I would like to thank the Academy for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of Board Chair for this last year. It was a privilege to guide our quarterly Board meetings. It is with great thanks to both the members of the Board and the Academy staff for all the effort that they put forth overcoming the challenges of unprecedented circumstances to make this as successful a year.

Since our Congress of Delegates virtual meeting last July, your Board has worked hard to further the interest of both our patients and the members of the Academy. The Board has reviewed and addressed the many resolutions that were forwarded from the Congress. While the Congress is the governing body of our Academy, when the Congress is not in session, the Board acts under the directions given by the Congress.

It would be an understatement to say that this past year was an interesting one. Covid changed many of our usual live activities to virtual, e.g., our annual Congress of Delegates last July as well as our usual IAFP educational conferences.

In spite of Covid, your Academy worked with the State Legislature on numerous issues that came before the State House, led by our Commission on Legislation and the grassroots effort of so many of our Academy members.

Your Academy’s Delegates to the AAFP actively participated in the AAFP Congress of Delegates virtual meeting last Fall. At that congress, your delegates helped to develop policies that shape the decisions and directions which guide the AAFP’s actions.

The Education Commission continued to prepare excellent CME offerings including Research Day in June of this year, as well as the educational offerings of this annual convention in French Lick and those to come in the Fall and beyond.

The annual Family Medicine Leadership Conference in Kansas City was attended virtually by your board.

During the course of the year your Board continued to meet online to discuss the issues at hand. Fortunately we were able to schedule a live annual meeting this year in French Lick. We finally get to enjoy the camaraderie and socialization now that we have a safer environment due to vaccinations and precautions.

One of my recommendations would be that the Academy to continue to fight for graduate medical education spending for Family Medicine residencies throughout the state of Indiana.

Another recommendation would be a stronger emphasis and presence of our Academy in promoting the accomplishments of both the Academy and its members to the media. Our patients appreciate us as their family doctors, but there is a large segment of the public who understand neither who family doctors are nor their scope of practice.
The last recommendation is for the Academy to continue to be a proponent in the science of vaccinations, particularly for Covid, as well as public safety measures in the face of any future pandemics.

Again, I thank you all and look forward to continuing to serve the Academy in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Tortoriello, MD, FAAFP
Chairman of the Board