



The Southeastern Delegation to the AMA, Inc.
An Historical Overview

The Southeastern Delegation to the American Medical Association (SED) arose in the early to mid-1970s. Both the AMA and the US culture was in transition with the arrival of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960's, and the social turmoil of the 1970's. California, New York, and Texas were in ascendancy at the AMA with power and influence; Dr. James Sammons of Texas was moving firmly into internal control of the AMA. Partly in response to all these developments, several small state medical societies started a social and "sort of" political group called "Aces-Deuces" with a regular luncheon and evening hospitality suites at AMA meetings, of which those of Georgia and South Carolina became the most influential. Eventually, several Southern states decided they shared common values and social/political bonds and formed a Steering Committee spearheaded by Dr. Russell Fisher of Maryland, who in the beginning worked with his state staff, John Sergeant; Dr Fisher also provided some self-funding of the effort. Meetings were held in the various state hospitality suites and sometimes at lunch; the leadership evolved to include Dr. Fisher of Maryland, Dr. William Hotchkiss of Virginia, and Dr. John Hawk of South Carolina. They were joined by Dr. Frank Reynolds of North Carolina, Dr. Charles Miller of Louisiana, Dr. Orizaba Emfinger of Alabama, Dr. Swink Hicks of Mississippi, Dr. John Burkhart of Tennessee, and Dr. Fleming Jolly of Georgia. The first formal, organized meeting was held December 5, 1976. The new group's purpose was to form an organized coalition of state societies within the AMA House of Delegates. The group's name was to be the Southeastern States Coalition.

During the AMA Annual Meeting on June 18, 1977, the Southeastern States Coalition was formalized, and Chairman Russell Fisher elected. A set of "Rules for the Southeastern Coalition in the AMA House of Delegates" was adopted (see Appendix). By the next meeting Tennessee resigned from the Coalition, but Delaware (Dr. Rhoslyn Bishoff) was added.

The Coalition/Delegation met regularly at a breakfast, at first on the Monday of the AMA Convention, and then for many years on Sunday morning. The breakfast first started at 8:00 AM, was moved to 7:30 AM in 1978, and since 2006 at 6:45 AM. Initially, much of the breakfast time was spent interviewing candidates for AMA offices. Note that the total cost of the breakfast in 1980 was a "whopping" \$913.00!! Introduction of the State Chairs at the Breakfast was begun in 1986, with the Head Table established in 1988. Dr. Joe Bailey began the Georgia "Grits Report" in 1999 during his state update presentation. This has evolved into an enjoyable agenda item at the SED breakfasts. Upon Bailey's retirement from the GA Delegation in 2014, the Grits Report has been delivered by Dr. Bill Clark. Beginning in 1988, election candidates were interviewed separately from the Breakfast, either later Sunday or on Saturday,

officers and Board candidates by the Executive Committee, and Council candidates by the members. After 1988, the Breakfast became focused on addresses by AMA leadership, occasional officer or board candidate speeches, political issues of national importance, and AMA Resolutions. In 1998, the Southeastern Breakfast was returned to Monday mornings.

Beginning in 1978, Monday evening social events were held, at first early in the evening for only the Delegates in various states' hospitality suites. Beginning in 1979, wives were invited, and larger rooms were booked. Maryland introduced the ice cream social in 1989 and moved the time later in the evening to accommodate the entire Convention. They called the event "The Afterglow Social." The Ice Cream Social has remained a popular event ever since and is now held Monday night at 9 PM every AMA Annual Meeting.

Breakfast and Reception costs were spread among the Delegate members' states and, beginning in 1979, include an administrative charge. Although the evening Socials were originally funded by the states hosting the event, all events are now managed by the SED staff and the costs shared by a formula set by the Finance Committee based on State Delegation size and attendance.

In 1979, the organization name changed to the Southeastern Delegation, with a logo developed in 1995 that included each state. In the early days, Dr. Fisher staffed the Coalition with help from his Maryland Medical Society and then, when he was chair, the work was picked up by the Society (Med Chi). The subsequent Chairs served two-year terms and their respective Medical Societies managed the organization. Beginning in 1987, James Moffett of Georgia professionally managed the organization, regardless of the Chair's state. Alan Skipper of North Carolina became manager in 1994. Beginning in 2012, Tonya Heider and Rebecca Brannon of South Carolina were SED staff and then in 2016, Brian Foy, Karen Foy, and Karie Boggs of West Virginia. In January of 2017, the Southeastern Delegation became independent of any state society and the management was provided by Karen Foy and Brian Foy of Florida. Karen Foy is the Executive Director of the SE Delegation. One of her first actions was to incorporate the SED.

