

## **AAFP Delegate Report**

### **Delegates**

Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP

James Taylor, Jr., MD, FAAFP

### **Alternate Delegates**

Jonathan Hunter, MD, FAAFP

Wayne Gravois, MD

The 2023 American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates (COD) was held in Chicago October 24-26 at the Marriott Marquis Chicago and Convention Center.

Representing the AAFP's 76th Congress of Delegates (COD) meeting include:

- James Taylor, MD, FAAFP, of Zachary, LA - (LAFP) delegate
- Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP, of Natchitoches, LA - (LAFP) delegate
- Jonathan Hunter, MD, FAAFP, of Alexandria, LA - LAFP alternate delegate
- Wayne Gravois, MD, of Zachary, LA - LAFP alternate delegate

Joining the LAFP delegation was Ragan LeBlanc, EVP and LAFP President - Vincent Shaw, MD, FAAFP, of Baton Rouge, LA. Congratulations to the chapters of winning candidates. The following election results were announced:

After two days of extensive debate, the 2023 Congress of Delegates (COD) voted to create a new committee that will focus on building a slate of candidates for American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) president-elect, speaker, vice speaker, and at-large Board members each year with the skills and background to meet the changing needs of family medicine.

Last year's COD created a special committee to investigate ways to eliminate those discrepancies, as well as to reverse a gradual, decade-long decrease in the number of members who pursued leadership and governance opportunities. The work culminated in recommendations for a new nominating committee that could not only meet those goals, but also ensure that each year's COD can choose from a competitive slate of candidates that answer the needs of the organization's members and the specialty at that time.

Under the new, recently adopted system, candidates — including at least five candidates for at-large Board seats — will be selected by a nominating committee with an eye to those needs.

### **New President**

Steven Furr, M.D., FAAFP, a rural practice owner from Jackson, Ala., who was voted president-elect last year during COD in Washington, D.C., was installed as Academy president. Furr, who previously has served as president of the Alabama AAFP, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and the Alabama Medical Directors Association, will serve as official spokesperson and public face of the AAFP in 2023-24.

Furr recently testified before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding Medicare reform. As president, he will have more opportunities to represent the AAFP in testimony before legislative bodies and will lead the Academy's delegation in meetings with other organizations and government officials. The president is a member of the AAFP Board and its executive committee and is an ex-officio member of all standing commissions and committees.

- President-Elect: Jen Brull, M.D., FAAFP, of Fort Collins, Colo.,
- Speaker of the Congress: Russell Kohl, M.D., FAAFP, of Stilwell, Kan.

# AAFP Delegates Report, continued

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- Vice Speaker: Daron Gersch, M.D., FAAFP, of Avon, Minn.

## Directors:

- Sarah Sams, MD, FAAFP, of Columbus, OH;
- Brent Smith, MD, MSc, MLS, FAAFP, of Cleveland, MS;
- Jeffrey Zavala, MD, FAAFP, of Billings, Mt.
- New physician Board member: Matthew Adkins, D.O., of Columbus, Ohio
- Resident Board member: Janet Nwaukoni, D.O., of Lake Forest, Ill.
- Student Board member: Taree Chadwick, of Reno, Nevada

The Board includes nine directors elected in groups of three, or as otherwise needed, on a rotating basis. Directors sit as members of various Board subcommittees. Service as a Director is for a three-year term. Between meetings of the COD, the Board oversees and administers the work of the Academy and development of its policies, appointing commissions, committees, and other workgroups necessary to assist it in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Thank you to everyone who made the 2023 COD such a great success!

The AAFP COD will meet in Phoenix, AZ in September of 2024.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP**  
**James Taylor, Jr., MD, FAAFP**  
**Jonathan Hunter, MD, FAAFP**  
**Wayne Gravois, MD**