NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

The National Conference (NC) is held annually in Kansas City, Missouri. This special event has three distinct elements: **education sessions** (main stage lectures, procedural skills courses, workshops, musculoskeletal clinics, and poster presentations), **exposition hall** (over 400 exhibits featuring family medicine residencies, healthcare systems, placement services, medical publishers, AAFP programs and services, etc.), and **leadership forum** (resident and student congresses) for discussing issues of importance to residents and students and shaping Academy policy.

The 2012 conference is scheduled for July 26 – 28 in Kansas City. The conference theme is *Social Justice and Family Medicine: Turning Advocacy into Action*. To learn more about this year's meeting, including the National Conference Scholarship Program, visit www.aafp.org/nc.

THIS IS A PHENOMENAL OPPORTUNITY FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

- **Participate in the AAFP Resident and Student Congresses**
  The National Congress of Family Medicine Residents (NCFMR) and the National Congress of Student Members (NCSM) each hold three business sessions during the National Conference. The congresses (NC Leadership Forum) offer residents and students the opportunity to learn how to:

  1. Run a business meeting using parliamentary procedure.
  2. Build a case for specific action.
  3. Debate and make informed decisions.
  4. Run or apply for an AAFP leadership position.
  5. Make the most of AAFP resources.

  Many of the initiatives launched by residents and students are now Academy policy. For additional information about the resident and student congresses, check out the congress section of the NC Website at www.aafp.org/nc.

- **Serve as Your Chapter Delegate**
  AAFP constituent chapters send one student member and one resident member to serve as chapter delegates to the resident and student congresses. These delegates attend congress business sessions, poll their state delegations about issues before the congresses, and vote in the elections. If you are interested in serving as a delegate to your congress, contact your chapter executive. *(*http://www.aafp.org/cgi-bin/chapterlookup.pl. *)*

- **Dialogue With Your Peers**
  On Thursday afternoon (July 26), discussion groups explore common interests and concerns about continuing professional development, education, governmental advocacy, health of the public and science, membership and member services, and quality and practice.

- **Write Resolutions and Testify on Issues Important to You**
  Discussion groups are ideal forums for generating resolutions. A resolution writing center, equipped with computers and resources for researching resolutions, will be open on Thursday (July 26) from 1:00 – 6:00 pm. If you would like to know more about writing resolutions, check out the resolution guide on the National Conference Website.

  Resolutions are debated during reference committee hearings on Friday afternoon (July 27). Resolutions are presented by the reference committees and voted on by the congresses during the final business session on Saturday morning (July 28). To vote on issues before your congress, you must be a member of the AAFP.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to use your leadership and organization skills during the National Conference (NC). The NC leadership team is made up of AAFP resident and student leaders (elected and appointed), chapter delegates to the resident and student congresses, and other NC attendees interested in leadership development.

The list of leadership opportunities (in each congress) appears below. The resident and student conference chairs are responsible for filling these positions.

Business Session Assistant: Assist the Chair with elements of congress business sessions, including the distribution and collection of resolution amendment forms during the final business session.

Booth Coordinator – NC Resource Center: Recruit AAFP resident and student officers and commission representatives to man the Academy's Resource Center in the Exposition Hall on Thursday through Saturday during dedicated exhibit hours. The role of resident and student leaders is to share information about AAFP and other leadership opportunities. Academy staff will also be present in the center.

Community Service Coordinator: Encourage NC attendees to participate in conference-sponsored community service projects. 2012 projects include a blood drive and monetary and school supply donations to the children of Haiti.

Delegate Credentialing Coordinator: Work with staff to register credentialed chapter delegates during the congress business sessions and, as needed, enlist members to serve as delegates for their chapters.

Election Committee Members: Distribute, collect, and oversee the counting of ballots. Note: the resident and student board members chair the election committee in their respective congresses.

Parliamentarian: Assist the Chair in executing the appropriate parliamentary procedures (source: The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, current edition).

Reference Committee Chair/Members: (up to three committees in each congress composed of a chair, three experienced members, three inexperienced members, and an observer) Facilitate a hearing on assigned resolutions, then convene in executive session to recommend specific action on each resolution. The reference committee chair writes the committee's final report with the assistance of AAFP staff.