



*when minutes count*

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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## **May 2011**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) Scientific Assembly in Orlando, Florida was a fantastic and successful conference. I had the opportunity to meet a number of members from California who made the trip out to Florida for the national meeting, and I returned from the meeting feeling very energized. Similar to last year, we sponsored a state chapter social event in conjunction with the Florida chapter. We had a great turnout of enthusiastic members. It's always nice to socialize, and I found it interesting to chat with members about our varying practice environments, groups' structures, and challenges faced within our emergency departments and hospitals. Many of us are facing similar reimbursement challenges covered in my prior newsletter messages. During the Scientific Assembly I also attended a state chapter committee meeting, which officers from many of the AAEM state chapters provided an annual report and discussed membership benefits, initiatives, and other chapter activities. I shared with the group details of our first CAL/AAEM Speakers Series event that we organized last December. A few of the chapters hold similar yearly educational conferences and/or meetings, and each chapter felt that these events significantly benefit the chapter and its membership.

Along those lines, I am working with our Immediate Past President, Ingrid Lim, to plan our next CAL/AAEM Speaker Series event which will be held in Northern California, likely San Francisco, in the fall. Once final details are in place, we will promote the activity to chapter membership and local residency programs. The goals of the Speaker Series events are to provide both an educational Continuing Medical Education activity, as well as a social/networking event for our members to meet local colleagues and fellow members. We hope to make these Speakers Series events a regular chapter activity with a rotating schedule between Northern and Southern California locations.

Of the many newsworthy events in California during the last month surrounding healthcare and the California budget, the removal of legislative language which had threatened the Maddy Emergency Medical Service funds was a huge win for all emergency physicians in the state. Multiple organizations worked together to



spread the word about the pending legislation and enough people contacted their representatives and legislative leaders to encourage them to remove the language from the budget cuts legislation. With the California state budget in duress, we are likely to experience further threats to physician services reimbursement and other funding programs that affect emergency services and our emergency departments.

By the time that this newsletter is in print, our chapter elections for the 2011 - 2012 CAL/AAEM Board of Directors will be completed. I would like to thank everyone who ran for a position on the Board, and I encourage all members involved in the election, regardless of whether

they were elected or not, to be actively involved in the development and growth of our chapter in this upcoming year.



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

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