

Executive Vice President’s Report – Ragan LeBlanc

I would like to begin by thanking you, our dedicated, resourceful and never without good cheer family physicians who always concentrate your leadership decisions based on what is best for the patients of Louisiana! It is my honor and privilege to work with the membership and staff of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. It is my pleasure to work alongside some of the brightest colleagues that keep up your chapter’s momentum and moving forward.

The past year has been a busy year for the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. My colleagues and I work tirelessly to provide cutting edge education, practice management support and advocacy for family medicine and your patients.

Your LAFP office is located in Baton Rouge and our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Please know that we are always on the “other side” of the phone and we hope you will utilize us as a member benefit. We hope you feel connected to your professional association and are comfortable reaching out to staff so we can be of service to you.

Staff

There are currently four of us who work in your headquarters offices. I would like to extend my thanks to your staff who work tirelessly and cheerfully on your behalf:

Lee Ann Albert - Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Lisa Lapeyrouse – Marketing and Events Coordinator

We also have contracted with the lobbying firm, Mapes and Mapes.

Membership

The following chart presents changes in our membership by category between December 2021 and December 2022:

	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	Difference
Active	939	946	0.7%
Inactive	4	4	0.0%
Life	107	109	1.9%
Resident	201	204	1.5%
Student	506	549	8.5%
Supporting (Includes Non-FP)	4	5	25.0%
Transitional	0	0	0.0%
Total	1761	1817	3.2%

LAFP active membership is up 7 members between December 2022 and December 2023—a 0.7% increase. AAFP saw a -0.2% decrease in active membership during this same time period. Our Active membership has grown by 5.2% over the last 5 years.

Finances

A report for 2022 from our auditor, Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher, LLP, CPAs, will be provided in a separate report to the membership later in the Fall.

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Advocacy

Our Advocacy efforts continue to produce results and serve the interests of members and their patients. We have remained actively engaged in aggressive advocacy across a wide spectrum of policy issues. We have worked closely in conjunction with other medical societies in joint advocacy on matters of general concern to the medical community.

On Monday, June 3, 2024, the Regular Legislative Session adjourned sine die. Our legislative committee met before and during the session to set priorities and define specific positions on bills that we were following. We worked effectively on issues with other organizations, both healthcare and non-healthcare, and communicated with the Louisiana State Medical Society, LA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Medicine Louisiana on several bills. The committee met on several occasions and asked for opinions and guidance by email when needed when emergent issues arose.

A huge thank you to the many physicians who joined us at the Capitol to testify for and against legislation. While there, they often served as volunteers for the First Aid Station, too! We hope to have many of you join us again and encourage those of you with an interest to reach out for opportunities that help you stay involved. As this session comes to a close, it's not too early to start looking at legislation for next year. If you have suggestions you would like to have considered, please submit those ideas to Ragan LeBlanc at rleblanc@lafp.org.

Legislative Reception

On the evening of Tuesday, April 9 the LAFP in partnership with the Physician Coalition of Louisiana hosted a very successful legislative reception at the City Club in Baton Rouge for physician leaders and legislators. A special thanks to **Mark Abraham, Roy Daryl Adams, Franklin Foil, Caleb Kleinpeter, Jeremy Lacombe, Wayne McMahan, Robert "Bob" Owens, and Thomas Pressly, IV** for taking the time to meet with our members.

Our advocacy efforts on behalf of our members and their patients continue to grow more coordinated across government affairs, public relations, and the private sector. The work we do would not be possible without the work of the dedicated physician leaders who give of their time for everything from attending board and committee meetings (and even this General Assembly) to sitting for what often seems like endless hours in the Capitol waiting to provide testimony before legislators. It would also not be possible without the talents of a professional staff second to none in LAFP family. The LAFP is strong because of you and poised to grow even stronger, and a strong LAFP will ultimately be a driving force in changing the primary care practice environment in our state to one that produces the physicians we need today and tomorrow, and retains those physicians throughout their long, prosperous, and happy careers.

Education

We continue to produce excellent educational programs under the leadership of our Education Committee. The Committee has also been active in discussing possible CME topics, abstracts received from prospective speakers, and other issues relevant to the educational agenda for the Academy.