As the Organization prospered other states began to join:

- District of Columbia 1979
- Florida 1980
- West Virginia 1984
- Kentucky 1986
- Tennessee 1991
- Puerto Rico 1992
- New Jersey 2007
- Arkansas 2018
- Oklahoma 2018

Dr. Walt Roberts injected a dose of high energy into the SED during his term as Chair in 1999. He initiated the recruitment of New Jersey and was the first SED Chair to urge our States to include their Specialty Delegates. During the Chairmanships of Drs. Stephen Permut and Joseph Gutierrez, the SED solidified their organizational structure. Dr. Permut appointed the first Political Subcommittee chaired by Drs. Troy Tippet of Florida and Stephen Imbeau of South Carolina. The subcommittee also included Drs. Joe Gutierrez of DC, Bill Clark of Georgia, Joe Snyder of Maryland, and Carol Shapiro of Virginia. Dr. Gutierrez asked Drs. Clark and Imbeau to develop both communications and strategies for AMA run-off elections for the first time in 2007

Drs. Snyder, Chris Fleming, and Imbeau brought about some important changes, championed by Dr. Fleming, including a regular Sunday early evening reception at the AMA Interim Meeting for the SE to meet among themselves in 2009 (a return to the old idea of 1976), a web page in 2012, <http://www.ama-sedelegation.org/>, an electronic Newsletter in 2012 (February issue – history; April issue – What’s new in DC; May issue – AMA meeting; September issue – SED members of AMA Boards, Councils and Committees; October issue – AMA meeting; AMA Meeting follow up issues began In 2017), and regular meetings with other large coalitions around the AMA built on earlier efforts begun in 2005. They also documented the SED internal structure with a new Operations Manual posted on the web page and an internal Educational Manual for new officers.

Drs. Greg Cooper and Bill Clark introduced a formal review process for important AMA and SE Policy Resolutions with the Resolutions Committee in 2015, chaired by Dr. Corey Howard of Florida. In 2013, Dr. Howard, and Dr. Jeff

Terry of Alabama, began the Floor Debate Committee. Previously, since 1980, various AMA Resolutions had been discussed by the SED informally, and some even formally supported by the SED since 1986 (particularly at the time of the debates on RBRVS and on Specialists in the AMA House of Delegates). In 2019, the Resolutions Committee was co-chaired by Drs. Bill Reha (VA) and Chris Gribbin (NJ).

At the I-15 meeting, the inaugural Board dinner was hosted in Atlanta by Bill Clark.

Dr. Cooper initiated the SED Finance Committee in 2016, with Dr. John Mangum of North Carolina as the first Chair. The Finance Committee systematically reviews expenses and charges to the States. The Committee also advises the SED Chair on a variety of financial issues as requested. In 2020, the Finance Committee was expanded to include a medical society executive. The first to serve was Jeff Williams (LA).

The SED Service Project was initiated at A-2016 with Dr. Clark as Chair.

At the I-17 SED Breakfast, each of the Southeastern AMA Trustees made a presentation with an emphasis on how to promote AMA membership in our respective states.

At the I-18 Breakfast, Dr. Joe Bailey (GA) returned to give the Grits Report.

At the A-19 Breakfast, Dr. Claudette Dalton was inaugurated as the new SED Chair, the first woman to hold the position, and quickly energized the crowd as she—with a 5-minute script—morphed into a new Dr. Bill Clark, green jacket, handlebar mustache and all! She also appointed him to become Co-Chair of the SED Elections Committee along with Dr. Imbeau.

In March 2020, the United States was basically shut down, fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, under Presidential Emergency Order. The Annual AMA Meeting was replaced by a computer virtual meeting. Previously, only two AMA Annual Meetings were cancelled (1861 and 1862 due to the Civil War). In 1945, the Annual Meeting was moved to November. The A-2020 Virtual House of Delegates was held on the previously scheduled Sunday afternoon, with a minimum of ceremony, action on Reference Committee F items of business and then elections, to be described below.

Politics

Curiously, despite the AMA milieu, the Southeastern Delegation was initially not involved in AMA politics, and there was little coordination among the member states about either AMA policy issues or AMA election candidates. The early

SED emphasis was on social and personal connections. In fact, in 1977, Dr. Leonard Weyl of Virginia wrote a letter to Dr. Fisher saying in part, “I am somewhat concerned over the increasing amount of time devoted to in-house politics at the Annual Meetings of the AMA.” Although he then went on to suggest the new SE Coalition organize committees to interview candidates, find candidates, and run candidates in a coordinated fashion. His intent was mostly not to make the process more formal, but rather to protect Delegates like himself from being involved in these politics.

