

Executive Vice President’s Report – Ragan LeBlanc

I would like to begin by thanking you, our dedicated, resourceful and never without good cheer family physicians who always concentrate your leadership decisions based on what is best for the patients of Louisiana! It is my honor and privilege to work with the membership and staff of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. It is my pleasure to work alongside some of the brightest colleagues that keep up your chapter’s momentum and moving forward.

The past year has been a busy year for the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. My colleagues and I work tirelessly to provide cutting edge education, practice management support and advocacy for family medicine and your patients.

Your LAFP office is located in Baton Rouge and our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Please know that we are always on the “other side” of the phone and we hope you will utilize us as a member benefit. We hope you feel connected to your professional association and are comfortable reaching out to staff so we can be of service to you.

Staff

There are currently four of us who work in your headquarters offices. I would like to extend my thanks to your staff who work tirelessly and cheerfully on your behalf:

Lee Ann Albert - Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Lisa Lapeyrouse – Marketing and Events Coordinator

Mallory Mack – Foundation Coordinator

We also have contracted with Sherry Buffington as the contract lobbyist for LAFP.

Membership

The following chart presents changes in our membership by category between December 2024 and December 2025:

Member Type	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Difference
Active	937	903	-3.6%
Inactive	5	3	-40.0%
Life	115	137	19.1%
Resident	210	229	9.0%
Student	587	497	-15.3%
Supporting	6	3	-50.0%
Transitional	0	0	0.0%
Total	1,860	1,772	-4.8%

LAFP active membership is down 34 members between December 2024 and December 2025—a 3.6% decrease. AAFP saw a 2.3% decrease in active membership during this same time period.

Finances

A report for 2025 from our auditor, Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher, LLP, CPAs, will be provided in a separate report to the membership later in the Fall.

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Advocacy

Our Advocacy efforts continue to produce results and serve the interests of members and their patients. We have remained actively engaged in aggressive advocacy across a wide spectrum of policy issues. We have worked closely in conjunction with other medical societies in joint advocacy on matters of general concern to the medical community.

On Monday, June 1, 2026, the Regular Legislative Session adjourned sine die. Our legislative committee met before and during the session to set priorities and define specific positions on bills that we were following. We worked effectively on issues with other organizations, both healthcare and non-healthcare, and communicated with the Louisiana State Medical Society, LA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Medicine Louisiana on several bills. The committee met on several occasions and asked for opinions and guidance by email when needed when emergent issues arose.

A huge thank you to the many physicians who joined us at the Capitol to testify for and against legislation. While there, they often served as volunteers for the First Aid Station, too! We hope to have many of you join us again and encourage those of you with an interest to reach out for opportunities that help you stay involved. As this session comes to a close, it's not too early to start looking at legislation for next year. If you have suggestions you would like to have considered, please submit those ideas to Ragan LeBlanc at rleblanc@lafp.org.

Legislative Reception

On the evening of Monday, March 30th the LAFP in partnership with the Physician Coalition of Louisiana hosted a very successful legislative reception at the Pentagon Barracks in Baton Rouge for physician leaders and legislators. A special thanks to Rep. Brian Leonard Glorioso, Rep. Aimee Freeman, Rep. Jeremy Lacombe, Senator Jeremy Stine, Senator Mike Reese, Senator Thomas Pressly, Senator Mark Abraham, Senator Brach Myers, Senator Cameron Henry and Senator Blake Miguez for taking the time to meet with our members.

White Coat Wednesday

The Physician Coalition of Louisiana invited our members to the Louisiana State Capitol for a Day of Advocacy on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Attendees kicked the morning off with breakfast and registration at the Pentagon Barracks before heading to the Capitol to meet with legislators.

THANK YOU to the great group of over 100 physicians, residents and medical students who joined us at the Capitol for White Coat Wednesday! Those attending had the opportunity to attend committee meetings and visit with their legislators. We were pleased to expand the event by offering some additional opportunities and joining forces with some of our specialty society groups.

Individual Involvement – Family Physician of the Day

I want to express my gratitude to the members of the legislative committee for their time, advice, and expertise. It was a very active and involved group this year. Thanks also to those LAFP members who volunteered time as Family Physician of the Day, which had the highest number of member participants in our tenure at that facility. There is no way to overstate the value this program brings to our Academy, and to the House of Medicine in general, in terms of our profile, our reputation, and our mission. The time those members give when leaving their practices, on behalf to our colleagues and our profession, is precious and is appreciated as such. Legislators and Capitol staff continue to provide feedback on how much they appreciate our presence through the Family Physician of the Day program.

LAFP also extends warm thanks and appreciation to our nursing staff at the Capitol, Elaine Lebas, RN and Lee Ann Albert, RN, who are there every day whether or not a doctor comes in.

