



Steering Committee Meeting
January 29, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Speaker Michael McCrea, MD, FACEP, called to order a meeting of the Council Steering Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians at 9:02 am Central time on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Steering Committee members present for all or portions of the meeting were Ian Brodka, MD; Joshua da Silva, DO, FACEP; Herbert Duber, MD, MPH, FACEP; Puneet Gupta, MD, FACEP; Jolie Holschen, MD, FACEP; Antony Hsu, MD, FACEP; Greg A. Juhl, MD, FACEP; Michael McCrea, MD, FACEP, speaker; David Nestler, MD, MS, FACEP; Jennifer Savino, MD, FACEP; Aaron Snyder, MD, FACEP; Sophia Spadafore, MD, MA; Larisa M. Traill, MD, FACEP, vice speaker; Daniel Udrea, MD, FACEP; Nicole Veitinger, DO, FACEP; William Weber, MD, MPH, FACEP; Carol Wright Becker, MD, FACEP; and Randall Young, MD, FACEP.

Other members and guests present for all or portions of the meeting were: L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP, president; Daniel Freess, MD, FACEP; C. Ryan Keay, MD, FACEP; Chadd K. Kraus, DO, DrPH, CPE, FACEP, chair of the Board; Diana Nordlind, DO, JD, FACEP; James L. Shoemaker, Jr., MD, FACEP; and Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP, president-elect.

Staff present for all or portions of the meeting were: Jonathan Fisher, MD, FACEP; Mary Ellen Fletcher, CPC, CEDC, CAE; Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE; Ashlee Glasco; Cameron Hogan; CAE; Laura Lang, JD; Sonja Montgomery; Sandra Schneider, MD, FACEP; Julie Wassom; Amber Williams; and Laura Wooster, MPH.

Officer and Staff Reports

Speaker

Dr. McCrea welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation and commitment to the College. He reported on the Board retreat that was held in early November and gave a brief recap of the January 27-28, 2026, Board meeting. The 2026 Council committees have been appointed and are now beginning their work and a Council Task Force on Voting & Elections has been appointed to review the voting method used for elections conducted by the Council and consider whether an alternative voting method should be proposed for the Council's consideration. Dr. McCrea announced the nominations for the Board of Directors are now open as well as nominations for ACEP's 2026 awards.

Vice Speaker

Dr. Traill reported on her role as a member of the Finance Committee as the speaker's designee and summarized ACEP's current financial operations.

President

Dr. McCrea stated Dr. Cirillo will be joining the meeting later because he is currently in flight to the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) meeting in Tampa, FL.

President-Elect

Dr. Stanton discussed his attendance at the AMA Interim Meeting and ACEP's Accelerate Conference in San Diego. He encouraged everyone to attend next year's Accelerate Conference in Orlando, FL. He will also be attending the NAEMSP meeting in Tampa with Dr. Cirillo. He provided an update on scope of practice issues in Kentucky and the Board's changes to the "Guidelines Regarding the Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department." He reported that the Board approved a 3% dues increase effective July 1, 2026.

Executive Director

Dr. Fraser discussed his background and prior positions before joining ACEP. He highlighted key discussions from the January 27-28, 2026, Board meeting, including the review of ACEP's strategic priorities, the goal to enhance non-dues revenue, expanding and streamlining the accreditation programs, and increasing participation in the Clinical Emergency Data Registry. A new AI platform, AskSonja, is being tested among staff and a few members and will eventually be available to members and all staff. The AI tool will assist in researching ACEP resources and information.

Steering Committee Expectations

Dr. McCrea reminded the Steering Committee of their expectation to attend the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting and the Leadership & Advocacy Conference April 26-28, 2026, in Washington, DC. The Steering Committee will also meet at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 2026, in Chicago, IL, the evening prior to the Council meeting. It is expected that Steering Committee members will be serving as councillors or alternate councillors at the annual Council meeting.

Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee Report

Dr. McCrea reviewed the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee report from the 2025 Council meeting. There were 436 councillors allocated and 436 were credentialed. All chapters and sections were represented at the meeting.

Electronic voting was conducted using online voting software from www.associationvoting.com. The electronic voting software was programmed with the unique membership numbers of councillors prior to the Council meeting and was updated onsite as needed to accommodate any last-minute changes to delegations. The electronic voting system worked effectively for voting on resolutions and the elections. There were problems with the hotel's Wi-Fi service provider that impacted the ability to submit motions electronically and caused delays in voting. ACEP's onsite Technology Services staff improvised a solution using mobile hotspots. Councillors were also able to use their cell phones for voting. ACEP's contract with the hotel contained a performance clause for Wi-Fi service and 100% of the cost was refunded to ACEP. The 2026 Council meeting will be held at McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago and staff have already held meetings with the personnel to address Wi-Fi capacity and service needs.