A Nominating Committee was established in 1988, of Drs. Michaelson, Reynolds, and Hawk for the internal officers of the SE Delegation (the Nominating Committee now is the State Chairs of the last three states to hold the SE Chairmanship, plus the Chair and the Vice Chair of the SE Delegation.) In 1990, an “Ad Hoc Committee on Policy” of Drs. Sidney Graves, Emory Bohler, Frank Reynolds, Joseph Von Thron, William Wright, and Julius Michaelson was appointed to study if the SED should better organize its approach to AMA politics, candidate selection, and support. The first review of prospective SED members for AMA office was held December 10, 1991, by the Executive Committee, but only to look at timing and not suitability, as is now done. The new mood was formalized by Dr. Reynolds from North Carolina in 1994–95, who, with Alan Skipper’s help, made the following changes: 1) a logo, 2) specific committees to interview candidates both internal to the Southeast and external for AMA offices, and 3) the development of what we now call the “Elections Grid” to keep track of potential SED candidates for the years ahead.

Formal interviews have been held since 1997 for all potential SED Candidates for AMA office under the new system and, by 2006, some candidates were rejected. The Candidate Evaluation Committee now includes as voting members the Chair, Chair-elect, and three SE State Chairs, rotating every year plus the Immediate Past Chair, and the Chair of the Elections Committee as non-voting members. The Committee interviews prospective SED candidates eighteen months ahead of the election, during the Interim AMA Meeting. Any state with a candidate does not vote. Specialty delegates living in the Southeastern Delegation States were included in the interview process if they both wished and are endorsed by their states, beginning in 2009, with Georgia’s Drs. Patrice Harris and Sandra Fryhoffer, and New Jersey’s Dr. Peter Carmel, as the first SE supported specialty candidates. The Monday night Ice Cream Social is now commonly used as a campaign platform for the Southeastern candidates for AMA office. While some states still hold independent campaign events, a candidate can only participate in one event per election cycle.

Dr. Cooper resurrected the Political/Campaign Committee with Dr. Imbeau as Chair to include the Executive Officers of the SE Delegation with several other SE leaders. The Committee meets regularly as practical with other Regional Delegations and large Specialty Societies across the AMA House of Delegates. The Committee also works to assist in AMA candidate selection, candidate preparation, campaign organization and campaign. It was renamed the Elections Committee at A-18. Drs. Imbeau and Clark are the Co-Chairs.

At the AMA I-17, the SED Executive Committee voted to form a Membership Task Force comprised of one or two members from each delegation with a two-pronged mission to increase physician membership in each of our societies and to increase the number of AMA members in our states. The Task Force had its organizational meeting at A-18, where it caught the attention of Todd Unger, the AMA Chief Engagement Officer.

Also, at A-18, an effort was begun by Dr. Claudette Dalton to develop a program to help our medical students and residents appreciate the importance of knowing more about their sponsoring societies

The elections of 2018 were significant, with the election of 8/9 SED candidates, including 5 by acclamation (Vice Speaker, YPS Trustee, 2 members of CCB and 1 member of CME) and the President-elect, a new Trustee and 1 member of CSAPH in contested elections.

At A-19, the Elections Committee helped elect 2/3 SED candidates, including the Speaker by acclamation and a member of CME. Our candidate for Vice Speaker was unsuccessful in a bitter race.

For A-20, the transition to a virtual HOD resulted in a change in the way the Elections Committee and interview committees functioned. The SED EC reacted by quickly learning how to host virtual meetings. All interviews were conducted online, and the EC was able to reach out to many other geographic and national medical specialty organizations using the Zoom platform. The Elections Committee was again successful in electing 2/3 SED candidates, including re-electing Trustee Dr. Willarda Edwards (MD) and a new Trustee, Dr. Ilse Levin (ASAM).

SOUTHEASTERN DELEGATION PAST CHAIRS

YEARS	NAME	STATE
1977 – 1979	Russell Fisher, MD	Maryland
1979 – 1981	James Davis, MD	North Carolina
1981 – 1983	Charles Miller, MD	Louisiana
1983 – 1985	Tucker Weston, MD	South Carolina
1985 - 1987	Leonard Wyle, MD	Virginia
1987 – 1989	Charlie Hollis, MD	Georgia
1989 – 1991	Julius Michaelson, MD	Alabama
1991 – 1993	Sidney Graves, MD	Mississippi
1993 – 1995	Frank Reynolds, MD	North Carolina
1995 – 1997	Don Barton, MD	Kentucky
1997 – 1999	Charles Caravati, MD	Virginia
1999 – 2001	Walter J. Roberts, Jr., MD	South Carolina
2001 – 2003	Allen Edmonson, MD	Tennessee
2003 – 2005	Don Mitchell, MD	Mississippi
Beginning in 2005, the term of office was changed from two years to one year		
2005 – 2006	Stephen Permut, MD, JD	Delaware
2006 – 2007	Burt Taylor, MD	Alabama
Beginning in 2007, the term of office was changed from one year to two years		
2007 -2009	Joseph Gutierrez, MD	District of Columbia
2009 – 2011	Joe Snyder, MD	Maryland
2011 – 2013	J. Chris Fleming, MD	Tennessee
2013 – 2015	Stephen Imbeau, MD	South Carolina

