

Speakers' Letter



Physicians Caring for Texans



Arlo F. Weltge, MD
Speaker



Bradford W. Holland, MD
Vice Speaker

Jan. 3, 2020

Updated Feb. 7, 2020 (See updates in red)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Annual Session of the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates, May 1-2 at the Fort Worth Convention Center and the Omni Fort Worth Hotel. Make sure to visit www.texmed.org/TexMed to register for the TexMed 2020 conference. Advance registration for TexMed 2020 closes on April 27.

We are providing the following information to help you plan for the meeting. Check the [House of Delegates webpage](#) for ongoing updates to this Speakers' Letter. The Speakers' Letter will be updated with additional election information on Feb. 7. Following that date, the letter will be updated as information is received; check the website frequently. If you have questions about any of the following items, email hod@texmed.org.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES SCHEDULE

The House of Delegates will meet at its 2020 Annual Session on May 1-2 at the Fort Worth Convention Center and the Omni Fort Worth Hotel. The house will convene promptly at 8 am on Friday, May 1, in the Expo Hall, with reference committees to follow immediately after the house adjourns. Reference committee hearings will be conducted at the Convention Center, TBD. The house will reconvene promptly at 8:30 am on Saturday for elections, to act on reference committee reports, and to install the 2020-21 TMA and TMA Alliance presidents. Our goal is to finish business no later than noon on Saturday.

NEW: Online Testimony

After the *Handbook* is posted **March 27**, online testimony on reports and resolutions will be accepted for consideration by reference committees prior to TexMed. This testimony may be in lieu of in-person testimony at a reference committee hearing. Any member of TMA may submit testimony by logging into their [texmed.org account](#) and filling out the **online testimony form**. This form will be made available closer to March 27 – watch this space for updates in a future Speakers' Letter. Supportive information or testimony in the form of PDFs, Word Documents, Excel, and PowerPoint will be accepted as attachments. Online testimony will be accepted until **April 17**; late submissions after that date will be handled through a different process.

Handbook Distribution and Paper Copies

The *Handbook for Delegates* will be posted on the website by March 27. The *Supplement to the Handbook* will be posted April 10. When it is posted, the original *Handbook for Delegates* and the *Supplement to the Handbook* will be available separately along with a combined document that contains both the handbook and supplement. Should you want a hard copy of the handbook and supplement, email a request to hod@texmed.org and a copy will be mailed to you.

Resolution Deadline

Resolutions are due **Friday, Feb. 21**, for posting on the TMA website and publication in the *Handbook for Delegates*. Resolutions submitted past the deadline but received by April 1 will be included within the *Supplement to the Handbook*. Items received after this date are “late items,” and must include a plea of urgency from the author and receive a two-thirds affirmative vote by the House of Delegates at the opening session to be considered. Follow [these guidelines](#) for writing and submitting resolutions. TMA staff are available to help; please email hod@texmed.org.

TMA Policy Page

The [TMA Policy](#) page offers a searchable compendium of policies adopted by the house. Also included is a complete index of current and past TMA policy, as well as links to the TMA Audit Trail Library and current ethics opinions of the TMA Board of Councilors. The compendium is updated after each House of Delegates meeting; thus the current version includes all adopted policy through the 2019 Annual Session.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON REFERENCE COMMITTEES

If you are interested in serving on a reference committee or the Credentials Committee, please complete the online [Reference Committee Interest Form](#) by **Friday, Feb. 14**. We will send invitation letters to those selected to serve. Particular committee preferences will be taken into consideration when making appointments. The following committees will be appointed for the 2020 Annual Session:

- Reference Committee on Financial and Organizational Affairs,
- Reference Committee on Science and Public Health,
- Reference Committee on Medical Education and Quality,
- Reference Committee on Socioeconomics, and
- Credentials Committee.

Conflict of Interest Policy

We remind you to disclose any financial relationship with any enterprises and organizations being debated if the relationship might influence your testimony.

TMA’s Conflicts of Interest Policy is as follows: *295.011. Potential Conflicts of Interest, Disclosure of Affiliations, and Relationships with Business Entities*: The Texas Medical Association will foster exemplary relationships with all business entities in order to expedite better communications regarding quality, operations, global payment processes, transparency, and other issues unrelated to fees.

The TMA Board of Trustees and members of TMA standing councils will restate the policy of full disclosure of all financial remuneration from any business entity as that relationship could be considered a conflict of interest when these members represent the membership of the Texas Medical Association (Amended Res. 106-A-06; reaffirmed BOT Rep. 7-A-16).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Candidates and/or those who will nominate candidates should notify [House of Delegates staff](#) at TMA headquarters as soon as possible so that the names of candidates seeking election or reelection can be distributed to members of the house and county medical societies. It is house protocol to distribute the names of candidates seeking election or reelection to members of the house in advance of the meeting.

Candidate announcements received after **today, Feb. 7** will be posted online as they are received. Candidate materials received after this date, but before close of business on April 23, will be posted online and provided to the members of the house in advance of the meeting by publication in the *Handbook for Delegates, Supplement to the Handbook* or in the late items distributed at the house meeting.

