



NEBRASKA ACEP
NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

BY JULIE QUERY

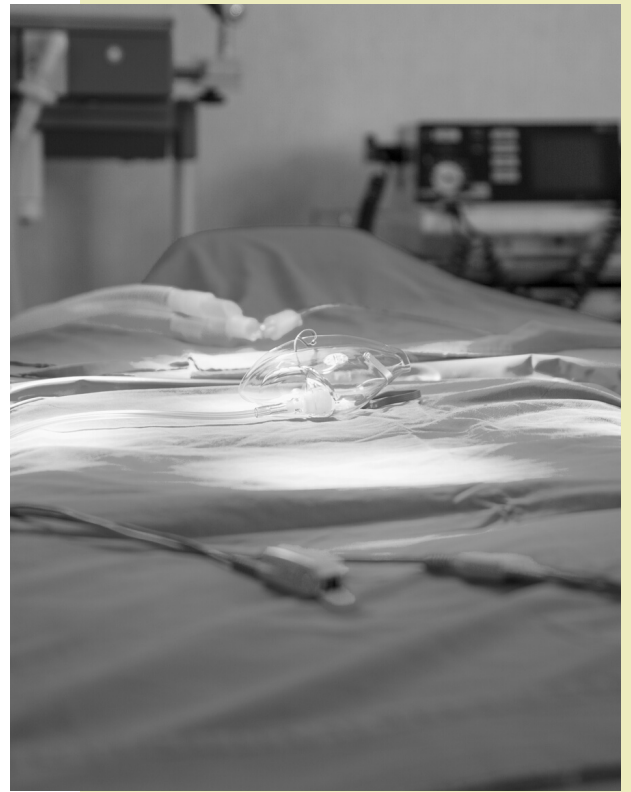
Please take a few moments to read this letter!!

I wanted to reach out and introduce myself again, as I will be transitioning to President-Elect of ACEP in May. Right off the bat, I want to directly ask those of you who are currently ACEP members to become involved in the process of speaking out for emergency medicine. **It does not matter what type of practice environment you are working in.** If you are an emergency medicine doctor practicing in Nebraska but are not involved with

either ACEP or the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA), I am urging you to join and become part of the conversation. We need more ED physicians in Nebraska to advocate and tell the story of how our practice is being changed by forces that are the result of decreasing funding for hospitals, decreasing physician reimbursement, and aging population with greater healthcare needs and a 30% decreased healthcare workforce to take care of them.

YOUR VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD!

There are so many aspects of our profession that are being stretched to their absolute capacity. We need more people to start a dialogue and form relationships with people who have influence in our future. By this I mean people on state boards, state legislators, members of national organizations, hospital administrators, local EMS crews, hospital colleagues, etc. Our small Nebraska ACEP delegation is taking a two-pronged approach, participating in the national discussion with ACEP, but also more closely partnering with the NMA to try to achieve some advocacy goals with our state legislature. This is a fairly new development. We can use all the participation from



chapter members we can get. **Please contact me if you are interested at jquery@gmail.com.** This partnership has led me personally to become a member of the NMA legislative committee as well as a member of the Greater Nebraska Medical Caucus (outside of Lincoln and Omaha metro areas) to better understand how to advocate for things like improving bed capacity, capacity of EMS/Transfer services in rural Nebraska, and also become better informed on issues such as the recent cut in physician reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid (ACEP is fighting on the national level to get Medicare cuts reversed, and the NMA is fighting on state level to prevent cuts in Medicaid reimbursement). The landscape is changing dramatically in a much shorter time than I imagined when I graduated in 2010. Post-pandemic cuts have decreased the amount of resources available. Emergency medicine feels like the canary in the coalmine when it comes to these issues. How do we best get to those in a position of legislative power to see the problems that are now actually having an effect on patient care and patient outcomes? I think it will happen if we become more active through organizations like the NMA and ACEP.



NEBRASKA ACEP ANNUAL MEETING

BY JULIE QUERY

This summer we will be hosting our annual Chapter meeting in Omaha, currently scheduled on **July 25th** (location TBD). At that time, we will provide dinner, a short educational session (possible CME) and also be electing new members to our executive committee. We are looking for at least two new board members. The only prerequisite is that you are an ACEP member with willingness to speak out at various meetings and become a part of the process. Nebraska ACEP is a wonderful opportunity, compared to other larger chapters where there is a much more formal process to be able to play a role in a state and national setting. Like so many things in Nebraska, the opportunity is available if the effort is made to get involved.

If you are interested in being part of the Nebraska ACEP leadership, please contact me or our Executive Director, Carmen Chinchilla at carmencg@nebmed.org.

ACEP COUNCIL & ISSUES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

BY JULIE QUERY

This October, ACEP held their national conference and council in Philadelphia. The Nebraska delegation is allowed two councilors to go and vote on behalf of Nebraska on positions that ACEP chooses to take on various issues, from gun control to ED boarding, to advocating for increased funding for EMS, and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, among other topics. In the interest of brevity, I will not list the actual adopted resolutions from this fall. However, please contact us if you would be interested in receiving additional details.

We are always looking for people to become councilors and attend the two-day council before the ACEP national meeting.



NEBRASKA ACEP AND NMA CONNECTION

BY JULIE QUERY

Thanks to current President Jordan Warchol, we have become more closely involved with the NMA to become more informed about legislative issues on the state level. To be honest, I did not realize that this could be a way to get in direct communication with other members of my local medical community as well as state legislators and members of the political community in Lincoln. The NMA has connections to various state agencies that are working parallel with agencies that intersect with ED (CPS/APS, public health departments, correctional facilities, etc.). For example, I have been able to better understand how agencies such as DHHS, EMS, and trauma boards are working with legislators to write bills to procure additional funding for vital EMS-related



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services. Just my recent exposure over the past six months has allowed me to think that if I am focused and clear on my objectives, my voice can have an effect.

So to conclude my shameless plea for your participation, I genuinely hope to hear from you and plan on reaching out again when details of the annual meeting are solidified. Please feel free to contact me personally or through Carmen Chinchilla.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **ACEP's Leadership And Advocacy Conference:** 4/14-4/16, Washington, DC
- **Nebraska ACEP Annual Meeting:** 7/25, Omaha, NE
- **Nebraska Medical Association Annual Membership Meeting:** 8/16, La Vista, NE
- **ACEP24 Scientific Assembly:** 9/29-10/2, Las Vegas, NV

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?
Contact Carmen Chinchilla at carmencg@nebmed.org.