

2009 ACOEM House of Delegates Report

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Report of House Officers

1. Fall HOD meeting may be accessed via Teleconference but will have live meeting in Chicago at ACOEM headquarters.
2. Size of Board of Directors is being re-evaluated and may decrease the size of the Board.
3. ACOEM treasurer reported we are down about 315 members and will probably finish the year about \$70,000 into reserves mainly due to the decreased dues. Cuts have been made in staff, expenses and there will be no raises for staff in order to help alleviate the shortfall.

Past HOD Resolutions

1. Resolution supporting efforts to decrease carbon emissions and decrease global warming approved and given to Obama administration.
2. Resolution on physician credentialing and standard criteria to help with hospital credentialing for occupational physicians approved by board.
3. Resolution involving teleconferencing for fall HOD as well as retaining live meeting approved.
4. Resolution involving free CME with JOEM not approved by board due to cost considerations for increased administrative costs in tight budget period.
5. Resolution involving change in PEL's tabled since Obama administration has asked for a broader examination of OSHA issues and ACOEM will move in this broader approach.

Report from Lobbyist

1. OSHA appears to be poised to move forward with increased enforcement and possible ergonomics standard under new Obama administration.
2. John Howard, from NIOSH, advocated by ACOEM for head of OSHA but this has not yet been approved.
3. Rosie Salkus (sp), an ACOEM member is now director of Occupational medicine in OSHA administration.
4. New bill in federal House to expand OSHA to government workers, DOE, airlines and railroads.
5. Penalties for OSHA violations will most likely be raised and front line managers may become personally liable and there may be more "whistle blower" protection. ACOEM is formulating a position on these possible OSHA changes.

6. Major issue in EPA is climate change. Courts have concluded EPA can regulate green house gases and address public health consequences. There may be a move to reduce CO2 emissions and more enforcement of violations.
7. House may form a commission on Workers Compensation, like that which occurred in the 1970's, to examine state workers compensation systems and recommend improvements. Trial lawyers supporting bill to increase compensation for disability related to injuries. It is possible Workers Compensation could be wrapped into health care reform, as was proposed in the Clinton administration.
8. ACOEM supporting increased OccMed residency funding and earmarking \$43 million in CDC budget for residencies.
9. Healthy Workforce Act is bill that is being considered to give tax credits for employers who spend on employee wellness programs.
10. Healthcare reform has aggressive timetable to have Senate meetings in May and write the bill, and hopefully have a vote in June. Lobbyist is skeptical they can stick to this timeframe.

New Resolutions (Those approved will go to ACOEM Board of Directors)

1. 09S-01-CR Resolution would add Recorder from HOD to ACOEM board. Would need bylaw amendment and vote of membership for this change. Approved by HOD.
2. 09S-02-SA Resolution involving ACOEM setting up a "best practices" approach to handling of nanoparticle substances in lieu of definitive research on safety guidelines. Approved by HOD.
3. 09S-03-EC Resolution to continue negotiations with AAOHN for joint conference with occupational nurse group. Approved by HOD.
4. 09S-04-EA Resolution calling for ACOEM support for revision of lead standard and guidance for physicians on occupational lead poisoning. Approved by HOD.
5. 09S-05-EA Resolution on policy platform for role of occupational medicine in era of healthcare reform. Approved by HOD after debate and amendments.
6. 09-06-SA Resolution calling for digitalization of ACOEM Journal archives and participation of the journal in Pubmed Central. Need legal opinion on early archive copy rights before proceeding.
7. 09-07-CP Resolution about endorsement of patient-centered medical home and the role of occupational medicine within this. Approved by HOD.
8. 09-08-EC Resolution moving HOD meeting to the day before AOHC thus avoiding an unscheduled day for delegates before conference. Approve after much debate and divided vote.

Reports on Board Elections, Components and Work Group discussions occurred, and a special award was presented to Dr. Reynolds Brissenden for his long term participation in the HOD.

Next Meeting of the House of Delegates will occur in the fall in Chicago.