



Medical Association
of Georgia
1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30339
678.303.9290
800.282.0224
Fax 678.303.3732
www.mag.org

The Speakers' Letter

2009 Meeting of the MAG House of Delegates

October 16-17, 2009

Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Savannah, Georgia

Savannah International Trade & Convention Center

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following information is provided to assist in your planning for the upcoming meeting in Savannah. **Please take special note of the below mentioned item:**

The Westin hotel housing room block expires Monday, September 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Please make your room reservations as soon as possible. Rooms are still available under the MAG block. Please contact the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa at 912. 201.2000 or 1.800. 228. 3000. The MAG Group Code is MAJ14A. The room rate is \$189 per night for single or double occupancy.

Please call 678. 303. 9289 or send an e-mail to Nancy Arendt at narendt@mag.org or visit <http://www.mag.org> with questions regarding the House of Delegates meeting.

John S. Harvey, M.D., Speaker of the House
E. Frank McDonald, M.D., Vice Speaker
The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG)

House of Delegates Schedule

The 2009 Meeting of the Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates (MAG HOD) will meet October 16-17 at the Savannah International Trade Convention Center (SITCC) and the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa. The HOD will convene at 9 a.m. Friday October 16, in the SITCC Chatham Ballroom A&B. Your Speakers are asking that delegates be seated by 8:45 a.m., as we intend to convene promptly at 9 a.m. The Opening Session is scheduled to conclude by 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, October 17th, the Second Session of the MAG-HOD will be in session at 8:30 a.m.

Although subject to change, depending on the volume of business in each committee, we are planning for the following reference committees to convene their open hearings on Friday at 10:30 a.m., after the opening of the House:

Reference Committee Health System Reform, Chatham Ballroom A&B, SITCC
Reference Committee A (Administration and Health Care Policy) Meeting Room 202, SITCC
Reference Committee C (Legislation) Meeting Room 204/205, SITCC
Reference Committee F (Finance) Meeting Room 200, SITCC
Reference Committee C&B (Constitution and Bylaws) Meeting Room 201, SITCC

The MAG-HOD will adjourn in the afternoon on Saturday, October 17th after all business is completed. Your Speakers urge delegates to schedule departures accordingly so that they can give full consideration to the business that will be debated that day.

Meeting Details and Reminders

Handbook distribution

Handbooks will be mailed on or about September 24. The handbooks contain both paper and electronic media to access the HOD information.

Dress for the House of Delegates

The attraction of Savannah with its southern comfort lifestyle lends itself to a business casual dress code. If you are seated on a reference committee, or on the dias for the meeting, please wear business professional attire. The dress code for the Installation and Awards Ceremony dinner is black tie, or business professional (coat and tie) attire.

Registration

Registration for the HOD will be located in the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center (SITCC) Rotunda on the River Concourse. For security purposes, all attendees will be required to provide photo identification at the Registration Desk in order to receive their credentials and other materials. Registration will open daily at 7 a.m., from Thursday, October 15 through Saturday, October 17.

Nominations

Candidates for officer positions will give their two-minute nominating speeches during the Opening Session on Friday. If there is no contest for the office of president-elect, a delegate will give the nominating speech for the unopposed candidate, who will then be elected by acclamation. The order of speeches for contested races will be determined by lot.

Elections

MAG elections will be held on Friday, October 16. The elections will be conducted under the supervision of the chief teller and the assistant election tellers. Voting will take place electronically via audience response system during the House of Delegates first session. For any runoff elections, electronic or paper ballots will be distributed to the delegates seated in the House. **Only duly credentialed delegates are permitted to cast a ballot.** Alternate delegates who are seated for delegates must report to the MAG Registration Desk to be properly credentialed and receive a delegate's ribbon. Alternate delegates may not vote on any matter unless properly credentialed as a delegate.

Inauguration

The Inaugural Ceremony for incoming President Gary Richter, M.D., will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, October 15, in the Westin Grand Ballroom A&B. The dinner will follow the ceremony, starting about 7 p.m. in the same ballroom. Tickets are required to attend the Inaugural Dinner. **The cost is \$30 per person for the reception and dinner. Please order your dinner tickets using the enclosed Registration Form and return to MAG at your earliest convenience.**

Policy Compendium

The online version of Policy Compendium is currently available on the MAG Web site at www.mag.org/healthpolicyresearch. A copy of the Policy Compendium is available on the disk in the inside cover of the Delegates Handbook. The Policy Compendium is updated after each meeting of the House of Delegates.

Wireless availability at the Annual Meeting

Wireless Internet access will be available in the Chatham Ballroom, Friday through Saturday. This service is intended to provide meeting attendees with access to the MAG Web site, www.mag.org to download materials.

Only a limited number of users will be able to access the Internet at any given time. **Please limit this service only to MAG-HOD business such as downloading materials from the MAG Web site, accessing information for reference committee reports and the like.** Details on accessing the wireless network will be available at the registration desk.