Our advocacy efforts on behalf of our members and their patients continue to grow more coordinated across government affairs, public relations, and the private sector. The work we do would not be possible without the work of

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the dedicated physician leaders who give of their time for everything from attending board and committee meetings (and even this General Assembly) to sitting for what often seems like endless hours in the Capitol waiting to provide testimony before legislators. It would also not be possible without the talents of a professional staff second to none in LAFP family. The LAFP is strong because of you and poised to grow even stronger, and a strong LAFP will ultimately be a driving force in changing the primary care practice environment in our state to one that produces the physicians we need today and tomorrow, and retains those physicians throughout their long, prosperous, and happy careers.

Education

We continue to produce excellent educational programs under the leadership of our Education Committee. The Committee has also been active in discussing possible CME topics, abstracts received from prospective speakers, and other issues relevant to the educational agenda for the Academy.

(1) The Education Committee was fundamental in the planning of the following activities for 2025 and 2026:

- E. Edward Martin, Jr., MD, MS Memorial Area Family Medicine Grand Rounds were held in-person on the following dates:
 - **August 13, 2025** - “Hyperthyroidism and Prevention of Thyrocardiotoxic Embolic Syndrome” presented by Mary Payton Grimmett, DO, PGY2 and Jay Haynes, MD, MSc, FAAFP - St. Tammany Family Medicine Residency
 - **August 28, 2025** - “Red Flags and Red Cells: Severe Anemia with a Surprise Culprit” presented by Madelyn Lavergne, MD, PGY-3 - Lafayette Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **October 23, 2025** - “A Curious Case of Failing Nerves and Silent Bleeds” presented by Earl J. Soileau, MD, Clinical Instructor and Zachary Lazaridis, DO, PGY-1 - Lake Charles Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **November 19, 2025** - “Dialing Back the Risk: Updates in CKD (chronic kidney disease) Evaluation & Delaying Progression” presented by Harkirat Kaur, MD, PGY1 – Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **November 20, 2025** - “Encountering Patients with Complex Needs” presented by Dorian Joye O'Sullivan MD/MPH, PGY1 and Coleman Pratt MD, Program Director - DePaul Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **March 25, 2026** – “A Pain in the Leg: When We Get It Wrong” presented by Caila Knighton, MD - East Jefferson Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **March 26, 2026** - “Beyond the Headache: A Case of Ocular Migraine” presented by Natalie Touchet, MD - Lafayette Family Medicine Residency Program
 - **April 16, 2026** - “Emergency BOGO” presented by Bradley Loewer, MD & Stacy Mitchell, DO - Lake Charles Family Medicine Residency Program
- 78th Annual Assembly and Exhibition, July 24 - 27, 2025
- 2026 Match Preparation Series – Session 1 – August 12, 2025 – “Preparing for Residency” and Session 2 - September 24, 2025 – “Interviewing at Residency Programs” presented by Richard Streiffer, MD, Lisa Casey, MD, Amar Hussan, MD and Lindsay Liles, MD, FAAFP
- North Louisiana Regional Procedural Workshop - LSU Health Shreveport – September 11, 2025
- South Louisiana Regional Student Workshop – March 11, 2026
- The LAFP Monthly Webinar Series:
 - **August 26, 2025** – “Hepatitis B in the US: Disease Burden, Prevention, and the Goal of Elimination” presented by Charles Gomes, PhD
 - **September 23, 2025** – “Wound Care and Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment: Clearing the Air on Some Common Misconceptions” presented by Cheryl Hickey, MD, PMP
 - **October 21, 2025** – “Heart Failure and the Latest Guidelines” presented by Megan Castillo, DO, PGY-2, and JJ Westmoreland, MD, PhD
 - **November 20, 2025** – “An Overview of Vascular Disease in Primary Care” presented by Kabiul Haque, MD, MPH, MBA

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- **December 11, 2025** - “Pulmonary Year End Review – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” presented by G Fidencio Davalos, MD
- **February 24, 2026** - “Neck & Back Pain with Radiculopathy: Evaluation & Treatment for Family Physicians” presented by Vincent Shaw, MD, FAAFP
- **March 31, 2026**- “Caring for Teens in a Turbulent Time: Practical Screening and Immediate Steps” presented Reuben Battley MD, FAAP
- **April 14, 2026** – “Around the Horn on Obesity Management: Identifying Real World Solutions to Long-Term Challenges” presented by Deborah B. Horn, DO, MPH, FOMA, Erin D. Michos, MD, MHS, Javier Morales, MD, FACP, FACE and Deepa Sannidhi, MD, DipABLM, DipABOM, FACLM
- **April 30, 2026** - “Obesity in 2026” presented by Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP
- **May 28, 2026** - “Recognizing and Preventing Social Engineering in Health Care” presented by Ravi Bakshi, MS, CISSP - TMF Health Quality Institute
- **June 23, 2026** - “Immunizations: Updates in Recommendations, Options and Communication Practices Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy” presented by Laura Rachal, MD

(2) The Committee reviewed titles and speakers for the Annual Assembly CME program.

