

## **March Communication to House**

We are working to maximize time available for policy deliberation. As previously announced, the House of Delegates will convene for the Opening Session at 5:30 pm Friday, June 10.

Understanding that this earlier start date may pose a challenge for some, we have arranged to live stream and record the session. In addition, the agenda has been arranged so that there will be no items requiring a vote at the Opening Session. The agenda is as follows:

### **Agenda for Opening Session:**

- Call to Order
- Address of the President
- Report of the Executive Vice President
- American Medical Association Alliance Presentation
- AMPAC Presentation
- American Medical Association Foundation Presentation
- Remarks of the Speaker
- Nominations of Officers and Council Candidates
  - Nomination of presidential candidates
  - Self-nominating speeches of candidates for board of trustees
  - Nomination of council candidates
- Nomination of new member of Council on Ethical & Judicial Affairs
- Presidential Candidate Debate

During the Opening Session there will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor for each contest, after which nominations will be closed. Once nominations are closed there will be no further opportunity for nominations, regardless of the outcome of each election. After the close of nominations for each position, any uncontested candidates will be elected by acclamation.

**Upcoming Deadlines:**

All delegations are asked to review the following deadlines for receipt of material by the HOD Office - [Hod@ama-assn.org](mailto:Hod@ama-assn.org) (see further details in text below):

- Caucuses/delegations contact information for scheduling interviews:
  - April 1 deadline for virtual interviews
  - May 27 deadline for in-person interviews
- April 18 deadline for candidates electing to be featured at the AMA Candidates Reception
- April 8 deadline for “backlogged” resolution submission
- May 11 deadline for on-time resolutions

The full schedule (still tentative) is below and separately attached. You will note changes to the preliminary schedule for Tuesday June 14. It is our hope that the efficiencies of our new election voting process will allow the Election Session to be completed in 30 minutes, thus allowing the House to reconvene for policy deliberation at 8:30 am (see below for more details regarding the Election Session). Also, with thanks to Dr. Resneck, the Presidential Inauguration will now begin at 5:30 pm, allowing the House to remain in session until 3:30 pm.

**Resolution Submission:**

As discussed in our February update, we anticipate receiving a large volume of business for this meeting. Given that we anticipate proceeding with an in-person annual meeting, there will be no prioritization process or resolutions committee. Therefore, delegations and authors are asked to please review resolutions that have been held back or were not prioritized at one of the Special Meetings (see points below). Any such resolutions deemed necessary to be included in the business for J22 should be sent to the HOD Office prior to Friday, April 8. As per our standing rules, all other resolutions must be submitted by May 11, but earlier submission is encouraged. The usual exception of 7 days following the close of meetings held after May 11 will apply.

- Before submitting any resolution that was held back or not accepted as a priority at our Special Meetings, please ensure that it remains relevant and/or not covered under current policy. A review of the issue in the current version of [PolicyFinder](#) may be in order.
- Consider whether a letter to the AMA’s executive vice president or to the Board might achieve the goal of the resolution without the need for consideration by the HOD. For example, House action is not required to send a letter to Congress or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services if current policy addresses the matter.
- Please review your organization’s rules, as you may find that submission of a resolution to one of our Special Meetings, even if not prioritized, fulfills your responsibility to submit the resolution and re-submission may not be required.

**Campaign Information:**

The April Board of Trustees meeting is rapidly approaching, after which the Announcement of Candidates will signal the opening of the active campaign window. Attached is a communication that was recently sent to all candidates and their campaign teams to keep them informed of the plans for the upcoming June 2022 meeting and to answer a number of questions that had been received. Although written for the candidates, we encourage all members of the HOD and Federation staff to review the document as there are multiple portions relevant to you as well. Also attached is a listing of the current campaign rules.

**Candidate Interviews:**

For our upcoming elections, caucuses and delegations may choose to conduct virtual or in-person interviews. After our recent experience with virtual interview scheduling for our Special Meetings, your Speakers have determined that having the HOD Office compile a list of contact persons for the interviewing groups and for the candidates, simplified the process of scheduling for both caucuses and campaigns. In addition, a centralized official list, as recommended by the Election Task Force, affords transparency to all candidates seeking interviews, while allowing groups to decide if, when, how, and for which contests they wish to interview. Accordingly, the HOD Office will again compile the list of groups wishing to interview for each position and send it to the candidates to schedule directly with the designated contact persons. **Delegations and caucuses that wish to schedule interviews must submit their contact information and identify which contests for which they wish to interview to [HOD@ama-assn.org](mailto:HOD@ama-assn.org) by April 1 for virtual interviews and May 27 for in-person interviews.**

As a reminder, interviews must be conducted using a similar format with all currently announced candidates for any given contest. However, delegations and caucuses are not required to interview candidates for all contests, and they may choose different methods for different contests. The HOD Office has scheduled in-person officer interviews for the major caucuses as has been done in the past. All other interviews may be scheduled after the active campaigning window opens. It is the responsibility of the candidates to contact a group's designated person to arrange an interview. **Candidates may not schedule interviews with groups that are not on the official list.**

As per the amendment passed by the House at N21, the virtual interview window is May 26-29 (note this is Memorial Day weekend) during specified times as delineated in the attached rules. In-person interviews may be conducted from June 10-13, outside of times during which the House or reference committees are in session.

