



when minutes count

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 2010

Health care news within the state continues to reflect the state's budgetary troubles recently quoted as a \$19 billion deficit for this fiscal year. Some creative accounting measures and spending cuts were used to formulate a new state budget. Medi-Cal and other healthcare spending are often on the chalking block as our state's tax revenues and expenses keep the state in the red. As unemployment remains stubbornly high within the state, increasing numbers of Medi-Cal and uninsured patients are being seen in our busy emergency departments. It is a bleak picture out there. With the November elections upon us, we hope that our elected representatives at the local, state and federal level will support emergency medicine initiatives and provide legislative/financial support for emergency departments as our safety net comes under increasing strain.

For the chapter, CAL/AAEM had a busy few months during the summer and fall. The membership survey was sent out to all CAL/AAEM members a few weeks ago. We received a good response rate and are currently compiling the results for analysis to determine how we can better serve our members. The survey responses reflected the chapter membership demographic of both younger and more seasoned emergency physicians. It was a nice balance of academic physicians, community physicians as well as a decent percentage who work in both settings. People stated that they joined CAL/AAEM to learn more about

issues supported by AAEM as well as receive educational benefits provided by the chapter. Many CAL/AAEM benefits were seen as valuable, but the usage of these benefits



was lower than we anticipated. The most used benefits are *WestJEM* and *CAL/AAEM News Service*. Benefits used less frequently include the online LLSA summaries and the free introductory legal advisory service for workplace fairness issues.

As a reminder, you can go online to <http://www.calaem.org/members> and login to the "members only" site to review summaries of the LLSA articles in preparation for the LLSA exam. We currently have the summaries up to 2009 and will be posting the 2010 article summaries in the future. If you have forgotten your CAL/AAEM online membership number and/or password, you can contact calaem@aaem.org to get this information to access the LLSA summaries.

The *CAL/AAEM News Service* has continued to grow and our number of subscribers is at an all-time high. We are currently transitioning in a new Co-Managing Editor. The Co-Managing Editor

will continue to work with me to disseminate news articles that keep our chapter membership informed of news locally and nationally that can affect our emergency medicine practice and reimbursement environment.

In October, CAL/AAEM helped sponsor a medical student emergency medicine symposium coordinated by the emergency medicine interest groups (EMIG) from University of California Irvine and University of Southern California. The chapter feels that support of student education in emergency medicine is extremely valuable, and this specific event has always been successful at educating medical students about careers in emergency medicine.

Over 150 students learned more about emergency medicine practice and heard lectures from a number of CAL/AAEM board members during the symposium. Our chapter also had a booth with educational materials and membership applications for students in attendance.

Thank you for those who attended the educational lecture series sponsored by CAL/AAEM in San Diego at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park. We hope to make the meeting a regular educational event as well as possibly expand to include a Northern California educational event in the future. Stay tuned.



Brian Potts, MD, MBA FAAEM
 CAL/AAEM President, 2010-2011

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