- (1) The Education Committee was fundamental in the planning of the following activities for 2023 and 2024:
 - E. Edward Martin, Jr., MD, MS Memorial Area Family Medicine Grand Rounds were held in-person on the following dates:
 - **June 21, 2023** - *"Bigger Fish to Fry"* presented by Joshua Paek, MD – Lafayette Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **June 28, 2023** - *"Let's Talk About Strep: A Broad Discussion of Group A Streptococcus Infections"* presented by Joseph Romito, MD - Kenner Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **June 29, 2023** - *"Between a Bloody Rock and a Hard Place"* presented by Benji Caulum, DO and Danette Null, MD, FAAFP - Lake Charles Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **September 14, 2023** - *"A Case of Acute Hepatitis in an 18 y/o Female"* presented by Akash Shah, MD and Alexia Montas, MD - Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program

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- **October 18, 2023** - *“Headaches in the Primary Care Clinic”* presented by Ronnie Slipman, MD, Nicole Nash, MD, MPH, Timothy Rugile, MD, MPH, Kiernan Smith, MD - Tulane Department of Family Medicine
 - **November 2, 2023** - *“A Curious Case of Dysgeusia”* presented by Ephraim Opara, MD and Brian Gamborg MD, FAAFP - Lake Charles Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **January 24, 2024** - *“Incorporating Social Determinants of Health into the Primary Care Visit”* presented by Lisa Casey, MD, Program Director and Catherine Pechon, MD, Faculty - St. Tammany/Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **February 22, 2024** - *“Case Report: Semaglutide induced Acute Kidney Injury”* presented by Gaurav Katwal, MD - LSU Health Shreveport – Monroe Family Medicine Residency Program and a *“Case Report: Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a Haystack of Confounders”* presented by William Rosales, MD LSU Health Shreveport – Monroe Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **February 29, 2024** - *“Sometimes We Just Need Some Ice”* presented by Morgan Kirkpatrick, MD & Tuan Pham, MD - Lake Charles Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **March 7, 2024** - *“Perils of Chronic Alcohol Use – A Case of Gastric Outlet Obstruction Secondary to Chronic Pancreatitis”* presented by Bradley Ber, MD - Lafayette Family Medicine Residency Program
 - 76th Annual Assembly and Exhibition, July 20-23, 2023
 - North Louisiana Regional Procedural Workshop - VCOM - February 21, 2024
 - South Louisiana Regional Student Workshop – March 5, 2024
 - The LAFP Monthly Webinar Series:
 - **August 31, 2023** – *“Pediatric Mental Health Update”* presented by David Waldman, MD
 - **September 21, 2023** – *“Pulmonary Hypertension Update for Primary Care Physicians”* presented by Praneet Iyer, MD
 - **October 26, 2023** – *“Childhood ADHD in 2023”* presented by Kristine Olivier, MD
 - **November 16, 2023** – *“You Can Cure Hepatitis C- What You Need to Know to Treat This Common Disease”* presented by Jule Assercq, MD
 - **January 25, 2024** - *“Basics of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis”* presented by Ruikang Liu, MD, CAQSM, FAAP
 - **February 27, 2024** - *“It’s Time to Train Family Physicians as First Responders in Human Trafficking”* presented by Esha Sharma, MD
 - **March 28, 2024** - *“Managing Lipids and Other ASCVD Risk Factors: A Lipidologist’s Perspective”* presented by Robert St. Amant, MD, Clinical Lipidology, Diplomate, ABCL
 - **April 25, 2024** - *“Immunization 2024 Update for the Family Physician”* presented by Gabrielle Givens, MD and Christopher Foret, MD
 - **May 30, 2024** - *“Renal Cell Carcinoma Diagnosis: Metastatic Locations and Treatment Challenges”* presented by Kabiul Haque, MD, MPH
 - **June 25, 2024** - *“Palliative Care Update for Primary Care Physicians”* presented by Danielle McMechan, MD
- (2) The Committee reviewed titles and speakers for the Annual Assembly CME program.
- (3) The Committee has also begun the discussion for possible speakers for the 2025 Annual Convention. In addition, the Committee also discussed potential topics and relevant workshops and training to offer for students, residents, and new physicians.

Communications

Our quarterly journal, *The Louisiana Family Doctor, A Journal of the LAFP*, continues to receive very positive support from readers and advertisers. Our editorial board, comprised of Dr. Michael Williams, Dr. Vincent Shaw, Dr. Danette Null, Dr. Lindsay Liles, and Dr. Zachary Pray Education Committee Chair, have produced consistently high-quality issues.

