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Office of the Speaker
Pennsylvania Medical Society
House of Delegates

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Speaker

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Current Plans for the 2020 House of Delegates

As we approach the second half of summer, we continue to wage war on an invisible enemy (COVID-19) and wonder what the fall and winter months may bring. The Speakers are mindful of the social, emotional, physical, and economic tolls that this virus has taken on Pennsylvania's physicians and our patients, and we hope this letter finds you and yours in good health and spirits.

Determined to move forward with plans for an alternative format for this year's House of Delegates (HOD) and remaining committed to providing you with as many details about the planning process as possible, the Speakers offer this midsummer update.

It is worth noting again that your Speakers are still targeting the weekend of October 23-25, 2020 for the HOD. It is our hope to have one focused session on Saturday morning, October 24, with the potential for any necessary preparatory sessions on Friday and any possible follow-up sessions (e.g., runoff elections) occurring on Sunday morning if needed.

Focus of Resolutions

The Speakers recognize the tremendous demands that our physicians now face. PAMED resolutions may not be as high a priority as your care for patients under these circumstances and, for many reasons, it is not "business as usual this year." The Speakers' Advisory Panel continues to consider how to best conduct the business of the House under these challenging circumstances. Condensing the meeting to accommodate an effective remote format necessitates changes to the nature and timing of the items of business to be discussed this year. The agenda will have a narrowed focus and some topics may be necessarily deferred for discussion to a later time when more thorough and robust debate can take place.

Accordingly, your Speakers again request that any proposed resolutions be focused on the urgent issues currently facing your practices where PAMED should advocate on behalf of our fellow Pennsylvania physicians and patients. As the pandemic evolves and continues to impact you and your patients—and while our legislators continue their work to address this crisis—PAMED welcomes your voices and suggestions for such advocacy. The extensive work of PAMED's Corona Response Team (CRT) is catalogued on our website [here](#). Resolutions proposing additional PAMED actions with this focus should be submitted using the online form located at www.pamedsoc.org/hod.

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The Speakers again thank resolution authors for submitting their properly formatted and focused resolutions by July 26. All sections, specialties, counties, and delegates should adhere to the submission deadlines on the PAMED website so that proposed items of business may be deliberated by the House in advance, including a period of virtual testimony which will open in late September.

Elections

Aside from casting ballots remotely, the candidacy and election process and timetable are essentially unchanged.

The Speakers' Advisory Panel felt that electing our PAMED leadership is one of the most important functions of our House and that PAMED should proceed with scheduled elections if at all possible, despite the cancellation of the face-to-face PAMED meeting. Your Speakers again thank all candidates for submitting their bio and any necessary endorsement letters before July 26, so that they may be included in the Official Call election manual. Any questions about open seats or the election process can be directed to your county, specialty, or section representative; your Trustee; or to Ellen Yasinski at eyasinski@pamedsoc.org.

Delegate and Alternate Delegate Registration and Credentialing

To simplify the credentialing process, there will be a single date by which all final name rosters should be submitted. The deadline to submit the names of delegates and alternates serving their respective county, specialty, or special section at the HOD has been extended to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 16, 2020.

The Speakers ask that the roster you submit by the August 16 deadline be the FINAL list of individuals who will serve as your elected delegates/alternates. If a delegate cancels, you will be asked to choose an alternate from the roster you provided. In the past, "early rosters" were submitted and often modified one or more times. This year, there will be only one "final roster." Note that Alternate Delegate slots that are utilized will not be "backfilled."

PAMED recognizes the importance of direct delegate/alternate communications and interactive involvement in advance of the HOD in order to have a successful and productive meeting. Your election as a delegate/alternate to the HOD is a privilege and an honor — one that comes with inherent responsibilities for education and engagement before, during, and after the meeting. This year's remote format will require Delegate/Alternate training, trial sessions and user acceptance several weeks in advance of the October 24 meeting to assure that all votes are properly registered.

Questions?

The [PAMED-HOD website](#) remains a comprehensive and valuable resource for all 2020 House of Delegates information.

The Speakers welcome your questions or concerns about the House of Delegates. You may bring those to the attention of PAMED's House Operations Administrator, Ellen Yasinski, at (717) 909-2605 or eyasinski@pamedsoc.org.