RESOLUTION 17-501

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: Full and Open Survey of PAMED to Prioritize Members’ Needs

Introduced by: Marion E. Mass, MD, Bucks County Medical Society

Author: Marion E. Mass, MD, Bucks County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) has thousands of members; and

WHEREAS, there are limited resources and many issues which can be seen as priorities; and

WHEREAS, PAMED should be an organization whose utilization of resources represents its membership base; and

WHEREAS, PAMED leadership should have the most accurate information in order to responsibly lead the use of resources; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that PAMED conduct an anonymous survey of 100% of its members, presented in an open question format to determine what membership believes are the most important issues on which leadership should focus, what the greatest challenges are that members face and that need to be addressed, and what the greatest concerns are that hinder members’ ability to deliver care in a manner they feel is appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this survey be finished in time to be presented to the next PAMED House of Delegates meeting.

Fiscal Note: $

Relevance to Strategic Plan

501
RESOLUTION 17-502

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: Financing for Student and Resident Delegates

Introduced by: Natalia Ortiz, MD, on behalf of the Philadelphia County Medical Society

Author: Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD, Philadelphia County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) is the primary instrument whereby physicians from the State of Pennsylvania advocate for their profession and their patients at a state level; and

WHEREAS, PAMED is an integral part of the American Medical Association (AMA) and an active participant and contributor to the advocacy of the medical profession and patient care on a national platform; and

WHEREAS, students, residents, and fellows are the future of the profession and patient care; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to approximately 5,000 of the 75,000 national medical and osteopathic students (Association of American Medical Colleges | 655 K Street, NW,Suite100,Washington,DC,20001-2399 www.aamc.org/data/facts/enrollmentgraduate/148670/total-grads-by-school-gender.html); and

WHEREAS, students, residents, and fellows are better prepared to be responsible for the advocacy of the profession and patients by participation in the mechanism of the PAMED House of Delegates and the AMA; and

WHEREAS, the participation of the students, residents, and fellows benefits the patients of the State of Pennsylvania and the profession of medicine not only at the county level but also at the entire state level and the nation in general; and

WHEREAS, we must invest in such a great asset as the students and residents; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society contribute at least equally with the counties (50%) to the cost of the attendance of medical students, residents, and fellows to the annual House of Delegates conference of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Fiscal Note: $45,000-$50,000

Relevance to Strategic Plan

502
RESOLUTION 17-503

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: Practicing Physician Declining Membership Analysis

Introduced by: Natalia Ortiz, MD, on behalf of the Philadelphia County Medical Society

Author: Kurt Miceli, MD, Philadelphia County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the total number of U.S. physicians 40 years and older (Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior,” based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) increased from 741,495 in December 2010 to 793,189 in June 2017;¹ ² and

WHEREAS, the total number of non-AMA U.S. physicians 40 years and older (Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior,” based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) increased from 622,991 in December 2010 to 684,003 in June 2017;¹ ² and

WHEREAS, U.S. physicians in Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior” (based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) represent the majority of practicing physicians (specifically 61.8% of all U.S. physicians and medical students);² and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association’s (AMA’s) membership for physicians 40 years and older (Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior,” based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) declined from 118,504 in December 2010 to 109,186 in June 2017;¹ ² and

WHEREAS, the percentage of total U.S. physicians 40 years and older (Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior,” based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) who were members of the AMA in December 2010 was 15.98%;¹ and

WHEREAS, the percentage of total U.S. physicians 40 years and older (Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior,” based on the AMA Physician Masterfile) who were members of the AMA in June 2017 declined to 13.77%;² and

WHEREAS, the rate of growth of “Young” physician members to the AMA (those under 40 years old or in their first eight years of practice) [24.1% from December 2010 to June 2017] was less than the rate of growth of Young physicians in the United States [27.5% from December 2010 to June 2017];¹ ² and

WHEREAS, physician membership to the AMA decreased from 16.0% of all physicians to 15.6% of all physicians from December 2010 to July 2017;¹ ² and

WHEREAS, membership dues for the AMA from 2014 to 2015 decreased from $40.4 million to $39.5 million;³ and