Our weekly electronic newsletter, *LAFP Weekly Family Medicine Update*, is our principal vehicle for communicating current and breaking news. This newsletter is sent out every Tuesday to all LAFP members. Our staff has been excellent

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at maintaining our social media presence with regular meaningful and promotional content with our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. If you have not liked our Facebook or LinkedIn page or do not follow us on Twitter, I encourage you to do so.

Website/Social Media

We are continuing to improve the LAFP website. The staff continues to develop enhancements to gain greater attention to the website so that it may remain up to date and prove useful for members, residents and students.

The Career Center –FP Jobs Online with Job Target has been in place for five years. It provides for broader reach and more royalty income. The use of this site remains suboptimal, however. Discussions regarding the possible optimization of this site occurred but no formal process has been decided on at this time.

Our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lafamphysicians, has over 816 followers. Posts relevant to health care in Louisiana and nationally are made several times a week by LAFP staff. Membership welcomes comments and suggestions from members and prospective members in this forum.

We continue our [@lafp_familydocs](https://twitter.com/lafp_familydocs) twitter handle, with nearly 325 followers, including key AAFP leadership as well as Family Medicine publications and organizations interested in keeping an eye on what LAFP has to say. Members are encouraged to contribute using our handle @lafp_familydocs or hash tag #lafp_familydocs.

Leadership

We have continued to support delegates to the Southeastern Family Medicine Conference, the Annual Chapter Leader Forum (ACLF), the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) and the National Conferences of Resident and Student Members. These important regional and national conferences are consistent sources of leadership development for Academy members.

Resident & Student Activities

We have continued to support resident and student activities within the Academy. Our primary commitment has been financial subsidies for our resident and student members to attend LAFP and AAFP meetings. We also encourage resident and student members to serve on our committees and to participate in our Assembly.

Governance

Our committee structure continues to provide an effective and efficient vehicle for member involvement in directing the affairs of the Academy. More than 70 members served on committees this past year. Our committees dealt with a broad range of issues and concerns on behalf of members and were expertly managed by our team of volunteer chairs and professional staff. I appreciate the efforts of those individuals and would like to acknowledge them here:

Committee	Chair	Staff
Nominations	Jody George, MD	Ragan LeBlanc
Operations	Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP	Ragan LeBlanc
Legislation and Advocacy	Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP	Ragan LeBlanc
Membership	Jody George, MD	Ragan LeBlanc/Lee Ann Albert
Education	Zachary Pray, MD	Ragan LeBlanc
Resident and Student Leadership	Resident and Student Leaders	Ragan LeBlanc/Lee Ann Albert

I confer regularly with the president, president-elect and vice president to keep our leadership team apprised of developments that may require policy decisions. These communications also afford the opportunity for me to obtain membership perspective on issues and opportunities as they may occur.

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Conclusion

I greatly appreciate the leadership and commitment of the LAFP Board of Directors and the members on the LAFP Committees. They all are volunteers and work hard on your behalf.

Change remains a constant factor in health care and in medicine. I have observed, with increasing concern, the impact which this is having on Academy members. The dreams and aspirations which so many members had upon making the decision to become a physician and then deciding to specialize in family medicine, have been severely strained by developments in insurance, regulation and technology which have dramatically altered the practice environment and the physician-patient relationship. We have been fortunate to have leaders who have been undeterred by the stress and persistence of change. Each time we are confronted with some new policy, program or practice our leadership has marshalled the fortitude and creativity to respond. In this regard, our members are very well served by the men and women who share their commitment to Family Medicine and their concern for the patients they serve and the profession they have chosen.

We have been successful in producing quality programs with professionalism and efficiency. It is my pleasure to work with an outstanding leadership and staff and I deeply appreciate that opportunity.

So as always, I will take this annual opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve alongside each of you over the years. It has been my pleasure to serve the Board and the membership. I remain passionate in my advocacy on your behalf, determined in my persistence to see a brighter future for family physicians in Louisiana, the LAFP and the members we serve. I am looking forward to the future!

Sincerely,
Ragan LeBlanc
Executive Vice President

Recommendations: None