Councillor Allocation

Dr. McCrea reported that the total councillor allocation for the 2026 Council meeting is 441 based on the average total membership as of December 31, 2025. This is 5 additional councillors than were allocated for the 2025 meeting. The average membership was used for the calculation based on the adoption of Amended Resolution 13(24) Allocation of Councillors. The following chapters gained one councillor this year: Alaska, Florida, Government Services, Iowa, Montana, New York, North Carolina, and Texas. The following chapters lost councillor(s) based on the average membership calculation this year: Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia.

All sections met the minimum membership requirement of 100 members and will have a councillor for the 2026 Council meeting. ACEP staff will work with membership to identify the decline in section memberships for 2026.

2025 Council Meeting

Dr. McCrea reviewed various aspects of the 2025 Council meeting and requested feedback about potential changes for the 2026 meeting.

There was consensus to continue allowing asynchronous testimony on resolutions submitted for the 2026 Council meeting. Some Steering Committee members expressed support for revising the preliminary Reference Committee reports to include recommendations for disposition of the resolutions and amended or substituted language similar to the format of the final Reference Committee reports instead of providing the information in the summary of the asynchronous testimony. The Annual Meeting Subcommittee will discuss this further and provide a recommendation for the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting.

The Town Hall meeting topic was “Emergency Department Accreditation (EDAC): Why ED Accreditation is Right for Your ED!” Several potential topics were proposed for this year. It was also suggested that the Town Hall meeting be discontinued for this year unless there is a breaking issue that needs to be addressed. The Annual Meeting Subcommittee will discuss the Town Hall meeting and provide a recommendation to the Steering Committee for discussion at the April 26, 2026, meeting.

The second day of the Council meeting was live streamed to provide all members an opportunity to observe the Council meeting. There were no privileges to speak during the meeting, and the chat function was disabled. There were only 28 remote observers, however, attendance may have been impacted by the connectivity issues experienced during the Council meeting and the continual broadcast interruptions. The Steering Committee supported continuing to live stream the second day. Staff are currently investigating the cost. The live-stream capability will be promoted to all members, and chapters will also be encouraged to highlight this feature in their communications.

The 2026 Council meeting will be held at McCormick Place West Convention Center in Chicago, which is connected via skybridge to the Marriott Marquis Hotel Chicago. Meetings occurring the evening prior to the Council meeting will be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel Chicago.

Dr. McCrea announced that the councillor orientation session, traditionally held at 8:00 pm the evening prior to the Council meeting, will be discontinued this year based on declining attendance over the past several years. Factors potentially affecting attendance include the time of the meeting and many chapters conduct their own orientation sessions for new councillors and alternates. The Council officers will participate in a Council 101 webinar on April 10, 2026. The webinar is open to all members and includes similar information that is reviewed at the councillor orientation session. A link to the webinar recording will be shared with the Council and chapters.

2026 Council Meeting Agenda

The Steering Committee reviewed the draft 2026 Council meeting agenda. The Annual Meeting Subcommittee will review the Council meeting agenda and provide suggestions for any changes at the April 26, 2026, meeting.

Electronic Voting

Dr. McCrea reviewed the electronic voting system. The Steering Committee did not identify any issues or concerns about continuing to use the Association Voting platform for electronic voting during the 2026 Council meeting. It was recommended that electronic voting be used during discussions about sensitive or potentially contentious issues.

Elections Process

The Steering Committee discussed the format of the Candidate Forum and did not identify any potential changes. Dr. McCrea informed the Steering Committee about a campaign issue that occurred last year prior to the Council meeting regarding an individual posting a message in an online community of another emergency medicine organization highlighting the attributes of one candidate. The executive director of the organization requested ACEP to consider updating the Candidate Campaign Rules to prohibit this activity. The Candidate Forum Subcommittee will discuss potential changes to the Candidate Campaign Rules and provide their recommendations for discussion at the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting.

Council Task Force on Voting & Elections

Dr. McCrea announced a Council Task Force on Voting & Election has been appointed and Dr. da Silva is serving as the chair. The purpose of the task force is to review the current method of voting for ACEP's elections as codified in the Council Standing Rules and consider whether an alternative voting method should be proposed for the Council's consideration. Dr. da Silva summarized the discussions from the initial task force meeting on January 14, 2026. A follow-up meeting will be held in February. The task force will submit a report to the Steering Committee for discussion at the April 26, 2026, meeting.

