



when minutes count

INSIDE:

- 2 President's Message
(continued)
I Lim
- 3 Carnage in Sacramento
D Brosnan
- 5 California Medical
Association and
Emergency Medicine - A
Vital Link
A Lieser
- 6 Approach to Working
the Night Shift
S Lee



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2009

After several years on the Board, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as your president for 2009-2010. And, what an exciting time it is! We are truly in the “golden hour” – at a time when healthcare reform is finally taking center stage in the political arena, and when our national and global economies are plagued with uncertainty. It is critical that we physicians become informed and participate in discussions about how healthcare coverage will be expanded, how it should be delivered, reimbursed, and governed. We need to help shape the change that is undoubtedly coming. This year, we aim to join in some of these discussions and encourage you to get involved!

CAL/AAEM's mission has been to ensure workplace fairness and to advocate for the interests of the individual emergency physician in California. This is what separates us from other emergency medicine organizations – this singular purpose to support the individual and protect physicians from contract abuse and unfair employment practices. We stand up for the little guy.

It was clear from our state chapter meeting in Phoenix that CAL/AAEM is perhaps the strongest and most active state chapter in the country, serving as an example to younger organizations. We have come a long way as an organization in a brief period of time. Along with University of California, Irvine, we are extremely proud to be co-founder of the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (WestJEM)*, formerly the *California*

Journal of Emergency Medicine. It is one of the few open-access, peer-reviewed journals in our specialty. Open Access means that its content can be accessed online

without any barriers or restrictions immediately following publication. Another unique feature is that *WestJEM* ascribes to the Creative Commons License, which means that authors retain their copyright and published material can be reused by its authors and others without permission, provided the author and original publication are credited, setting *WestJEM* apart from other EM journals where authors sign away their copyright and subsequently require permission to use their own work! *WestJEM* is the fastest growing journal in our specialty, and it quite literally has taken off! *WestJEM* is now listed in PubMed Central, within the National Library of Medicine and is searchable on PubMed. It is published both in print and electronically each quarter, which CAL/AAEM members receive as part of their membership. We look forward to database indexing in the near future and will continue to lend our steadfast support to the journal. Over the past few years, we have fostered a collaborative relationship with CAL/ACEP, even having one of our



continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

board members serve as a CAL/AAEM liaison to CAL/ACEP and attend their board meetings. We are in the final stages of solidifying a co-sponsorship of *WestJEM* with CAL/ACEP, a landmark example of how our two organizations can work together successfully. CAL/AAEM has also established a legal advisory service that can be accessed by our members for free.

In addition, CAL/AAEM, reflecting the educational mission of national AAEM, has been committed to providing high quality educational events to our members for free or nominal cost. When LLSA became mandatory, we provided online LLSA summaries exclusively to our members. We have sponsored and organized several pre-conference workshops at the national AAEM Scientific Assembly, most recently a Pediatric Emergencies workshop, with an impressive line-up of leading educators in pediatric EM, this past March. We developed a free electronic news service that keeps members abreast of current events relevant to the practice of emergency medicine in California and nationwide.

Despite these accomplishments, CAL/AAEM is still a fledgling organization, with a relatively small statewide membership and lots of room to grow! In contrast to CAL/ACEP, we have a much smaller budget, of which the majority goes toward funding the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*. We need your help to recruit new members, especially those who are already AAEM members. We strive toward having 100% membership among the California

emergency medicine residencies. I hope to step up our fundraising effort, increase visibility and communication with our members, and push forward the message of equitable and fair practices by targeting our resident members and recent graduates.

On behalf of the 2009-2010 CAL/AAEM board, we thank you for your continued support and encourage you to become active in our organization. Check out our website: www.calaem.org to find out the latest in our chapter. Sign up for our free electronic news service: <https://maillists.uci.edu/mailman/listinfo/calaem> that brings you news articles pertinent to our EM practice, including healthcare industry news, public policy, FDA announcements, governmental issues, active legal cases and court decisions. And, as always, please feel free to contact us; we invite you to share your comments and ideas or simply to share your stories.



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