WHEREAS, membership dues for the AMA from 2015 to 2016 decreased from $39.5 million to $39.1 million; and
WHEREAS, the AMA states that it advocates on behalf of physicians and aims to be the voice of physicians; and
WHEREAS, the AMA has as its mission to “promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health;” and
WHEREAS, the AMA has supported physician membership drive campaigns in the past noting that “Together We are Stronger;” and
WHEREAS, a clear discrepancy exists between declines in AMA membership for the majority of practicing physicians and the AMA’s intent to be the voice of physicians; and
WHEREAS, reasons for this discrepancy need to be understood and acted upon so that membership declines in practicing physicians can be reversed for the strength and financial health of the organization as well as the larger voice of physicians in the country; and
WHEREAS, it is in the interest of any membership organization to represent a substantial portion of the individuals it claims to represent, therefore be it;
RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) petition the American Medical Association (AMA) to study the reasons for membership decline among practicing physicians in Life Stage categories “Mature” and “Senior” by proportionally surveying both members and non-members in these categories as to the reasons why or why not individuals are members; and, be it further
RESOLVED, that PAMED petition the AMA to study the reasons for the relatively slow growth of membership in the “Young” physician category as such growth in membership lags behind the growth rate of this group at large; and, be it further
RESOLVED, that any such survey examine a variety of concerns physicians may have with regard to the AMA, its attention to its mission, its adequacy in advocating for physicians, any political bias which may be dissuading individuals from remaining or becoming members, and possible solutions for the foregoing concerns; and, be it further
RESOLVED, that this survey be undertaken immediately by an independent consulting company with expertise in membership engagement and reported to the AMA House of Delegates at the 2018 Annual Meeting and made available to the AMA membership at large at that time.
Fiscal Note: $2,500-$5000

5 http://www.ama-assn.org/ama
7 http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama.page
Relevance to Strategic Plan

503
RESOLUTION 17-504

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: Use the PAMED Special Purpose Funds to Support Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the PAMED House of Delegates

Introduced by: Natalia Ortiz, MD, on behalf of the Philadelphia County Medical Society

Authors: Board of Directors, Philadelphia County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) House of Delegates is the forum where direction for PAMED is determined; and

WHEREAS, once a year, members of the PAMED House of Delegates come together as volunteers at the Hershey Lodge to debate and vote upon resolutions which will set direction for PAMED; and

WHEREAS, the House of Delegates is comprised of members elected by each county medical society or medical specialty section; and

WHEREAS, the House of Delegates remains a function of PAMED as a whole and the responsibility to disseminate all information to the Delegates and Alternates of every county, specialty, and section in a uniform fashion; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of staying at the Hershey Lodge this year is over $450 for two nights’ accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of attending the House of Delegates at the Hershey Lodge for the weekend has placed a financial burden on many of the county medical societies, medical specialty sections, and their members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that PAMED provide full financial support beginning with the 2018 House of Delegates, using the special purpose funds, for the lodging and travel expenses for all county and medical specialty sections delegates and alternate delegates for the next 3 years.

Fiscal Note: $350 - $440K

Relevance to Strategic Plan

504
RESOLUTION 17-505

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: PAMED Support and Provide Financing to Locate and Retain an Independent Healthcare Law Firm to Review Employment Contracts

Introduced by: Manny S. Iyer, MD, FACS, on behalf of the Northampton County Medical Society

Author: Chand Rohatgi, MD, Northampton County Medical Society

WHEREAS, physicians are highly-trained individuals; and

WHEREAS, physicians have become increasingly pressured to become employed by healthcare networks and systems; and

WHEREAS, more than 70% of physicians in the state of Pennsylvania are currently employed; and

WHEREAS, the impact of employment encumbers physicians and restricts their ability to effectively provide patient care; and

WHEREAS, the practice of medicine is evolving from a profession to a trade; and

WHEREAS, physicians have been encumbered by restrictive covenants as employed physicians; and

WHEREAS, itinerant healthcare is not in the best interests of patients; and

WHEREAS, hospitals and healthcare facilities retain multiple law firms in a given area, making it difficult for physicians to find a law firm that does not have a conflict of interest to represent them in contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to find a knowledgeable law firm that has the expertise in healthcare to represent a physician’s best interests; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) has a mission to help and support its membership, 30% of which is comprised of private practice physicians; and

WHEREAS, PAMED’s current contract review service is not evaluated or reviewed by a practicing independent law firm with healthcare negotiation experience and expertise in hospital network system – physician contract negotiations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that PAMED allocate $1 million from its endowment fund to support physicians in contract negotiations by retaining a law firm to review contracts and give advice to physicians who are anticipating possible employment as a benefit of membership.

Fiscal Note: $1 million

Relevance to Strategic Plan

505
RESOLUTION 17-506

(Referred to Reference Committee E)

Subject: Transparency within the Functioning of the Pennsylvania Medical Society
Introduced by: Natalia Ortiz, MD, on behalf of the Philadelphia County Medical Society
Author: Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD, Philadelphia County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society is the primary instrument whereby physicians from the State of Pennsylvania advocate for their profession and their patients at a state level; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Medical Society is the central source of information for both the county societies and their members; and

WHEREAS, much of the information of the Pennsylvania Medical Society is generated within its elected leadership such as the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the dissemination of information is instrumental for the functioning of the county societies and for the education of their members as well; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society disseminate to the counties and subsequently their members information to include but not limited to: Agenda Action Forms, Executive Summary of Issues, and Discussion Items for upcoming Board Meetings.

Fiscal Note: $0

Relevance to Strategic Plan

506