Council Champion in Diversity & Inclusion Award

The Steering Committee reviewed proposed changes to the Council Champion in Diversity & Inclusion Award title, purpose, and criteria. The changes are consistent with the renaming of the Access, Belonging, & Community Committee; the Access, Belonging, & Community Section; and the Leon Haley, Jr., Award for Access, Belonging, & Community. Ms. Lang explained the reasons the changes are needed. The proposed changes reinforce ACEP's commitment to equal opportunity to practice emergency medicine and equal access to leadership and do not alter the intent of the award.

It was moved THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISED DESCRIPTION AND CRITERIA FOR THE COUNCIL CHAMPION IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD AND RENAME THE AWARD THE "COUNCIL CHAMPION IN ACCESS, BELONGING, & COMMUNITY AWARD." The motion was adopted.

Referred Resolution 23(25) Councillor Allocations for Sections of Membership

Multiple changes to the Bylaws and the Council Standing Rules over the years have resulted in the language being slightly different regarding councillor allocations for sections. The Steering Committee submitted a resolution to the 2025 Council with the intent of reconciling the language. The Council referred Resolution 23(25) Councillor Allocations for Sections of Membership to the Steering Committee. The Bylaws & Council Standing Rules Subcommittee will review the referred resolution and provide a recommendation to the Steering Committee for discussion at the April 26, 2026, meeting.

Commendation and Memorial Resolutions

The Steering Committee discussed the potential of establishing criteria to limit submission of commendation and memorial resolutions to ACEP members or former members and staff only and include a level of leadership eligibility, such as chapter or national Board of Directors, committee service, councillor/alternate councillor status, or membership tenure. It was acknowledged that the number of memorial resolutions will likely continue to increase over the next few years. There was some support for limiting commendations to members/former members and staff only and continue to allow memorial resolutions without restrictions.

The Steering Committee also discussed the cost implications of framing commendation and memorial resolutions and the time required to read the resolves of the memorial resolutions during the Council meeting. Some committee members supported discontinuing framing memorial resolutions and reading the resolves during the "In Memoriam" portion of the Council meeting.

The Bylaws & Council Standing Rules Subcommittee will review these issues and provide recommendations for discussion the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting. It was noted that Bylaws and/or Council Standing Rules amendments may be needed if changes are made regarding submission of commendation and memorial resolutions.

Board Action on Six Resolutions

Dr. McCrea informed the Steering Committee about actions on six resolutions the Board of Directors discussed at their January 27-28, 2026, meeting.

- Amended Resolution 26(24) Ensuring Hospitals Consider Contributions of Boarding and Crowding to Safety Events: The Board approved a new policy statement "[Hospital Boarding and Crowding Must Be Included in Formal Event Reviews and Quality Improvement Processes.](#)"
- Referred Amended Resolution 40(24) Telehealth Emergency Physician Standards: The "Emergency Medicine Telehealth" policy statement was revised referred back to the Emergency Medicine Practice Committee for further review to ensure alignment with the updated "[Guidelines Regarding the Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#)" policy statement and telehealth supervision of PAs and NPs.

- Referred Resolution 52(24) Delegation of Critical Care to Non-Physician Practitioners: The “[Guidelines Regarding the Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#)” policy statement was updated.
- Amended Resolution 36(25) Reaffirming Support for 3-Year and 4-Year EM Residency Program Accreditation: The Board formally reaffirmed the “[Length of Residency in Training in Emergency Medicine](#)” policy statement with an effective date of September 10, 2025.
- Amended Resolution 66(25) Endorsing a Realistic Door-to-Doctor Standard: The “Standards for Measuring and Reporting ED Wait Times” policy statement was revised and it was referred back to the Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Committee for further revisions.
- Resolution 72(25) Naloxone Access and Education in Public Schools: Approved endorsing the National School Overdose Preparedness Campaign.

Action on Resolutions

Reports summarizing actions taken by the Board of Directors on resolutions adopted at the 2025, 2024, and 2023 Council meetings were provided for review. The reports were assigned to the Annual Meeting Subcommittee for further review.

Subcommittee Volunteers and Appointments

Dr. McCrea announced that three subcommittees will be appointed: Annual Meeting Subcommittee, Bylaws & Council Standing Rules Subcommittee, and Candidate Forum Subcommittee. All Steering Committee members should plan to serve on at least two subcommittees. All second year Steering Committee members are typically appointed to the Candidate Forum Subcommittee unless planning to seek nomination to the Board of Directors or as a Council officer or if they are planning to assist a candidate in their campaign. Ms. Montgomery will distribute the subcommittee objectives and deadlines and ask for volunteers to serve on each subcommittee. The subcommittee reports will be discussed at the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council Steering Committee is scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2026, during the Leadership & Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm Central time on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. McCrea, MD, FACEP
Council Speaker and Chair



Larisa M. Traill, MD, FACEP
Council Vice Speaker and Vice Chair