

May 27, 2021

On Sunday, March 7, the Indiana State Medical Association Board of Trustees (Board) decided to conduct the 2021 annual convention virtually rather than at an Indianapolis area-hotel. Although COVID-19 vaccinations mean some pandemic restrictions are easing, it was not possible to determine that far in advance whether convention could be safely or comfortably held in person in the fall, or the restrictions to which it would be subjected. In making this decision, the Board once again considered the health and safety of members, their families and their patients.

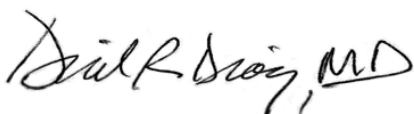
The Board is mindful of the critical role our association plays in setting health care policy for the state, and thus the important function our House of Delegates serves. The Board was unequivocally resolved that members should be allowed to submit resolutions this year and that the association should resume its policy making role this year after last year's hiatus due to the pandemic. Board members recognized that conducting the House of Delegates meeting virtually could enable a greater number of members to participate in our policy making process and that we could leverage new technologies that we would have never considered using just a few short years ago. So, we are expanding – essentially doubling - opportunities to review and comment virtually on resolutions informally before convention. This may also help minimize the changes needed during the “live” House of Delegates where parliamentary procedure will be more complicated in a virtual environment. More details about the resolution review process will be shared soon.

We strongly encourage members to submit their resolutions by the July 12 deadline so they can go through this new and expanded feedback process this year. We also urge counties to finalize their delegates as far in advance as possible to maximize training opportunities and minimize credentialing challenges posed by the virtual format.

Our annual meeting is also a time to celebrate our leaders who have selflessly (and uniquely) served our association over the past year. While there will be no President's Night dinner again this year in our virtual format, we will thank them for their service and welcome the next group of leaders who will stand on their shoulders.

Since the March Board meeting, your Board and the Speaker and Vice Speaker have been working with the ISMA staff team to design the entire 2021 virtual annual convention, which will take place Sept. 10-12. This year, we will bring back an old tradition and open the House of Delegates on Friday evening. This will preserve as much time as possible on Saturday for the important work of our reference committees, including this year's sunset resolutions and the sunset resolutions we temporarily carried over from last year. On Sunday, our House of Delegates will reconvene to elect our new leaders and vote on policies.

Additional information will be provided as more details become available. It is our goal to keep you informed with as much notice as possible.



David R. Diaz, MD
Chair, ISMA Board of Trustees



Andrew Trobridge, MD
Speaker, ISMA House of Delegates