

Maine Chapter ACEP

Executive Director Report | May 29, 2024

MOUD in the ED – Meeting monthly with Center for Quality Improvement (CQI) Gordon Smith, Lisa Letourneau and other advocates to identify ED where opioid treatment in the ED is at risk, intermittently available, or unavailable. The progress to get hospitals to commit to providing services is stalled and the group is looking for new ways to get to the goal of 100% hospital participation. I want to recognize the commitment and work of MEACEP physicians Andy Ehrhard, Nate Donaldson, Justin Bennett.

Monthly Executive Meetings and Chapter Presidents Town Hall with ACEP. Each month I meet with ACEP's Executive leadership and Andy Ehrhard and I meet with chapter leaders from across the country to talk about emerging issues and challenges. These meetings help us stay connected and make the best use of the many resources that ACEP provides the chapters.

Successful EM Leadership Summit in spite of snowstorm that closed business and downed power and internet. This meeting is a very important meeting and opportunity for leadership and planning discussions about the future of emergency medicine in Maine.

Political Action Committee – Maine Emergency Medicine Action Committee (MEMAC) – It's taken considerable time and effort to establish the chapter PAC. The Chapter Board of Directors recently appointed members to the PAC Board –

- Chair: Jay Mullen
- Vice Chair: Nate Donaldson
- Secretary/Treasurer: Cathy Stratton
- At Large Board Member: Andy Ehrhard
- At Large MEACEP Member: Kelly Meehan-Coussee

The board is working with other physician PAC's in Maine and with ACEP's PAC to create a plan for making strategic contributions with PAC funds. More information is now located on the Chapter website and members can make a contribution to MEMAC through this link. [Make a PAC Contribution](#)

A couple of events on our radar –

- Senate Republican Golf Tournament (June 5th)
- House Republican Golf Tournament (June 12th)
- House Democrat Reception (June 18th)
- Senate Democrats End of Session Event (June 18th)

Leadership and Advocacy 2024 – We met with other chapter executives and leaders to talk about challenges to chapter engagement, membership retention and chapter best practices. This year's federal advocacy issues included:

- **Physician Safety** - Protecting emergency physician from violence in the emergency department (“Safety from violence for Healthcare Employees” (SAVE Act))
- **Ensuring Due Process** for contracted physicians (“Physician and Patient Safety Act”)

- **Improving Mental Health Access** – encouraged support for a bill that would increase access to follow up psychiatric care and expand availability of telepsychiatry and inpatient psychiatric beds. (“Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act”)
- **Stability for Medicare** – encouraged support for payment reform that sets Medicare on a sustainable path for the future and offers physicians opportunities to meaningfully participate in alternative payment models that reward value over volume.

Exhibitors – The chapter is working with corporate partners and vendors to supplement the budget with non-dues revenue. We are working with 10 corporate partners and look forward to including them in our upcoming meetings in September and December.

Website – We’re working to make the website a more valuable resource for members. We’ve added a member portal where members can access contact information of other emergency physicians in Maine.

Upcoming meetings:

- Cabbage Island Clambake – June 20 in Boothbay Harbor
- ME- ACEP Fall Meeting – September 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, ME
- ME- ACEP Holiday Meeting – December 5 at the Portland Regency Hotel, Portland, ME