

1 **INDIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
2 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AAFP DELEGATION**
3

4 **French Lick, IN**

July 25, 2021

5 **JASON MARKER, MD, FAAFP**
6

7 What a year for your IAFP delegation to the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD)! Let me begin by
8 thanking my three co-Delegates for all of their hard work in representing Indiana at the AAFP COD. It is
9 truly a team effort. Also, a big thanks to our mighty IAFP staff for helping shepherd us through the
10 many changes that happened in the COD this year.
11

12 With the decision to hold the AAFP COD virtually in 2020, a host of logistical changes were made.
13 Here is how that played out...

- 14 1) The deadline for resolution submission was not extended, but a per-state cap on the number of
15 submissions was enacted, much to the chagrin of some states with much to submit. It caused
16 some angst, but we got through it.
- 17 2) Over the weekend of October 3 and 4, the various reference committees met virtually in order
18 to debate the issues at hand...and debate they did. These were often long slogs through efforts
19 at word-smithing and with passionate political rhetoric on both sides of our AAFP COD "aisle".
- 20 3) Reference Committee Reports were generated for review by the COD and the event kicked off
21 on Sunday, October 11. This year's "virtual Meet the Candidates" went off without too much
22 trouble and our Indiana candidate for President-Elect Windel Stracener entertained many
23 questions with well-polished answers. We had a "virtual Town Hall" which shared information
24 about the advocacy and plans of the AAFP and was presented by the AAFP Officers and new
25 AAFP CEO/President Mr. Shawn Martin. Read more here:
26 <https://www.aafp.org/news/2020-congress-fmx/20201012codtownhall.html>
- 27 4) The COD was held on the 12th and 13th of October and was a streamlined version of the usual
28 COD activities of candidate speeches and Q&A, greetings from other organizations, awards,
29 and Congress activities around the previously debated resolutions. All "votes" were handled
30 through the virtual platform (which generally worked pretty well for most participants).
31

32 Indiana had one resolution regarding AAFP member dues and our desire that financial hardship be
33 considered in offering reduced dues for members (related to, but not exclusively because of,
34 COVID-19). The AAFP made a decision to implement such a policy recently and so we made the
35 decision to withdraw that resolution from consideration.
36

37 Sterling Ransone, MD of Virginia was elected as the new President-elect of the AAFP. Our hearts are
38 heavy that our own candidate, Dr. Windel Stracener was not elected to this position, but Dr. Stracener
39 and Dr. Ransone have worked closely for the last three years on the AAFP Board of Directors and that
40 relationship will continue to give Indiana a front row seat in the decisions made by the AAFP Board
41 Executive Committee for years to come. Thank you Windel for your hard work and passion in
42 representing Indiana's family doctors on the AAFP Board of Directors! For a list of other candidate
43 election outcomes, go here: <https://www.aafp.org/news/2020-congress-fmx/20201013codelections.html>
44

45 Finally, we did actually debate a lot of resolutions. As expected, there were many resolutions around
46 topics that reflected the mood of the country right now: abortion, end-of-life care, police violence and
47 funding, racism, and myriad social equity issues were center stage. Much of the policy of the AAFP
48 remains little changed after this COD, but in key areas it seemed visible that a move toward a more
49 progressive policy stance is building within this body. For more detailed news, check out these sites:
50 <https://www.aafp.org/news/2020-congress-fmx.html>
51

1 <https://www.aafp.org/news/2020-congress-fmx/20201014cod-orgfin.html>

2 <https://www.aafp.org/news/2020-congress-fmx/20201015cod-practenhance.html>.

3 A clear strategy to “re-debate” many issues before the entire COD (and not just in Reference
4 Committee) was played by some delegations. There are pros and cons to this strategy, but this year it
5 brought out passionate conversations. We all agree that we want “the best care” for our patients...but
6 defining what that best care means can be tempered by our personal political leanings.

7
8 In the future, expect much more conversation within the AAFP about how to manage a virtual COD
9 without disenfranchising any state or delegation. There will likely be more resolutions that engage the
10 AAFP in the national debates around important social issues that affect our patients. There will be
11 ongoing conversation about how to support practices during uncertain financial times while continuing
12 to push to lower administrative burdens for all practices. COVID has made it abundantly clear that
13 family physicians should be paid more and differently than any other specialty and our AAFP Board
14 and new CEO/President seem to have that top of mind going into 2021.

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16 Thank you for allowing me to present this report on the activities of the IAFP Delegation to the AAFP
17 COD. We welcome ALL who wish to engage in the political and policy processes of the AAFP to join
18 the conversation through the year ahead by their active participation with our Board of Directors
19 meetings, interactions with state leaders at CME events, participation in the IAFP Physician of the Day
20 program at the Indiana Statehouse, and in our IAFP All-Member Congress of Delegates next summer
21 in French Lick.

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23 Respectfully Submitted,

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25 Jason Marker, MD, FAAFP *Delegate*

26 Risheet Patel, MD, FAAFP *Delegate*

27 David Schultz, MD, FAAFP *Alternate Delegate*

28 Teresa Lovins, MD, FAAFP *Alternate Delegate*