of the College business to ensure our remarkable success. My tenure has come to a close & I am passing the baton the worthy and very capable hands of our current President. My report is as follows:

EMAF - The committee has been very busy in developing ways to identify the impact of government policy on emergency medicine. It has tackled the biggest challenge to Emergency Medicine. We have responded to the activities of CMS to implement Out-Of-Network (OON) coverage and reimbursement requirements for emergency medicine services under the ACA. A claims analysis of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) revealed a marked decreased in reimbursement for emergency services after the Greatest of Three (GOT) rule was promulgated. Aetna, Cigna and United Healthcare have shifted \$600 million in one year (2013) using the GOT rule. They adjust the par payment rates downward to use the GOT rule to their advantage. The plans pay Medicare rates + 20% of the charge to the patient. They have then left the balance due to the patient which is affecting all hospital based practices. Some states do not allow balance billing which exacerbates the situation. This has made EM dependent on Medicaid and Medicare – style reimbursement processes and double-digit losses are expected for EM services. It is likely the directives from EMTALA will simply not be met for economic reasons. The situation is expected to be worse in states without Medicaid expansion.

Currently EMAF is addressing a number of issues including the following regulatory matters in the Medicare Final Rule.

- Revisions of Quality Reporting Requirements and changes to the EHR incentive program
- The fiscal rates for the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System Policy Changes.
- Specific Providers, including Changes Related to the Electronic Health Record
- Small Rural Hospital Program and the Low-Volume Payment Adjustment for Hospitals
- Small Rural Hospitals Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System
- Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs;
- Short Inpatient Hospital Stays; Transition for Certain Medicare-Dependent,
- Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for 2016

Nominations Committee – One of the responsibilities of the Immediate Past President is to lead the Nominations Committee of the College. This has sometimes proven to be an arduous task as many physicians do not have sufficient down time to meet the needs of the Board. Thus we have begun to

solicit the membership, with advertisements in *The Pulse* and have set up an interview process for prospective candidates.

If you are interested in running for the Board, please contact the ACOEP with your interest.

Resident Chapter

Andrew G. Little, DO

FALL 2015

Long before I became a DO, I had a desire to be an emergency medicine physician. These two thoughts merged shortly after beginning my first year of medical school. I knew of the American College of Emergency Physicians, as I had read their publications in the ED lounge where I worked prior to medical school but was unsure if there was an osteopathic equivalent. While searching the Internet I found that there was a conference to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada for the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP). I went to this conference where I knew no one. Luckily for me, that did not last long. I quickly met DOs from around the country who practiced emergency medicine (EM) and who were residents in osteopathic EM programs.

While at this conference I had the opportunity to meet Mark Mitchell DO, then a member at large of the ACOEP Board of Directors, who noticed my enthusiasm for EM and encouraged me to run for a national student position within the ACOEP. The next day I was elected to be the ACOEP Student Chapter's conference committee co-chair. Little did I know that that single event would prove to be a turning point that led me to where I am today. Over the last seven years, I have had the honor and privilege of being an officer within the ACOEP Student and Resident Chapters, serving two years as the Student Chapter President and now serving as the Resident Chapter President.

During my time within the ACOEP, I have been truly blessed. I have had countless opportunities and experiences to serve, learn, improve, be inspired, mentored and become a mentor. I have learned to be a better person in the many facets of my life - father, husband, son, friend and physician - and have had the opportunity to walk among the giants of the osteopathic and emergency medicine communities. If you said that, in my time of service within the ACOEP, I have gained more than I could ever give, you would be right.

So as this is my last message to you as the Resident Chapter President, I invite all of our members to give the ACOEP a try. Come to a conference; attend one of our review course, write for one of our publications. If you do, I promise you will not be disappointed, you will feel welcome and you will want to get more involved.

Student Chapter

Cameron Meyer, MS IV

FALL 2015

This year the Student Track at the Scientific Assembly consists of three days full of events featuring skills labs, rapid-fire lectures, a student pool party, and mock interviews for our 4th year students. The highlight of this weekend's events is the Annual Residency Expo. This event offers students access to a wide variety of residency programs from around the country. The students' experience at conference is continuing to improve.

Ongoing Projects

Mentorship Program - Our mentorship program is being well-utilized by many local chapters, but there is still room for improvement. We are currently implementing a plan to further facilitate interactions between mentors and mentees. We have looked at what makes a successful relationship through this program and are educating local chapters on how to better utilize their mentors.

Local Chapter Standards/ Club of the Year - This year we will announce the Club of the Year at our Student Chapter General Membership Meeting. The winner will be determined based on their conference attendance and the variety of event that the local chapter put on. The Club of the Year program has helped our participation with the local chapters increase.

Communications - Our Facebook and Twitter following is continuing to grow. Each board member and committee member submits a monthly report on the projects they are working on. As a board we are holding quarterly conference calls to discuss projects and the future of the Student Chapter.

Research - We are continuing to provide research articles to the various journal clubs of the individual schools. This is helping educate students on emergency medicine. We are also trying to increase the opportunities for students to participate in research.

Publications - We continue to improve *The Fast Track* and have been getting great content submitted by physicians and students. The quality of the publication is improving with each issue.