**Endorsements:**

The Election Committee recently reviewed the rules regarding candidates seeking endorsements and groups conducting written questionnaires of candidates. Concerns have been expressed in the past that candidates were campaigning before active campaigning is allowed (after the BOT formally announces the candidates) under the guise of "seeking endorsements not votes." In addition, groups were determining their endorsements by asking candidates to complete questionnaires or to answer questions in person prior to the allowed interview window. After due consideration, the Election Committee provided the following interpretation of the relevant rules for clarity:

- Any communication or activity undertaken to seek endorsement from groups of which the candidate is not a current member after the announcement of candidacy and prior to the April Board meeting (active campaign period) would be considered active campaigning and, therefore, a violation of the election rules (*emphasis added*)
- Any formal questioning of an announced candidate, including written questions, would be considered an interview, and, therefore, subject to the rules for interviews (*emphasis added*)

**Election Session:**

Your speakers are planning to implement an "Election Session" at the upcoming June meeting as previously held during our J21 Special Meeting and subsequently adopted by the House as part of Speakers Report 2 (Report of the Election Task Force). The plan is for the House to

convene with only voting delegates seated at 8:00 am Tuesday, June 14, to hold all election voting. Delegates must be seated by 8:00 am so voting may begin at the scheduled time. Delegates are strongly encouraged to arrive early as security for entering the House will be enhanced, and a special Lumi card will be necessary for the elections. Tellers will be present to verify credentials.

Sequential votes will be held for all contested positions in the following order: president-elect, board of trustees, Council on Constitution & Bylaws, Council on Medical Education, Council on Medical Service and Council on Science & Public Health.

In accord with the recommendation of the Report of the Election Task Force as adopted by the HOD and based upon the number of candidates and the anticipated volume of business, your speakers have determined that “points of personal privilege” will not be entertained during the Election Session. The Election Task Force Report to the House stated, “while the task force understands the tradition of thank you speeches by both the victors and unsuccessful candidates, the task force nevertheless prefers that all such speeches be discontinued. No one doubts the sincerity of the thank you delivered by those speaking, but those words of appreciation could better be delivered privately. Moreover, sparing losing candidates the discomfort, often palpable throughout the House, of appearing at a microphone shortly after hearing negative results should be considered a kindness, not a slight, and allows them a graceful exit.” The report went further to suggest that the speakers, “use their discretion based upon the volume of business at hand and the number of candidates.” Pursuant to this the HOD adopted the following recommendation, “The Speaker is encouraged to consider means to reduce the time spent during the HOD meeting on personal points by candidates after election results are announced, including collecting written personal points from candidates to be shared electronically with the House after the meeting or imposing time limits on such comments.” All candidates have been informed of the decision and each may submit written comments to the HOD Office for subsequent delivery to members of the House.

Given the new processes, it is our hope that the Election Session will last less than 30 minutes, with the HOD reconvening for regular consideration of reference committee reports at the scheduled time of 8:30 am; however since this is our inaugural attempt at the new process we ask for your understanding if delayed.

#### **Service on HOD Committees:**

Volunteers to serve on House committees, including reference committees and Rules & Credentials, or as tellers are being sought at this time. A **new** application form, found [here](#) and attached to this email, should be submitted to [HOD@ama-assn.org](mailto:HOD@ama-assn.org). Note that those who have applied previously need to submit this new form to be considered. As a reminder, reference committee volunteers would need to be available to meet virtually on the weekend PRIOR to the Opening Session of the House to develop a preliminary document based on the Online Forum testimony as adopted by the House at N21. All applicants are asked to hold this weekend open on their schedule to accommodate this meeting. We encourage all who are interested to apply, even those who may have served at our recent Special Meetings.

#### **Health and Safety:**

The health and safety of attendees and those providing services for the meeting remain a priority as our planning for an in-person event at the Hyatt Regency Chicago continues. Be assured that all protocols from the CDC and local restrictions in effect at the time of the meeting will be enforced. Additional precautions, as determined by the Board of Trustees, may be

enacted. Given the constantly changing environment, further details will be provided as the meeting nears.

**CampAMA:**

Camp AMA will be available with the hours expanded to allow parents to attend the HOD sessions, including the Friday evening Opening Session. Health and Safety protocols are being developed in conjunction with a representative group of concerned parents. More details will be provided as soon as finalized. Please note that advanced registration will be required.

**TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE** (All times are in Central Time)

- Friday, June 10, 5:30-7:30 pm – Opening session
- *Saturday, June 11, 7 am-12:30 pm – Open for Caucus/Delegation Meetings*
- Saturday, June 11, 12:30 pm – Second opening
- Saturday, June 11, 1:00 pm– Reference committee hearings
- Sunday, June 12, 8 am – Reference committee hearings
- Sunday, June 12, 1:30 pm – Education sessions
- Sunday, June 12, 5-7 pm - AMA Candidate Reception
- *Monday, June 13, 7 am-10 am – Open for Caucus/Delegation Meetings*
- Monday, June 13, 10 am to 6 pm – HOD business session (with a break for lunch)
- *Tuesday June 14, 7:30 am – Delegates admitted for Election Session*
- Tuesday, June 14, 8 am – HOD Election Session
- Tuesday, June 14, 8:30 am (*or 10 minutes after Election Session concludes*) to 3:30 pm – HOD business session (with a break for lunch)
- Tuesday, June 14, 5:30 - Presidential Inauguration
- Wednesday, June 15, 8 am through the completion of business – HOD business session