

AAFP Congress of Delegates Report October 2017

The Georgia Academy of Family Physicians was represented at the AAFP Congress of Delegates in San Antonio by AAFP delegates Bruce LeClair MD, MPH of Augusta and Harry Strothers MD of Macon. Also in attendance were alternate AAFP delegates Beulette Hooks MD of Midland and Karla Booker MD of Lilburn, GAFP staff Fay Fulton, Executive Vice President, along with President Eddie Richardson, Jr., MD of Eatonton, Joseph Hobbs MD of Augusta and Samuel “Le” Church MD of Hiawassee. AAFP Board of Directors member Leonard Reeves MD of Rome was also present.

The delegation attended all the reference committees and monitored all proposed resolutions. Dr. LeClair was a member of the Reference Committee on Organization and Finance, Dr. Strothers a member of the AAFP Committee on Education and Dr. Hooks served as a member of the Tellers Committee. Dr. Karla Booker served as a Sergeant at Arms.

The GAFP submitted the following resolutions to the 2017 AAFP COD:

1. Medicare’s Annual Wellness Visits: The Reference Committee on Practice Enhancement recommended that the following substitute resolution be adopted in lieu of the original resolution, which reads as follows:

Resolved, that the American Academy of Family Physicians educate public service agencies and other member organizations with an established history of providing evidence-based consumer help information for individuals eligible for Medicare about the need for annual wellness visits to be done in the patient’s primary care setting, and be it further,

Resolved, that the American Academy of Family Physicians encourage public service agencies and other membership organizations with an established history of providing evidence-based consumer help information for individuals eligible for Medicare to advocate for the central role of primary care in performing the annual wellness visits and support legislation and regulations that preferentially direct beneficiaries to their primary care physician’s or physician designee for these exams.

This substitute resolution was adopted.

2. Maternity and Reproductive Healthcare are Essential Benefits: The Georgia chapter submitted the following resolution to the Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science:

Resolved, that the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation that allows insurers to opt out of maternity and reproductive coverage, and be it further

Resolved, that the American Academy of Family Physicians issue a formal statement affirming maternity and reproductive health services are essential to general healthcare and should be covered under all insurance plans.

This resolution was adopted as presented.

3. Political Action Committee (PAC) Dues Check Off: The Georgia chapter along with the Texas, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Virginia and Washington chapters submitted the following resolution to the Committee on Organization and Finance:

Resolved, that the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) add an option for chapters to include PAC contributions to the AAFP dues invoice.

Mixed testimony was heard during the reference committee session. In addition, there was mixed testimony on the floor of the Congress of Delegates.

The resolution was referred to the AAFP Board of Directors.

The AAFP Congress of Delegates elected John Cullen MD of Valdez, Alaska-as President-Elect, Alan Schwartzstein MD of Oregon, Wisconsin as Speaker of the Congress of Delegates, Russell Kohl MD from Stilwell, Kansas as Vice Speaker; Sterling Ransome MD of Deltaville, Virginia, Windel Stracener MD of Richmond, Indiana and Erica Swegler MD of Austin, Texas to the Board of Directors. New Physician Member to the Board: Benjamin “Frankie” Simmons, III, MD of Concord, North Carolina; Resident Board Member Alexa Miesis, MD, MPH of Durham, North Carolina; and Student Board Member: John Heafner, MPH of St. Louis, Missouri.

Samuel “Le” Church MD of Hiawassee, Georgia was selected as Chair of the Commission on Organization and Finance.

The 2017 AAFP Congress of Delegates will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana October 7–10, 2018.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

Decisions about all the resolutions put forth at the Congress with their actions can be found on the AAFP website at <http://www.aafp.org/about/governance/congress-delegates/2017.mem.html>.

Bruce M. LeClair MD, AAFP Delegate
Harry Strothers MD, AAFP Delegate
Beulette Hooks MD, AAFP Alternate Delegate
Karla Booker MD AAFP Alternate Delegate