New Directions

Regional Symposium - On September 12, 2015 the National Student Chapter held its second Regional Symposium at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. Thanks to St. Joseph's, the Resident Chapters, the UGME Committee, and everyone else that donated their time we had a great event with over 60 students in attendance. We would also like to thank the following emergency medicine residency programs that attended and helped us run the event: Good Samaritan Hospital, Orange Regional Medical Center, Inspira

Vineland Hospital, Aria Health, Kent Hospital, and Lehigh Valley Health. We plan to expand these regional symposiums and we are currently planning 3 more symposiums in the upcoming year.

Local Chapter President's Guide – Each year, every local chapter undergoes massive change as its president and many board members move on; what we've seen is the success of the local chapter is the quality of this yearly transition. The more smoothly it goes – the more momentum the chapter has. In instances where there is a poor transition, that chapter usually fails to get up to speed and we tend to lose them for a period of time, their members don't participate in the fall seminar and often are left floundering because of the lack of information shared.

To better facilitate this transition the National Student Chapter Board has developed a guide for the local chapter presidents. This guide outlines their responsibilities and provides them with all the information that they need to effectively run their chapter. It also provides them with information about all that the ACOEP offers students. At this conference each local chapter president will receive this guide. We hope that it will help with transition and increase student participation at ACOEP events.

Improvements to Conference - Although our attendance at conferences is continuing to improve there remain obstacles that decrease student attendance. We are working to make it easier for students to attend conference. This includes providing food for students and making lodging more affordable.

Better Use of Board & Committee Time – Until recently, the responsibility for the layout and design of *The Fast Track* has been that of the Co-Chair of the Student Chapter Publications Committee; it was a very time consuming and arduous responsibility. This now has been shifted to the ACOEP staff members, freeing up the co-chairs to assume other responsibilities within the Chapter and Committee. One area we feel is not being utilized to its maximum potential is the SC Facebook page and Twitter account. We have shifted this responsibility to the Publications Committee Co-Chairs to make sure we are better at distributing information to our members through social media.

SC Website – The National Student Chapter Board is currently working towards improving its website. One addition to the web is a page designed to help students find information on all the different residency programs. We are continuing to improve the site to help new schools start a new chapter and make more information available to all student members.

Finally, on behalf of the Student Chapter, I would like to thank the ACOEP Board of Directors, the staff at the home office, the Resident Chapter, and our mentors for their continued support! Your help makes it possible for our continued success.

Executive Director's Report

Janice A. Wachtler, BAE, CBA

FALL 2015

The period since my last report to the Membership has been an extremely busy one. The staff and I have worked to develop a bigger and better program brochure for our fall event as well as updating and expanding advertising for other events.

The ACOEP office has based its success on a blend of teamwork while allowing individuals to be creative in their own areas of expertise and that is why we are seeing change in presentations that we are making as well as continuing growth and change of ACOEP products.

This summer one of bigger projects was to review our marketing plan as we move forward. We did a deep dig into what makes our programs successful, what doesn't work well and items that we've gotten great feedback on. What we found is that our members like the intimate atmosphere of our programs. Many new attendees found the 'Cheers-like' atmosphere more conducive to learning as opposed to the hectic multi-layered approach of some other CME providers. And so, we've begun a new slogan that you will see around, *The ACOEP Advantage . . . Specialized. Personalize.* We are also using the motto 'Empowering Leaders in Emergency Medicine' a trademarked statement to advertise our educational products.

Moving forward we will be applying for CME accreditation of our educational products that will allow us to provide Category 1 PRA credit as well as AOA Category 1A specialty credit to our products as this will allow us to attract a varied audience of emergency medicine professionals.

Our major meetings have now been contracted through 2018 and the schedule will be:

2016

The Edge: Spring Seminar

Westin Kierland Resort

Scottsdale, AZ

Tuesday, March 29 – Saturday, April 2

The Edge: Scientific Assembly

San Francisco Hilton Hotel

San Francisco, CA

Tuesday, November 1 – Friday, November 4

2017

The Edge: Spring Seminar

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

Bonita Springs, FL

Tuesday, April 18 – Friday, April 22

The Edge: Scientific Assembly

Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center Hotel
Denver, CO

Sunday, November 5 – Thursday, November 9

2018

The Edge: Spring Seminar

Loews Coronado Bay Resort
Coronado, CA

(Outside of San Diego)

Tuesday, April 3 – Saturday, April 7

The Edge: Scientific Assembly

Magnificent Mile Marriott Hotel
Chicago, IL

Sunday, October 21 – Thursday, October 25

Another item we've taken off our 'To-Do' List has been to renegotiate and extend our lease at the 142 E. Ontario Street building in Chicago. These negotiations began last spring and we looked at several other venues before deciding to stay at the current location. We used a real estate broker and working with them and the Executive Committee we were able to secure a lower rate of rent for the period beginning in February 2017 through January 2024 than we would have if we had gone to another building.

This provides us with security and takes one more item off of our list of things to do leaving us free to grow our membership and meeting participation as we move toward the single pathway.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please watch your mail and email as we contact you with information to assist in our growth, like bring a friend to a meeting or other campaigns we will be utilizing. Without your support we cannot grow and without your attendance we cannot excel in education. Please keep us informed of things you like and don't like so that we can keep meeting your needs.