AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

Annual Meeting at ACEP26

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Annual Meeting: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Networking Reception: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
McCormick Place Convention Center West, Level 1, W195
Chicago, IL

Minutes

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE SECTION CHAIR AND ARE PENDING APPROVAL BY THE WILDERNESS MEDICINE SECTION AT THE ANNUAL SECTION MEETING DURING ACEP26. ANY CHANGES WILL APPEAR IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.

Section members who participated in all or part of the meeting included:
Patrick Burns, MD, Chair; Marc Cassone, DO, FACEP, Chair-Elect; Terez Malka, MD, MPH, FACEP, Secretary; Dana Mathew, DO, FACEP, Alternate Councillor; C Ryan Keay, MD, FACEP, Board Liaison; Kayla Jeanne Authelet, MD; Cindy C. Bitter, MD, MA, MPH, FACEP; Scott Christopher Calder, DO; Rui Domingues, MD, FACEP; John Lindsey Foggle, MD, MBA, FACEP; Eric R Hawkins, MD; Alysia Krambeck; Stephanie Lareau, MD, FACEP; Harry Eugene Sibold, MD, FACEP; Matthew E Stauffer, MD; Stanley Edward Chartoff, MD, MPH, FACEP; Angela F Gardner, MD, FACEP; Carlton E Heine, MD, PhD, FACEP; Hillary R Irons, MD, PhD, FACEP.

Non-section members, guests, and staff who participated in all or part of the meeting included:
Steven E Arze, MD, FACEP; Andrew Chester, MD; Mariko Ching, MD; Jung Hsien Chu, MD; Lake Crawford, MD; Kelly Dinh, DO; Aram Durgerian, MD; Reggie Durias; Stephen Fatuzzo; Rebecca Gu; Matthew Jones, MD; Kourtney Monk, MD; Maude Surprenant Hancock, CAE, Staff Liaison.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Board Liaison Report
4. Councillor Report
5. Photo Contest Results
6. Section Goals for the Upcoming Year
7. Election of Alternate Councillor
8. Guest Speaker: *Teaching Off the Beaten Path: How to Launch and Level Up Your Wilderness Medicine Education Career,* Stephanie Lareau, MD, FACEP, MFAWM, DiMM, DiDMM, Immediate Past President of the Wilderness Medical Society
9. Open Discussion and Announcements
10. Bonfire Bingo and Networking Reception

Major Points Discussed

Dr. Burns, Section Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM. Section leaders in attendance introduced themselves; Patrick Burns, MD, Chair, Marc Cassone, DO, FACEP, Chair-Elect, Terez Malka, MD, MPH, FACEP, Secretary, and Dana Mathew, DO, FACEP, Alternate Councillor.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 Annual Section Meeting as written. The motion was seconded. With no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Dr. C. Ryan Keay, Board Liaison to the Section, delivered a brief ACEP update formatted as a year-in-review. The report highlighted major Board actions aligning with ACEP's five strategic priorities: (1) Advocacy, (2) Clinical Excellence, Research, and Scholarship, (3) Practice Innovation, (4) Career Fulfillment, and (5) Member Engagement and Trust. She shared key takeaways and invited section members to submit feedback regarding future ACEP priorities.

Dr. Sally Peterson, Section Councillor, represented the Section at the Council meeting but was unable to stay for the Section meeting. Dr. Carl Heine presented the Council report, highlighting the adoption of a resolution supporting safe, physician-directed care in hyperbaric medicine. He also announced the results of the ACEP Board of Directors and President-Elect elections.

Dr. Kelly Dinh, Chair-Elect of the EMRA Wilderness Medicine Committee, introduced herself and gave a brief update on EMRA's upcoming MedWAR on Thursday, October 8. She welcomed volunteers to serve as patients.

Dr. Heine provided a brief history of the section's photo contest and announced this year's winner, Dr. Sophie Wecht for *Reinebringen, Lofoten, Norway.* Dr. Cassone took the opportunity to cross-promote the Medical Humanities Section's Visual Arts Award.

Dr. Marc Cassone, Section Chair-Elect, reported on section activities from the past year, which included a webinar on research and publication in wilderness medicine, newsletter contributions, and a joint hands-on pre-conference workshop with the EMS and Disaster Medicine sections. Dr. Cassone noted that the member survey conducted two years ago identified career development and opportunity-finding in wilderness medicine as primary member priorities. The section discussed several potential initiatives for the upcoming year:

- Collaborating with other sections on pre-conference events, CME course proposals, or networking sessions at the next Scientific Assembly;
- Contributing articles to the bi-annual newsletter and website; and
- Identifying prospective advocacy topics to support patients in wilderness medicine settings.

Call to Action: Members with ideas or an interest in getting involved are encouraged to reach out to section leadership.

Dr. Cassone announced the electronic section officer election results and outlined the leadership transition effective at the conclusion of the meeting. He then presented Dr. Burns with a plaque recognizing his two years of service as Section Chair.

Dr. Burns opened floor nominations for the position of Alternate Councillor. He nominated Jonathan Meadows, DO, MPH, MS, DTM, who had expressed interest following the initial slate announcement. Hearing no additional nominations, a motion was made and passed to elect Dr. Meadows to a two-year term as Alternate Councillor.

The 2026-2028 Section Leaders are:

Chair: Marc Cassone, DO, FACEP, FAWM, DiMM
Chair-Elect: Terez Malka, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAAP, FAWM, DiMM
Secretary: Sarah Spelsberg, MD, FAWM, FEWM
Immediate Past Chair: Patrick Burns, MD, FAWM, DiMM
Councillor: Dana Mathew, MD, FACEP, FAWM, DiDMM
Alternate Councillor: Jonathan Warren Meadows, DO, MPH, MS, DTM

Guest speaker, Stephanie Lareau, MD, FACEP, MFAWM, DiMM, DiDMM, Immediate Past President of the Wilderness Medical Society, led an interactive presentation on *Teaching Off the Beaten Path: How to Launch and Level Up Your Wilderness Medicine Education Career*.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. Attendees were invited to play a game of bonfire bingo while enjoying a networking reception.