

Dear region chairs,

It smells like spring on a 70 degree day even here in New Hampshire where I was quite literally skiing in a foot of new snow just two weeks ago. But with the spring holidays and school breaks complete, things are in full swing to begin our annual meeting in San Francisco in less than two weeks.

This update includes:

1. The region chair lunch at PAS
2. Board member visits to the breakfasts about the new APA strategic plan
3. Nominations for the APA Board
4. APA membership meeting at PAS

1. At PAS, we invite all the region chairs to the Monday region chair lunch. This is a way to thank you for your service to the APA, but also to share perspectives. As you should already know, we will be meeting from noon to 1:30 on Monday in the Yerba Buena 1 room at the Marriott. Those of you completing a term are welcome, as are the new incoming region chairs, for whom this first lunch is a terrific way for others to get to know them. If you have a new co-chair in your region, please reach out and let him or her know about the lunch, and that it is especially important to attend in one's first year.

At lunch, we will have a visit from our APA president Dr. Mary Ottolini, and from Dr. Judy Shaw, the APA secretary who is our liaison to the PAS for meeting planning-- she sits on the program committee. Some issues were raised on the last region chair phone meeting about the link between PAS and region meeting submissions, so we will be certain to address that and try to make this go more smoothly next year. We will also be reviewing the membership survey conducted last fall, so that you will know what members would like to see more of in region activities. I will facilitate this part along with Dr. Tumaini Coker, membership chair. We hope to discuss region meeting planning and its support from the central APA office, as well as successful networking activities at your region meetings, or new or tried and true networking from that morning's region breakfast.

One final topic for lunch is to solicit your input on how to create a more formal structure for school/children's hospital representatives to assist you as region chairs. Some regions have done this very successfully, and it would be a productive way to attain member engagement-- and to help you in your roles as region chairs in numerous ways.

2. Members of the Board will also be visiting all of the region breakfasts on Monday morning to discuss the new APA strategic plan. Please leave 15 minutes in your meeting time for this discussion. Hard copy handouts will be delivered to all the region breakfast rooms. To familiarize yourself ahead of time, please see this link: http://www.academicped.org/aboutUs/strategic_plan.cfm

3. This year the call for nominations for new Board positions has been announced, but is open until after the PAS meeting. These are due on May 15th. So, please use the time at PAS to find out more about being on the board if you are interested, or to encourage or nominate colleagues to run for these positions. Nominations are open for President-elect, Workshop Chair, Research Committee Chair, and 2 nominating committee positions. Please see [Call for nominations: http://www.academicpeds.org/index.cfm](http://www.academicpeds.org/index.cfm) for more details.

4. Please also plan to attend the membership meeting, which will have a completely new format this year. There will be table specifically for your regions at the membership meeting on Sunday, May 7th, from 3:45 to 5:45.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,

Alison Volpe Holmes, MD, MPH

APA Chair of Regions and SIGs

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