2015 – 2017	J. Gregory Cooper, MD	Kentucky
2017 – 2019	Bill Clark, MD	Georgia
2019 – 2021	Claudette E. Dalton, MD	Virginia

SOUTHEASTERN PRESIDENTS OF THE AMA

YEAR	NAME	STATE
1976 - 1977	Richard Palmer, MD	Virginia
1979 – 1980	Hoyt Gardner, MD	Kentucky
1985 - 1986	Harrison L. Rogers, Jr., MD	Georgia
1987 – 1988	William S. Hotchkiss, MD	Virginia
1988 - 1989	James E. Davis, MD	North Carolina
1996 - 1997	Daniel H. Johnson, Jr., MD	Louisiana
1997 - 1998	Percy Wootton, MD	Virginia
2000 - 2001	Randolph D. Smoak, Jr., MD	South Carolina
2002 - 2003	Yank D. Coble, Jr., MD	Florida
2003 - 2004	Donald J. Palmisano, MD	Louisiana
2005 - 2006	J. Edward Hill, MD	Mississippi
2010 – 2011	Cecil B. Wilson, MD	Florida
2011 - 2012	Peter W. Carmel, MD	New Jersey
2013 - 2014	Ardis Dee Hoven, MD	Kentucky
2014 - 2015	Robert M. Wah, MD	Virginia
2015 – 2016	Steven J. Stack, MD	Kentucky
2019 – 2020	Patrice A. Harris, MD	Georgia

SOUTHEASTERN SPEAKERS OF THE AMA HOD

YEAR	NAME	STATE
1981 - 1984	Harrison L. Rogers Jr., MD	Georgia
1984 - 1987	James E. Davis, MD	North Carolina
1991 - 1995	Daniel H. Johnson Jr., MD	Louisiana
2019	Bruce A. Scott, MD	Kentucky

SOUTHEASTERN CHAIRS OF AMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YEAR	NAME	STATE
1974	Richard Palmer, MD	Virginia
1985	William S. Hotchkiss, MD	Virginia
1992	Raymond Scalettar, MD	District of Columbia
1998	Randolph D. Smoak Jr., MD	South Carolina
1999	Donald "Ted" Lewers, MD	Maryland
2002	J. Edward Hill, MD	Mississippi
2006	Cecil B. Wilson, MD	Florida
2010	Ardis Dee Hoven, MD	Kentucky
2011	Robert M. Wah, MD	Virginia
2012	Steven J. Stack, MD	Kentucky
2015	Stephen R. Permut, MD, JD	Delaware
2016	Patrice A. Harris, MD	Georgia
2017	Gerald Harmon, MD	South Carolina
2019	Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH	Tennessee

HISTORIC RULES FOR SOUTHEASTERN COALITION IN AMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

(Adopted June 18, 1977)

I. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

A Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of delegates during a caucus at the annual session of the House and will take office at the next Clinical Session of the House. The term of office shall be two years with the Chairman eligible to serve no more than two consecutive terms. (Four Years)

II. Duties of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Chairman shall serve as official head of the delegation. He shall preside at all caucuses of the delegation. He shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements for meetings of the delegation.

The Chairman may appoint a Secretary to the Delegation from among the delegates, alternate delegates, or society executives to assist him with the above listed arrangements.

The Vice-Chairman shall serve as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

III. Caucuses

Other caucuses may be called by the Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, for interview of candidates and other business with consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of each State Delegation.

IV. Committees of the Delegation

The Chairman shall appoint committees such as may be necessary for the conduct of business. The term of such committees will not exceed one year.

V. Voting

AMA Delegates from the constituent states only may vote on motions made during a caucus. In the absence of a delegate, his alternate may vote, provided the Chairman has been notified of the substitution. All Alternate Delegates, society officers, and executives are invited and encouraged to participate in all discussions.

VI. Caucuses, Breakfast, and Luncheon Meetings

Attendance at caucuses, breakfast, and luncheon meetings shall be limited to Delegates, Alternate Delegates, society executives, and constitutional officers. Invitation to others to attend may be extended only through the Chairman.

The handling of hospitality functions at AMA Annual and Clinical Sessions will continue as it has been, i.e., each state will handle in alphabetical order.

Individual states in the coalition will make an effort to coordinate their hospitality functions with the Secretary to the Delegation, so as to avoid conflict with caucuses of the Southeastern Coalition as a whole.

NOTE: These original rules have since evolved and are embedded in the most current edition of the SED Operations Manual. At A-18, the SED Executive Committee was renamed the SED Board of Directors.

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