(3) The Committee has also begun the discussion for possible speakers for the 2027 Annual Convention. In addition, the Committee also discussed potential topics and relevant workshops and training to offer for students, residents, and new physicians.

Communications

Our quarterly journal, *The Louisiana Family Doctor, A Journal of the LAFP*, continues to receive very positive support from readers and advertisers. Our editorial board, comprised of Dr. Michael Williams, Dr. Vincent Shaw, Dr. Danette Null, Dr. Lindsay Liles, and Dr. Zachary Pray Education Committee Chair, have produced consistently high-quality issues.

Our weekly electronic newsletter, *LAFP Weekly Family Medicine Update*, is our principal vehicle for communicating current and breaking news. This newsletter is sent out every Tuesday to all LAFP members. Our staff has been excellent at maintaining our social media presence with regular meaningful and promotional content with our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. If you have not liked our Facebook or LinkedIn page or do not follow us on Twitter, I encourage you to do so.

Website/Social Media

We are continuing to improve the LAFP website. The staff continues to develop enhancements to gain greater attention to the website so that it may remain up to date and prove useful for members, residents and students.

The Career Center –FP Jobs Online with Job Target has been in place for five years. It provides for broader reach and more royalty income. The use of this site remains suboptimal, however. Discussions regarding the possible optimization of this site occurred but no formal process has been decided on at this time.

Our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lafamphysicians, has over 864 followers. Posts relevant to health care in Louisiana and nationally are made several times a week by LAFP staff. Membership welcomes comments and suggestions from members and prospective members in this forum.

We continue our [@lafp_familydocs](https://twitter.com/lafp_familydocs) X(twitter) handle, with nearly 422 followers, including key AAFP leadership as well as Family Medicine publications and organizations interested in keeping an eye on what LAFP has to say. Members are encouraged to contribute using our handle [@lafp_familydocs](https://twitter.com/lafp_familydocs) or hash tag [#lafp_familydocs](https://twitter.com/lafp_familydocs).

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Leadership

We have continued to support delegates to the Southeastern Family Medicine Conference, the Annual Chapter Leader Forum (ACLF), the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) and the National Conferences of Resident and Student Members. These important regional and national conferences are consistent sources of leadership development for Academy members.

Resident & Student Activities

We have continued to support resident and student activities within the Academy. Our primary commitment has been financial subsidies for our resident and student members to attend LAFP and AAFP meetings. We also encourage resident and student members to serve on our committees and to participate in our Assembly.

Governance

Our committee structure continues to provide an effective and efficient vehicle for member involvement in directing the affairs of the Academy. More than 70 members served on committees this past year. Our committees dealt with a broad range of issues and concerns on behalf of members and were expertly managed by our team of volunteer chairs and professional staff. I appreciate the efforts of those individuals and would like to acknowledge them here:

Committee	Chair	Staff
Nominations	Jody George, MD	Ragan LeBlanc
Operations	Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP	Ragan LeBlanc
Legislation and Advocacy	Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP	Ragan LeBlanc
Membership	Jody George, MD	Ragan LeBlanc/Lee Ann Albert
Education	Zachary Pray, MD	Ragan LeBlanc
Resident and Student Leadership	Resident and Student Leaders	Ragan LeBlanc/Lee Ann Albert

I confer regularly with the president, president-elect and vice president to keep our leadership team apprised of developments that may require policy decisions. These communications also afford the opportunity for me to obtain membership perspective on issues and opportunities as they may occur.

Conclusion

I greatly appreciate the leadership and commitment of the LAFP Board of Directors and the members on the LAFP Committees. They all are volunteers and work hard on your behalf.

Change remains a constant factor in health care and in medicine. I have observed, with increasing concern, the impact which this is having on Academy members. The dreams and aspirations which so many members had upon making the decision to become a physician and then deciding to specialize in family medicine, have been severely strained by developments in insurance, regulation and technology which have dramatically altered the practice environment and the physician-patient relationship. We have been fortunate to have leaders who have been undeterred by the stress and persistence of change. Each time we are confronted with some new policy, program or practice our leadership has marshalled the fortitude and creativity to respond. In this regard, our members are very well served by the men and women who share their commitment to Family Medicine and their concern for the patients they serve and the profession they have chosen.

We have been successful in producing quality programs with professionalism and efficiency. It is my pleasure to work with an outstanding leadership and staff and I deeply appreciate that opportunity.

So as always, I will take this annual opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve alongside each of you over the years. It has been my pleasure to serve the Board and the membership. I remain passionate in my advocacy on your

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behalf, determined in my persistence to see a brighter future for family physicians in Louisiana, the LAFP and the members we serve. I am looking forward to the future!

Sincerely,
Ragan LeBlanc
Executive Vice President

Recommendations: None