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Urology:

April 1st, 2021

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4441 S. Atlanta Road,
Suite 317,
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2500 Hospital Boulevard,
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Roswell, GA 30076

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Dear MAG HOD delegates,

After substantial thought and consideration, I would like to announce that I will run for the office of the Medical Association of Georgia's president-elect for 2021-2022 during the House of Delegates meeting that will take place on Jekyll Island on Saturday, October 23.

The medical profession has afforded me significant opportunities in life, so I feel compelled to give something back. I can't think of a more fitting way to do so than to serve in this capacity at MAG, which – as I have learned firsthand as a member for 32 years – deserves its reputation as the leading advocate for physicians in Georgia.

The need for MAG has never been greater – as we continue to work through the challenges of a pandemic that has taken such a significant toll on our patients and our profession.

I believe that I am fully prepared for the challenges of this position because I have invested significant time and effort in learning about all aspects of the organization. I am also confident that I can make positive contributions for MAG and its members.

Background and Education

I was born in Darby, Pennsylvania. I moved to College Park, Ga. when I was nine years old. As a teen, I spent my summers and weekends working at Six Flags Over Georgia as a member of its grounds crew, which was a great place to learn about hard work. I attended Georgia State University, where I worked in the chemistry lab on a part-time basis. I served as a volunteer in Grady Memorial Hospital's surgical ER. And I spent several summers working at the Ford Automotive Assembly Plant in Atlanta and the Ford Regional Parts Distribution Center in Atlanta.

Education

Georgia State University, B.S. (1975-1979)

Medical College of Georgia, M.D. (1979-1983)

My professional experience include:

General Surgery Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon, Ga. (1983-1985)

Urology, Ochsner Clinic, New Orleans, La. (1985-1989)

Hired as Urology Associates of Marietta's fifth physician in 1989

Became partner at Urology Associates of Marietta in 1991

Practice Leadership

President and managing partner, Urology Associates of Marietta 1998n (five physicians, one office, one hospital).

During the 16 years of leading our group I was able to grow our group in the changing environment of the medical world. After this leadership experience we were

Urology Associates with 14 physicians in five offices, one single specialty surgery center, pathology department with full time pathologist, radiology department with CT scanner and ultrasound equipment)

Wellstar health system purchases Urology Associates in 2014

MAG/CMS Leadership

MAG Foundation Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy graduate (Class VII)

MAG Board of Directors, Director, Cobb County Medical Society (2007)

Cobb County Medical Society Secretary/Treasurer (2008)

Cobb County Medical Society Vice President (2009)

Cobb County Medical Society President (2010)

MAG Second and First Vice President (2013-2015)

MAG Certificate of Need Task Force (2013 and 2018)

MAG Treasurer (2015-2021)

MAG Task Force on the Financial Viability of the MAG Foundation Annuity Plan (2016)

MAG Task Force on Governance (2019)

MAG Medical Malpractice Insurance Company Task Force (2020)

MAG CEO Search Committee (2021)

It is worth noting that we achieved several critical financial objectives during my term as member of MAG's Executive Committee, including building MAG's reserves to \$1 million paying off the mortgage on MAG's headquarters 12 years early. And as MAG's treasurer achieving a \$2.375 million surplus or 66% of our current operating budget.

My vision for the future

With more than 8,000 members and a 170-year-old brand, MAG is the leading advocate for physicians in Georgia. MAG has grown over the last 10 years while many state medical societies have been in decline. Whether it is professional or educational enrichment, MAG and its subsidiaries create significant value for physicians in Georgia

– and MAG’s relationship with state and federal lawmakers and regulators translates into a better practice environment and better health care policy. In short, I believe that MAG is the most important public policy tool that we have as physicians in Georgia.

One of my primary goals as president-elect will be to help increase MAG’s membership. The larger we are, the more we can effect change – keeping in mind that dues represent about 50 percent of MAG’s revenue stream.

This past year’s “Black Swan Event” – the COVID-19 pandemic – was unpredictable, beyond the norm, and has had severe consequences. We are, therefore, consequently operating with a budget deficit this year, which validates our decision to spend the last 10 years building our operating reserves.

My vision is simple and straightforward: We must continue to grow our membership; and we must continue to seek innovative ways to engage our members. I will build on MAG President Lisa Perry-Gilkes, M.D.’s efforts to promote diversity, which includes acting on the MAG Task Force on Diversity’s recommendations. I will emphasize financial stability, and I will seek ways to expand our non-dues revenue streams (e.g., MAG’s new medical malpractice insurance company and health insurance and 401(k) plans).

Of course, I will never lose sight of MAG’s mission of “enhancing patient care and the health of the public by advancing the art and science of medicine and by representing physicians and patients in the policy making process.”

I view the role of MAG president-elect as being a good steward of an organization that we must keep heading in the right direction. I will be a leader who will make course corrections or adjustments as storms arise. This is what I have witnessed these past years in my leadership roles with MAG, and it is an approach that has worked very well. MAG has had great leaders, and we also have an exceptional staff that enable us to do the work we do.

It would be a great honor and privilege to serve as MAG’s president-elect, so I hope that you will vote for me during this year’s HOD meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas Emerson, MD, FACS