

**Maine ACEP Lobster Bake
Cabbage Island, Maine
June 22, 2023**

MEACEP Minutes

1. Call to order

Dr. Andrew Ehrhard opened the meeting at 7:20 pm and welcomed everyone to Cabbage Island.

2. Business Meeting Reports

2a. President's Report – Dr. Ehrhard shared some of the work being done by chapter leaders and staff on behalf of Maine emergency physicians. He talked about several local bills and opportunities for advocacy this year. The chapter has been busy with several state legislative issues and bills, including E.D. boarding, medical liability and nursing ratios. The chapter is working with hospital leaders, other state chapters, the hospital association and the medical association on some of these initiatives. As of this writing, some of these bills are still pending legislative and gubernatorial action.

The chapter was also well represented at the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy conference in Washington DC this year. Once again, chapter leaders met with Maine's elected senators and legislators (or their aides) to discuss several issues important to the practice of emergency medicine, particularly boarding and violence in the emergency department.

2b. Treasurer's Report - Dr David Stuchiner talked about the Chapter's financial reserves, operating costs and revenue being raised through both dues and non-dues contributions. The chapter is spending more than it brings in and that is largely due to the increase in chapter activity (more programs and more staff time to administer) and the increase in costs. The chapter is working to bring in more non-dues revenue, but the post-COVID exhibitor and market has been slow to recover but it's not been as successful as anticipated. Exhibitors and sponsors are coming forward and showing an interest in MEACEP's programs and the chapter will continue to work on bringing in additional non-dues revenue.

Dr. Stuchiner reported that despite some reliance on chapter reserves in the past 2 years, the chapter finances remain financially strong. The chapter maintains funds in a checking account at Key Bank (\$37,720) and a diverse investment portfolio account being managed by the investment division of Morgan Stanly (current value \$123,462).

2c. EMS Report – Dr. Kelly Meehan-Coussee reported on additional funding that will be available to improve access to EMS services in Maine

2d. Executive Director Report – Cathy Stratton reported that there have been significant developments to the MEACEP website – including the option to complete registration forms with online payments. She added a plugin to the website that enables member-only content. Members can log in with their email and reset their password to get to the private content. She shared the upcoming meeting dates-

September – date TBD (virtual)

December – December 7, 2023 – Holiday Celebration, Portland Regency Hotel

March – March 7, 2024 – EM Leadership Summit, Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

3. **Membership Dues** – Dr. David Stuchiner, Treasurer, asked members to consider a membership dues increase in the coming year. Dr. Stuchiner provided background and information considered by the MEACEP Board of Directors. He acknowledged that dues have not been raised in over 10 years, with the last increase taking place in 2007/2008. The chapter is under financial pressure from a few different perspectives –
- The chapter is more active than in almost any time in its history, including advocacy, committees, journal club, mentorship, website, etc.
 - Cost of programs is increasing (food and beverage, travel, etc.)
 - Reduced availability of sponsors and exhibitors since the COVID pandemic.

Dr Stuchiner and the Board proposed a \$75 increase to membership dues for regular members and a \$25 dues increase for all other membership categories. There was a motion (Dr. Donaldson) and a second (Dr. Busko). Discussion included questions about whether the chapter dues could be incorporated into the national dues. Answer- while ACEP collects chapter dues, any effort to standardize dues across states would be problematic since each state chapter is different with differing membership initiatives and staffing levels. There was another question about including non-eligible emergency physicians in MEACEP. Answer – Chapter leaders have talked with ACEP and ACEP Council about doing this but it is not possible under ACEP's and the chapter's bylaws.

The vote to raise dues passed without objection.

4. **Adjournment** - the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 so members could board the boat for an 8:00 pm departure.

Respectfully submitted by Cathryn Stratton, MEACEP Executive Director.