

Michael Fleming stepped down as Chair of FamMedPAC after making it the fastest growing Medical PAC in the country. The American Academy of Family Physician's Board of Directors has given me the privilege in following Michael as chair. FamMedPAC has moved Family Medicine advocacy to a whole new level in less than five years, but we still have more to do.

The American Academy's policy and advocacy strategies are determined by the Commission on Governmental Affairs (CGA) which has our own C.W. Ball as a member. The CGA receives and reviews input from the six other commissions as well as our excellent governmental staff in Washington DC. The commission will then make recommendations to the Academy's Board of Directors for final approval. Tennessee is also well represented there by Reid Blackwelder.

So why do we have a PAC. The PAC has placed the Academy's leadership at the tables which determine healthcare policy. Last year as Board Chair I spent many hours talking with member of the US Congress about family medicine. We went to the White House several times. Having a PAC does not take our 'White Hat' off, it allows us to share our concerns which affect members and more importantly our patients with members of congress.

I wish that all we had to do is take care of our patients each day in the exam room, but all of us realize that family medicine must be at the table in Washington as healthcare policy is decided by others. Michael Fleming has said and it is true, "if you are not at the table we will be on the menu". We are at the table because of FamMedPAC.

Tennessee has lead the nation in contribution since the beginning. It is obvious that we have earned the name, "Volunteer State", but last year we allowed Texas to pass us. I hope that with your help we can move back to the top in 2010.

I hope each of you see the importance of FamMedPAC and will contribute, it is easy all you have to do is go on line at:

<https://contribute.pacbuilder.com/contribution.aspx?X=2YkD5weXO8N6PiRL%2baBzdQ%3d%3d>

Please visit our web site to learn more about FamMedPAC www.fammedpac.org

Jim King MD
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