

BOG VIEWPOINT

How Does the BOG Work?

In the December 1999 issue of the *Bulletin* (page 21), I began an educational series on the BOG and its role. My last column addressed the question, "What is the BOG?" This month, I will discuss how the BOG functions.

The governing document of the BOG is its Rules and Regulations. The Rules outline the mission of the BOG and how it operates. This document is constantly reviewed and revised to reflect the current needs of the membership. Each member of the BOG should have a copy; if you do not, contact Cecilia Sepp at 703-519-1564 or e-mail csepp@entnet.org and ask for the most recent edition check the BOG page on the AAO-HNS Web site at www.entnet.org.

The BOG is made up of 102 member societies from across the country. Any local, state, or national otolaryngology society can apply for membership. An important, sometimes overlooked, distinction is that **the society is the member**, not the representatives who serve on the BOG. By joining the BOG, the otolaryngology-head and neck surgery societies obtain representation for their constituent members to the national organization.

Representatives

As part of their BOG membership, each society receives one vote and can send up to three representatives to serve on the BOG. These three positions are Governor, Legislative Representative, and Public Relations Representative. Distinct roles and responsibilities accompany each of these positions.

The Governor is responsible for reporting information from the Academy to the members of the society, communicating concerns and ideas from the society to the Academy through the BOG, and coordinating efforts locally with his/her other representatives.

The Legislative Representative participates as part of the State Legislative Network, monitoring legislation locally and sharing this information with his/ her society and other BOG members.

The Public Relations Representative assists the society and the BOG in communicating news about the specialty and the Academy to the community, specifically through the ENT Outreach Initiatives program.

Committees

In order to fulfill the important responsibility of representing otolaryngologists across the United States, the BOG established committees to handle specific projects and issues.

The Executive Committee is composed of four officers and the chairs of the five standing committees. Beginning in September, a Member-at-Large will be added to the Executive Committee. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee include advocating for the BOG membership, making recommendations to the BOG, coordinating activities between the BOG and the Academy Board of Directors, and acting on behalf of the BOG between the two yearly meetings.

The Carrier Relations Committee monitors the practices of third party payers and any reimbursement issues that may arise, and assists the membership in this area of constant change.

The Legislative Representatives Committee defines and coordinates the role of the Legislative Representatives in Academy initiatives, specifically regarding state legislative initiatives through the State Legislative Network and State Legislative Contacts. The chair sits on the Academy Health Policy Commission.

The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for BOG offices. Nominees are elected by the BOG at the Fall meeting.

30 visit us at www.entnet.org

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