



when minutes count

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2011

I am honored to take on the role of President for 2011-12 of the California Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (CAL/AAEM). Our state chapter is one of the largest and most active within AAEM, and I am excited to help lead it through the challenges of the next year. In California we face issues unique to our state as well as those that occur across state lines. There are concerns of overcrowding, emergency department closures and diversion. There is the insidious loss of the emergency physician's freedoms, whether it comes from the ever growing number of hospital restrictions, mandates and protocols, the loss of economic democracy, through contract groups, the growing number of physicians directly employed by hospitals, or the potential loss of Maddy Funds through budget cuts by the legislature. CAL/AAEM exists to fight for the rights and responsibilities of the "pit doctor" and to promote fair practice for the board certified emergency physicians of our great state.

Besides battling for the individual physicians rights, CAL/AAEM offers a number of "bonuses" that should not be forgotten. Need LLSA? Come to our website for free reviews and updates. Want to keep up with the latest literature? Don't

forget that a subscription for the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (*WestJEM*) comes with state membership and is available online at www.westjem.org.



Over the last year *WestJEM* has expanded its membership, increased its number of publications, and sponsored as a special issue on injury prevention. Need updates on the state of emergency medicine (EM) in California? Look for emails from CAL/AAEM news service to keep you current. CAL/AAEM news service provides the members of CAL/AAEM with breaking news on the topics important to emergency physicians within our state. Want continuing medical education (CME)? CAL/AAEM has been an active sponsor of pre-conference workshops at the national AAEM scientific assembly. Last year was the first year our chapter sponsored a local educational conference, and due to the success of that endeavor, look for an opportunity to meet your board members, hear some great lectures and get CME at a local conference in the upcoming year.

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Think you need legal counseling? CAL/AAEM is the only state chapter to provide free introductory legal advisory service for workplace fairness.

Unlike other organizations, CAL/AAEM is not mandatory for members of national AAEM who reside in California. However, membership comes at a low yearly price, is free to residents and students and is locally grown and operated. So grab a colleague and sign her up, encourage the medical student interested in EM to join, and call up your residency program and ask them why they aren't on the list of 100% resident membership. Despite our

collective challenges, it is a great time to be an emergency physician in California and CAL/AAEM is here to promote and protect your rights.

Trevor Mills, MD, MPH, President Elect CAL/AAEM,

Chief of Emergency Medicine Services for the Northern California VA Health Care System

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