Dear NMAPA Members-

I, Mike Domino, and Albert Bourbon had the great pleasure of representing you all at the annual AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) this year. It is always amazing and inspiring to be in a room with thousands of other PA’s from across the country. Over the past two years as one of your delegates, I have learned amazing amounts about our profession and have been reminded as to why I have chosen to be a PA. It has also given me great appreciation to the wonderful practice laws for PA’s in New Mexico. Although there is always room for growth, after hearing the restrictions that our colleagues from other states have to endure, NM is a wonderful place to be a PA.

Every year the HOD, works very hard to improve the environment for PA’s across the country. By far the biggest issue at the HOD this year and last was the subject of a title change. Last year, the HOD voted to have an outside entity research the benefits and ramifications of our title of Physician Assistant. The overall summary from their report concluded that PA’s are highly regarded by colleagues, patients and the general public. On the other hand, they found that our title of Physician Assistant had a negative connotation on our profession and that a title change would benefit our profession. Over the next year there will be more research determining what title would be best for our profession moving forward. There will be a report at the 2020 conference on what the title recommendation will be.

The other notable actions were:

* Voted down a resolution to have AAPA take over management of state chapter dues
* Albert worked on a resolution to change Addiction Specialty language to Substance Abuse Disorder. Which was accepted.
* Resolution was accepted to have credentialing aligned with the physician process.
* Lots on debate on antimicrobial stewardship. In the end the HOD accepted a statement supporting individual responsibility for being good stewards and remaining up-to-date based on CDC and IDSA standards.
* Resolution was accepted to support exploration for alternatives to a closed-book proctored exam with input from all agencies.
* There was significant debate about online PA education. In the end the resolution was amended to support the use innovative technology without any specific statement on online PA education. There was a second resolution that was rejected requiring ARC-PA to require PA schools to have a certain percentage of face to face education.
* The HOD referred a resolution to next year to explore the title standardization for the master’s degree, the point is to have the same degree no matter where your studied (i.e. MPAS vs. MSPAS vs. MMSc).
* Resolution to increase CME Category I credit for precepting! This will greatly incentivize providers to precept our students.

If you want to read more about the resolutions you can find a full report at: <https://www.aapa.org/about/aapa-governance-leadership/house-of-delegates/meeting-materials/> It has been a pleasure to serve as your Chief Delegate for the 2019 conference.

Thank you,

Laura