ELECTIONS

Office	Incumbent	Eligible for Election	Term of Position	Candidates Announced as of Jan. 3
OFFICERS				
President-Elect	Diana L. Fite	No	2020-21	E. Linda Villarreal Hidalgo-Starr
Speaker, House of Delegates	Arlo F. Weltge	Yes	2020-21	Arlo F. Weltge Harris
Vice Speaker, House of Delegates	Bradford W. Holland	Yes	2020-21	Bradford W. Holland McLennan
Secretary/Treasurer	Michelle A. Berger	Yes	2020-2023	Michelle A. Berger Travis
Three Trustees*	G. Ray Callas Gary W. Floyd E. Linda Villarreal	Yes Yes Yes	2020-23	G. Ray Callas Jefferson John T. Carlo Dallas Gary W. Floyd Tarrant Kimberly E. Monday Harris E. Linda Villarreal Hidalgo-Starr
Board of Trustees Young Physician Member	Lindsay K. Botsford	No	2020-2022	M. Brett Cooper Dallas Joseph Maxwell Hendrix Dallas Melanie M. Vettimattam Tarrant
COUNCILORS				
District 1	Gilbert A. Handal	No	2020-21	Gilbert A. Handal
District 4	Stuart L. Abramson	Yes	2020-23	Stuart L. Abramson
District 7	James Eskew	Yes	2020-23	James Eskew
District 8	Kevin McKinney	No	2020-23	David Nickeson
District 9	Michael A. Altman	No	2020-23	Steven M. Petak
District 10	Kyle G. Krohn	Yes	2020-23	Kyle G. Krohn
District 13	Jed Grisel	Yes	2020-23	Jed Grisel
District 14	Edward W. Tuthill	Yes	2020-23	Edward W. Tuthill
VICE COUNCILORS**				
District 1	Elaine M. Barron	No	2020-21	Angel M. Rios, MD
District 4	Vacant	–	2020-23	
District 7	Jeffrey M. Apple	Yes	2020-23	Jeffrey M. Apple
District 8	David Nickeson	No	2020-23	
District 9	Steven M. Petak	No	2020-23	Ana L. Leech
District 10	David D. Vineyard	Yes	2020-23	David D. Vineyard
District 13	Chad White	Yes	2020-23	Chad White
District 14	Victor L. Vines	No	2020-23	Steven R. Hays
TEXAS DELEGATION TO THE AMA				
Delegate	Larry E. Reaves	No	2021-22	Gregory M. Fuller
Delegate	David C. Fleeger	No	2021-22	Cynthia A. Jumper
Delegate	William H. Fleming III	Yes	2021-22	William H. Fleming III
Delegate	Asa C. Lockhart	Yes	2021-22	Asa C. Lockhart
Delegate	Kenneth L Mattox	Yes	2021-22	Kenneth L Mattox
Delegate	Kevin Hood McKinney	Yes	2021-22	Kevin Hood McKinney

Delegate	E. Linda Villarreal	Yes	2021-22	E. Linda Villarreal
Delegate	Leslie H. Secrest	Yes	2021-22	Leslie H. Secrest
Delegate	Michelle A. Berger	Yes	2021-22	Michelle A. Berger
Delegate	Brad. G. Butler	Yes	2021-22	Roxanne M Tyroch
Delegate	Arlo F. Weltge	Yes	2021-22	John G. Flores
Delegate	G. Ray Callas	Yes	2021-22	G. Ray Callas
Alternate Delegate	Elizabeth Torres	Yes	2021-22	Elizabeth Torres
Three Alternate Delegates	Laura Faye Gephart*** Vacant Vacant	—	2021-22	Shanna Combs Eddie L. Patton Jr. Jim Walton Yasser Zeid
Alternate Delegate	Theresa Phan****	Yes	2020-21	Theresa Phan
Alternate Delegate	Faith C. Mason****	Yes	2020-21	Faith C. Mason

**Trustee positions are “at large,” not slotted. TMA Bylaws provide that all nominees for trustee will be listed on a single ballot. If Dr. Villarreal is elected president-elect there will be a vacancy for an at-large trustee.*

***As provided in TMA Bylaws, nominations for vice councilor positions are determined by district elections and confirmed by the House of Delegates. Should you have a nomination for vice councilor, please notify Ann Arnett, assistant to the Board of Councilors, at ann.arnett@texmed.org.*

****Dr. Gephart is moving out of state; this position will be vacant at TexMed 2020.*

*****Nominations are made by the Resident and Fellow Section and Medical Student Section.*

MEETING DETAILS AND REMINDERS

Housing

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors, the Omni Fort Worth Hotel and Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel, a portion of your room rate will be used to offset TexMed educational costs, ensuring that TexMed remains a free member benefit!

Omni Fort Worth Hotel

1300 Houston St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(800)-THE-OMNI (843-6664)
Group Room Rate: \$210 per night, plus applicable taxes
[Book your reservation online now.](#)

Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel

1701 Commerce St
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 335-7000
Group Room Rate: \$179 per night, plus applicable taxes
[Book your reservation online now.](#)

For more information on housing, parking and things to do in the Fort Worth area, please visit <https://www.texmed.org/TexMedHousing/>.

What to Do When

Most House of Delegates members are familiar with the “[What to Do When](#)” page, always the first page of the *Handbook for Delegates*. This page lists meetings of the house, reference committee locations, caucus meetings and locations, registration hours, and reports room location, among a few other meetings and events. The “What

to Do When” page also is posted as a separate document on the [House of Delegates webpage](#) for easy access. Watch for updates to that page on the website.