ACMS Board Meeting Summary
**September 15, 2026**

# Notes From the Boardroom

Important updates and decisions shaping the direction of the Allegheny County Medical Society.

## Board Chair Update

The Board certified the 2027 election results and approved the consent agenda. Members also agreed to move the next Board meeting from December 1 to December 8.

## President's Update

Kirsten D. Lin, MD, presented three strategic pillars: Membership & Engagement, Advocacy, and Operational Capacity & Governance. The priorities focus on reducing barriers to participation, strengthening ACMS as an expert advocacy voice, aligning resources with strategic goals, and building a more engaged Board. The Board unanimously approved the strategic pillars. Dr. Lin also led continued discussion of physician unionization and collective bargaining. The Board approved dedicating time to a balanced discussion after the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates meeting and related education, with the goal of helping members understand the practical implications, benefits, and challenges.

## Executive Director's Report

Sara Hussey reviewed membership, advocacy, programming, staffing, and financial updates. ACMS reported 1,769 members for the membership year ending August 31, 2026. Priorities for the remainder of the year include hiring and onboarding a Vice President of Membership and Communication, preparing the 2027 budget, delivering upcoming programs, and translating the strategic plan into measurable goals and an updated dashboard. Recent activities included volunteer service, educational programs, advocacy events, and physician networking. Upcoming initiatives include student specialty networking and resident contract review. Membership strategy will emphasize value and engagement, including event pricing and outreach that better demonstrate the benefits of membership.

## Committee & Task Force Updates

- Finance Committee: The committee approved a change in ACMS's 401(k) provider to improve service at a similar cost. The Board unanimously approved a budgeting framework capped at 4.5% of average reserves over the trailing 12 rolling quarters, measured at the end of the prior year's third quarter. Foundation cost sharing and special-project funding will return for discussion in December.
- Delegation Update: Delegates are prepared for the October House of Delegates meeting. Board members recognized strong medical-student participation in the delegation's work.
- ACMS Foundation: The Board approved allocating $30,000 to the Foundation to support the Physician Wellness Program in 2027. The Foundation will review grant awards in October. The ACIC conference is also scheduled for October, with Debra Bogen, MD, as keynote speaker.
- Advocacy Task Force: The task force presented five potential advocacy pillars for the coming year. Consideration was tabled after the meeting lost quorum. Members also discussed consistent public messaging and possible professional review of advocacy statements.
- Membership Task Force: CME and advocacy were identified as leading reasons members value ACMS. Recruitment ideas included volunteer opportunities and social events timed around membership renewal.
- Physician Wellness Advisory Board: Physician Wellness Program use remains consistent with last year and has increased from earlier in 2026. Outreach continues to hospital systems, the VA, and private practices, alongside well-attended wellness events.
- Awards Committee: Award nominations increased from last year. The Distinguished Awards event is scheduled for November 12 at the UPMC Club at Acrisure Stadium.

## New Business

Board members highlighted the Gateway Medical Society fundraiser on October 23 at the Heinz History Center as an opportunity to strengthen community relationships and support a valued partner.