

SONPM Update – AAP Committees

Dear Section Members,

I'm writing to tell you about another prime opportunity to influence the practice of pediatrics on a national level—by serving on an AAP Committee.

In addition to the grass roots organization of the AAP membership through local chapters, our organization is organized into special interest groups: committees, sections and councils. One way to have widespread influence in your pediatric area of interest is to serve on a national AAP **committee**. There are currently 23 committees, running from the Committee on Adolescence to the Committee on Substance Use and Prevention. Committees actively engage in the development of Statements, Technical Reports and Manuals. They have an important voice in liaison to relevant Sections, Councils and other professional organizations, and are very influential in setting the standards of practice.

The committee most directly relevant to the practice of neonatology is the **COFN (Committee on Fetus and Newborn)**. Others that have an impact on our practice include COID (Infectious Disease), COB (Bioethics), COD (Drugs), COCN (Coding and Nomenclature), CON (Nutrition), COPR (Pediatric Research), and the COSUP (Substance Use & Prevention). Neonatologists have also served on COCHF (Child Health Finance), COPW (Pediatric Workforce). Some districts (like District VIII in the west) have neonatal interests in CONACH (Native American Child Health).

Detailed information about all of the committees can be found here:

<https://services.aap.org/en/community/aap-committees/>

Each committee has different responsibilities for meetings and other activities. Some involve quite a bit of writing, with proportionate recognition. Some even do site visits. You can find information about current member rosters, history, mission statements, as well as links to policy statements and other work of the committee on each page.

On this page: <https://collaborate.aap.org/Lead/Pages/CommitteesCouncilsSections.aspx> you can find a list of current committee vacancies, along with instructions on how to put together a nomination packet. There are now vacancies on 16 committees:

- Committee on Adolescence (2)
- Committee on Bioethics
- Committee on Development (2)
- Committee on Drugs
- Committee on Federal Government Affairs
- Committee on Fetus and Newborn (2)
- Committee on Hospital Care (2)
- Committee on Infectious Diseases (4)
- Committee on Medical Liability and Risk Management (3)
- Committee on Native American Child Health
- Committee on Nutrition

- Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine (3)
- Committee on Pediatric Workforce
- Committee on Practice & Ambulatory Medicine
- Committee on Substance Use and Prevention (2)
- Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee (2)

Applications are due **February 19th** for terms beginning July 1st. The process requires the following 4 components:

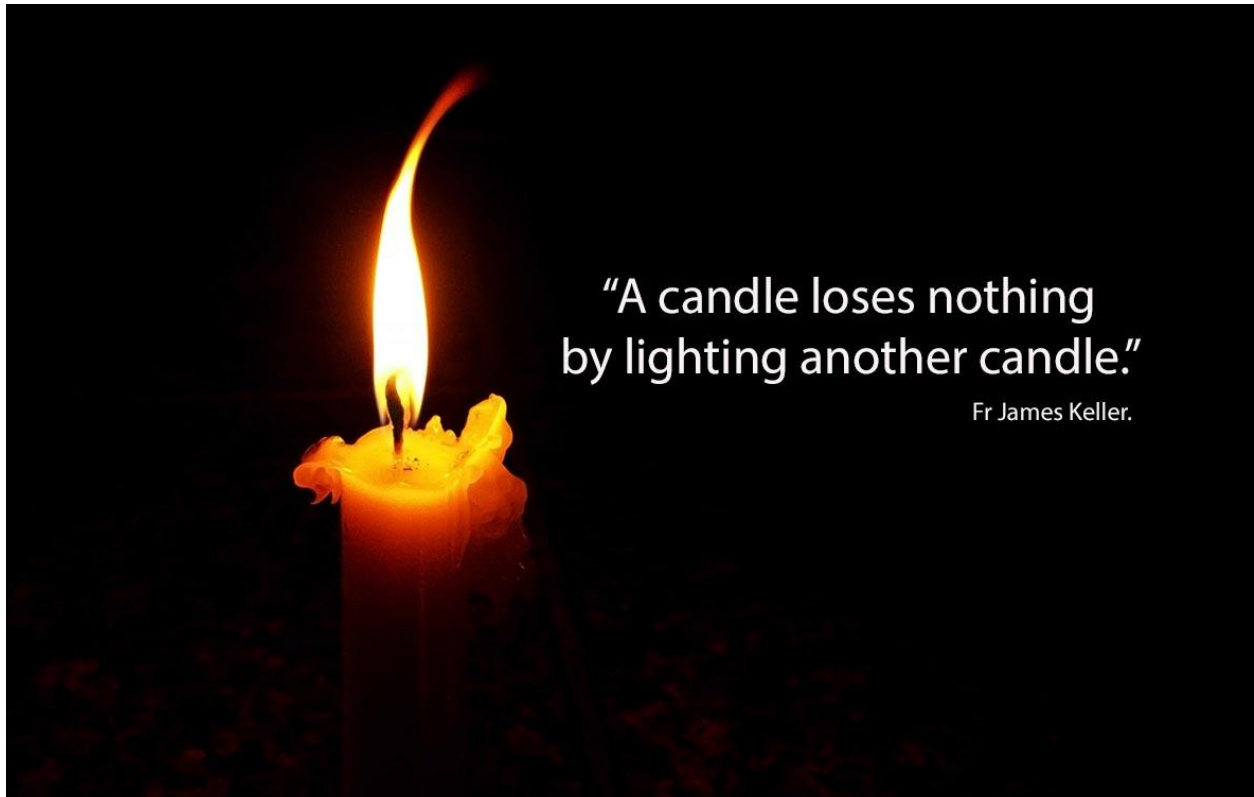
1. A **letter of nomination** – must contain the word “nominate” and must come from an AAP fellow, or a fellow may self-nominate*
2. A completed candidate **Fact Sheet**
3. A completed **Biographical Summary**
4. A **letter of support** – or *2 letters, if the candidate self-nominates

Materials should be submitted in duplicate to the AAP Nominations Team (nominations@aap.org) and to your local AAP Chapter president. Selection of new committee members is made by the AAP Board of Directors, with input from the Committee Chairs. The Board is comprised largely of the 10 District Chairs, so I highly recommend working with your local chapter leadership and/or your district leadership to apply—letters of recommendation from your chapter or district leaders are quite valuable. We can also provide a letter of support from the SONPM leadership. Note that committees serve as the state-of-the-art panels in their fields, so they are sometimes looking for individuals with specific areas of expertise. They may also desire diversity in geographic representation, gender or other features. It is actually quite common that members are not accepted the first time they apply but are successful in subsequent attempts.

Committee chairperson openings are filled through a similar but separate nomination process. Nominations for these opportunities are generally accepted through the preceding November, for chair terms beginning July 1st of the following year.

Neonatologist service on AAP committees is one great way to contribute and to assure that our subspecialty is well represented and valued by the Academy, our professional home. Please let us know if you are interested in engaging in this pathway—even if you do not need our assistance. If help or cheerleading would be welcome, we are at your service. Please contact me or Beena Sood (executive committee rep from District V: bsood@med.wayne.edu), for committee application guidance from any district.

Thank you for considering this opportunity, and for all the work you do every day.



“A candle loses nothing
by lighting another candle.”

Fr James Keller.

Best regards,
Lily

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