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CAL/AAEM NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Mid-Term Report

What have we accomplished and what are we still working to improve? Let's start with the good: Our provision of free LLSA summaries is nearly set to go. This online feature will be posted on our CAL/AAEM website with member password-protected access in January. These summaries are excellent—succinct but rigorous enough to help you get through the required exam modules.

Our legal consultation service has been launched with our first case review occurring last month. See the note below from past CAL/AAEM President Steven Gabaeff detailing how to access this novel benefit for our members.

CAL/AAEM's greatest advancement, for which I can take no credit other than helping to choose the right editors, is the development of the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*. Mark Langdorf, Sean Henderson and Shahram Lotfipour have transformed the fledgling *California Journal of Emergency Medicine* into a true contender, ready to start competing with the "big" journals of emergency medicine. I encourage you to consider submitting your academic work to *WestJEM* at www.westjem.org.

The not so good: One of my goals outlined in my first message was to bolster membership recruitment. Through the diligent efforts of board members, principally Stewart Swadron, our resident membership is increasing. Our Full and Associate membership, however, is steady but not significantly higher. I am hoping that this represents a lag effect—that as these resident members graduate, they will choose to continue in CAL/AAEM and that as word gets out about the new benefits CAL/AAEM offers, that more EM physicians will choose to join. I ask for your help in getting the word out.

Finally, this issue's shameless plug is for the National AAEM Conference this February in Florida. Not to sound too much like one of those TV infomercials, but this meeting is an unbelievable bargain! Consistently receiving outstanding ratings, the speakers are among the top in all of emergency medicine. A broad range of clinically relevant topics is covered and the setting is optimal for a mid-winter meeting. Finally, what other national --or even local for that matter--meeting can you attend for such a reasonable price. For AAEM members it costs next to nothing, and for non-members the potential waived entry fee should be enough to convince you to join. Go to AAEM.org to sign up online.

CAL/AAEM is happy to report that our first experience with offering legal advice by our retained attorney, Mr. David Millstein, to our member physicians over contract-related issues has taken place. We were immediately able to see value for both the member and the organization. We envision this service as a tool to reduce corporate abuse of our membership and a first step in protecting the rights of our members. Mr. Millstein has been involved in some of the most successful efforts in California Emergency Medicine history to defend physicians from contract abuse and improper employment practices. We believe this member benefit will be a great value and encourage our members and prospective members to consider CAL/AAEM membership as another tool in defending our practice rights in California and an excellent reason to join and support our professional organization.

Steve Gabaeff, MD.

If you have a legal issue you wish to discuss, first contact Dr. Steve Gabaeff, CAL/AAEM Board Member and member of the Past President's Council, at sgabaeff@adnc.com. Dr. Gabaeff is confidentially screening member issues as we get started in refining this service.

Robert Rodriguez, M.D.