Wow! First and foremost, I would like to thank the members of CAL/AAEM for electing me to a second term as President of our great chapter. I would also like to congratulate Jennifer L. Kanapicki, MD FAAEM on her election to Vice President, Sandra Thomasion, MD, FAAEM as our new Secretary, Shahram Lotfi, MD MPH FAAEM as he returns as Treasurer, and John Christensen, MD FAAEM, Lisa Mills, MD FAAEM, Joanne Williams, MD FAAEM, and Keith Yablonicky, MD FAAEM as board members for the coming year.

We continue to be the biggest and most active state chapter. Currently, our membership is at an all time high, and we have increased our number of 100% California residency programs to include David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, LAC + USC Medical Center, Stanford University Hospital, University of California San Diego Medical Center, University of California - San Francisco, and University of California – Irvine. Special thanks to our hardworking resident members Deen Ibrahim and Randy Woo, and past president, Francine Vogler, for making this happen. If your alma mater is not on this list, help us in our goal to include all of the EM residencies in our CAL/AAEM 100% Residency Program membership. As a reminder, it is FREE for resident members to join, and they receive many of the benefits of full voting members.

The upcoming year promises to hold at least two special local events for our members, the Northern California and San Diego Speakers Series. These two events feature selected internationally-renowned speakers in an intimate setting. This year, along with an educational component, look for round table discussions regarding local issues affecting the California EM community. We are planning to have a CAL/AAEM reception at the 19th Annual AAEM Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas, Feb. 9-13, 2013, so look to meet your board and fellow chapter members there as well.

Speaking of community, it is fitting that our state chapter has multiple social media networking opportunities. We recently updated our state chapter website (www.calaaem.org), and have a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/CalAAEM/172577489479442) and Twitter account (twitter.com/#!/CALAAEM).
If you are old school, you can email me directly at calaaempres@aaem.org. This year, look for Google+ and LinkedIn accounts to emerge. Also, don’t forget our news feed, CAL/AAEM News Service, run by Bryan Sloane, Deputy Editor, and past CAL/AAEM President, Brian Potts, MD MBA FAAEM, Managing Editor.

Finally, if you have a local concern that involves the practice of EM in your community, our great state, or nation, please let us know. One of our primary goals is to promote the safe and fair practice of emergency medicine in California, and we look to you to be the eyes and ears on the front lines of care.

Trevor J. Mills, MD, MPH, FAAEM President CAL/AAEM 2012-13, Chief of Emergency Medicine Services for the Northern California VA Health Care System

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