President’s report

March 2017

Since our last cluster I have corresponded regularly by phone and email with Mr. Grasso, Dr. Morrow, and Dr. Brilliant around general Academy business, Advanced Primary Care, and legislative and other governmental affairs, respectively.

In December Dr. Geoffrey Ostrander, my son and partner, and I produced a radio interview about rural primary care specifically, but also representing the Academy’s positions on the keystone role of primary care in a highly functioning, effective and efficient healthcare delivery system. This was broadcast on local NPR stations and is available as a podcast.

I attended Winter Weekend, and briefly spoke to the student and resident group about involvement in the Academy and advocacy.

After a member brought to my attention opportunities for improved continuous and comprehensive care for our Veterans in the VA system, Mr. Grasso arranged a conference call with the physician who is in charge of the VA primary care clinics nationwide. There was a useful exchange of ideas, and I think an opportunity for the AAFP to work with the Veterans Administration. However, despite agreement with the concept of advanced primary care, I was not impressed that there was any recognition of a chasm between the real and ideal, nor specific motivation on the part of the leadership to address this at the regional and local level. This resonates with the impression that was given by our member. I suggest we carry this cause to the AAFP, either through our representation on their commissions, or through a resolution.

Finally I was part of the NYSAFP delegation to the Ten State meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Ostrander, M.D.

President, NYSAFP