



Highlights of the January 14, 2011 Meeting of Council

The first Council meeting of 2011 was held on January 14th. Council members Brent Stewart, Bob Fenner, Cari Evenson-Carleton, Derek Dagenais, Karen Todd and Jamie Struthers attended the meeting. Highlights follow.

Annual General Meeting

Council was reminded that the AGM was scheduled for April 8, 2011 in Moose Jaw. Results of a SCoP survey of members suggested that the majority of members would support an educational session in the morning before the AGM. The most popular topic in the survey was a presentation by the Coroner's Office. As such, SCoP will approach the Coroner's office about presenting at the AGM.

Council was advised that, to date, no resolutions from the membership had been received.

Nominations

Council approved the appointment of Cari Evenson-Carleton as interim chair of the Registration Committee as Steve Winik had submitted his resignation from Council and the Registration Committee.

Registration Renewal and Fees

Council was advised that as of January 6, 2011, 1826 members were licensed for 2011 with 1770 having practicing licenses. There were a number of restricted licenses issued for 2011 as members had not provided the required documentation for training. Concern was raised about the amount of time required by SCoP to manage the high number of restricted licenses that had to be issued for 2011.

Council also approved policy to reflect the current practice of waiving the fee for a restricted license for members who have submitted all documentation for license renewal except one or more mandatory certifications and who provide evidence that they have completed the certification course(s) but have not yet received their cards.

In response to the request from the Fire Chiefs at the September Council meeting and upon the recommendations from the Audit and Registration Committees, prorating of fees was referred to the Legislation and Bylaws Committee to prepare a resolution for the 2011 AGM. Further information was provided to Council that suggested that other regulators rarely prorate fees. After discussion, it was confirmed that the Legislation and Bylaws Committee is to prepare a resolution for the 2011 AGM that would recommend reducing the fees in each of the last two quarters of the year (the

current policy provides for a 40% reduction on October 1st; the proposal would add a 20% reduction on July 1st) as determined at the October Council meeting.

Continuing Medical Education

Council approved the recommendation from the Education Committee that the CME approval for courses/topics be good for two years providing no changes have occurred to the approved courses or topics. That will result in an expiry date of December 31, 2012 for all CME courses approved for 2011.

Council also approved the recommendation that a member would receive credits for delivering a CME session at his license level or higher. The credit will be applicable for each CME course but not for each session taught. This will allow instructors to receive CME credits for courses that they are delivering if it is being taught at a high enough level.

Licensing Exams

As approved at the last Council meeting, work has begun on the preparation of an EMR exam. A sub-committee of the Registration Committee has been established and is being chaired by Connie Wilson. The volunteers who came forward through the e-survey on exams were asked to participate in this sub-committee.

Scope of Practice and Protocols

Council reviewed the issue of scope of practice and protocols for paramedics working in facilities and on air ambulances. Council approved the preparation of a new bylaw that is being developed that would allow Council to declare specialized categories of practice that would include facilities and air ambulance. The bylaw is meant to be a temporary solution with the goal to develop and approve proper protocols. The Education Committee has set up a sub-committee to review the education of air ambulance paramedics and will follow at a later date with in facility paramedics. The Executive Committee was given the task of addressing any issues that come up regarding the bylaw so that it can be addressed quickly.

Council also discussed the receipt of a letter from the College of Physicians and Surgeons asking about what point of care testing is being provided by our paramedic members. Specifically, they wanted information on troponin testing and drug testing being done by our members. A meeting with the executive of SEMSA will be set up to see what information can be obtained and SCoP will investigate how we can get information on drug testing on work sites from members in the industrial sector.

Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) Update

Council was advised that SCoP has assumed the bookkeeping for COPR as Derek Dagenais is now their treasurer. There are limited provinces or territories that can fulfill the role of treasurer as government run organizations cannot process third party payments and as such, Saskatchewan

volunteered to step into that role. The value that we gain from other COPR members is extremely important to SCoP and suggests that it is worth our time to step into this COPR role.

COPR is currently working on its website and a Charter and it is hoped that its website will be available shortly. They have also hired an external consultant to work on a national exam which they hope to have completed and be piloting this fall. Saskatchewan will participate in the development of the national exam.

College Employees

Council was informed that two SCoP employees had submitted their registrations effective June 30, 2011. Patti Lewis and Cheryl Solonenko will both be leaving SCoP and the recruitment of their replacements should begin shortly.