

Call for Resolutions

We encourage the members of the Dauphin County Medical Society to write a resolution for the House of Delegates, scheduled for October 24-25, 2009.

Writing a Resolution

A resolution is the vehicle that conveys to the House of Delegates a proposal from an individual, a component or specialty society, or a section on a particular subject. The traditional format is basically in two parts. Statements beginning with "Whereas" comprise the first part. These usually include the introductory facts or circumstances, which logically develop into a formal conclusion or the "Resolved." The prefacing "Whereas" statements should be concise and clear and logically support the "Resolved" portion. It is important that those prefacing statements themselves do not cause disagreement and debate to the detriment of the main resolution.

The formal conclusion is the second part, or the "Resolved" portion of the resolution. The "Resolved" portion should stand alone as a complete and understandable statement without referring to ideas contained in the Whereas statements. The "Resolved" portion, if adopted by the House, actually becomes the policy of the Pennsylvania Medical Society; and the "Whereas" statements are discarded.

Submitting Resolutions

There are several facts you should know about submitting resolutions:

- Resolutions may be authored by any member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, however, they must be introduced into the House by an official delegate.
- We ask that resolutions be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. In order for the DCMS delegation to have time to review submissions, please submit your resolutions to the Dauphin County Medical Society no later than Monday, August 24. To save time, please email your resolutions to our office at dauphincms@pamedsoc.org.
- To avoid duplication, your resolution will be compared to existing policy in the Society's Policy Compendium. Afterward, it will be presented to the DCMS delegation for review. If approved, a DCMS delegate will introduce your resolution to the House of Delegates.
- It is mandated that resolutions be accompanied by fiscal notes when there is a financial impact to the State Society. Staff will be happy to assist resolution authors in determining the appropriate fiscal notes.
- Authors wishing to remain anonymous should state that fact when submitting resolutions; however, resolutions must initially contain authors' names.
- Authors of resolutions should be sure to spell out in full at least the first mention of any word or phrase that may later be abbreviated in the resolution.

Resolutions Directing AMA Action

Submission of excessive, redundant, and/or irrelevant resolutions to the AMA potentially diminishes the reputation and credibility of the Pennsylvania Delegation. Therefore, the following caveats have been established:

- Discretion should be used in requesting AMA action.
- The Speakers shall advise reference committee chairs to conscientiously consider all resolves dealing with the AMA and to recommend to the House the deletion of marginal resolves.
- Pennsylvania Delegation members shall attend reference committee hearings and speak against forwarding those resolutions that are existing policy or do not appear appropriate to be submitted to the AMA, or may also speak in that regard from the floor of the House.
- The Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA has the responsibility to determine when and in what format a resolution, adopted by the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates, will be submitted to the AMA.

Conclusion

All resolutions accepted as business of the House will be considered at open hearings of reference committees, which will be held at staggered intervals on Saturday, October 24.