On-site Medical Emergencies

Please call 911 directly. One may notify the Westin operator (dial 0 from any house phone) or SITCC personnel in case of life threatening emergency. To contact MAG staff, please call Nancy Arendt on her mobile number 404-310-7757. MAG is concerned about the health of our delegates. Hand sanitizer stations have been placed outside the meeting rooms and entrances to the convention center.

Child Care

Please contact the Westin hotel directly if child care services are necessary, 912.201.2000.

Component Society Caucuses

Caucuses

The society caucuses will begin at 6:45 a.m. on Saturday morning. The attached agenda indicates the societies with breakfast caucuses and their location within the SITCC.

Education Sessions

Health System Reform: Your Practice, Your Future

A special educational session will be presented prior to the opening of the House of Delegates on Friday morning, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Chatham Ballroom A&B. This informational session will discuss the facts of H.R. 3200, the primary bill currently being debated in congress at this time. Alternative bills that surface as contenders for passage may be discussed.. Come and learn about the pros and cons of the issue. Become more informed so that you can intelligently discuss the issue in Reference Committee on Health System Reform and on the House floor.

IMG section

The International Medical Graduate section will meet on Friday, October 16th at 3 – 4 p.m. in the SITCC Meeting Room 106. For more information please contact Kate Boyenga, MAG's Director of Membership and Marketing.

Young Physician Section

The Young Physician section will meet on Friday, October 16th at 3 – 4 p.m. in the SITCC Meeting Room 106. For more information please contact Kate Boyenga, MAG's Director of Membership and Marketing.

Exhibitors

River Concourse and International Gallery Exhibit Area

This year's House of Delegates promises the largest vendor exhibition ever. Vendors will be located along the River Concourse of the convention center and in the International Gallery opposite the main meeting space, the Chatham Ballroom. This House of Delegates will feature multiple exhibits from a variety of vendors. Learn what MAG is doing related to its advocacy agenda, pick up some handy tools that will help you communicate about MAG to your colleagues, and discover ways to get involved in MAG and its efforts. Exhibitors will be pleased to demonstrate their products and services available to you and your practice.

GAMPAC

GAMPAC will kick off its 2010 membership drive at the upcoming House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Savannah. GAMPAC is the non-partisan political action committee of the Medical Association of Georgia that elects pro-medicine candidates at the state level. GAMPAC supports lawmakers who appreciate the vital role that physicians play in Georgia's health care system – legislators who understand that the patient-physician relationship is the foundation for the best health care system in the world. GAMPAC membership levels include the Chairman's Circle at \$2,500, the Capitol Club at \$1,000, and general membership at \$250.

GAMPAC members are invited to attend an exclusive luncheon that will be held during the HOD meeting that will feature U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, who will discuss his experiences in Washington and his opinions on national health care reform. The luncheon will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 17 and is free for GAMPAC members. GAMPAC is an important way for patients and physicians to participate in the democratic process in Georgia. It empowers you to help shape the future of medicine and health care in the state. There isn't a better advocacy mechanism for doctors and patients in Georgia than GAMPAC. Make a difference – join GAMPAC today! Contact Rebecca Greener at 678.303.9273 or rgreener@mag.org for additional information.

MAG Foundation

Learn more about the MAG Foundation's efforts to completely fund MAG's educational programming. The newly launched "Annual Appeal" provides you with a tax-deductible opportunity to support your profession and enable future growth. To learn more before the House of Delegates, feel free to visit www.mag.org/foundation/ or contact Dr. John Antalis at 706-459-0854. Also, Jon Baesman can be reached at MAG's offices or at 678-662-1918.

Special Events

MAG Foundation Donors Lounge

To thank those supporters of the MAG Foundation who are making an extraordinary effort to ensure the future of MAG's educational programming, the MAG Foundation will be hosting a Donors Lounge. Leadership donors will be greeted with a glass of champagne upon arrival at the House of Delegates; enjoy expedited registration; and have a quiet locale where they can rest, stay up date on events through complimentary Internet access, catch some of the Georgia / Vanderbilt football game on one of the large screen TVs, and enjoy complimentary snacks and drinks.

Wine Tasting with the Exhibitors

Attendees will be welcomed on Thursday evening, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a wine reception as vendors will be offering tastings of various vintages from their booths. Be sure to make your travel plans to include this fabulous event! This event is free of charge.

Past Presidents Dinner – By Invitation Only

MAG's past presidents and their guests are cordially invited to the Past Presidents Dinner to honor their service and dedication to the medical association on Thursday, October 15. The reception will begin at 6:15 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7 p.m. This special event will be held in the Member Dining Room at the Westin Golf and Spa Resort. Shuttle buses will transport you from the Westin hotel to the Member Dining Room and back. Your hosts for the evening are Dr. Jack and Leslie Chapman.

