

Chair's Remarks

by *Kenneth Simons, MD*

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” --*Andrew Carnegie*

By the time you are reading this, my term as chair of the IMLCC will have concluded and I wish all the best to my successor as I assume the role of past-chair. As such, it is appropriate to reflect on what our august body accomplished during the year thanks to all of your efforts as well as those of the Executive Committee and our executive director, Marschall Smith.

The words of Andrew Carnegie are especially appropriate as it did indeed take all of us to accomplish the following (as of 11/4/2019), although none of you is common but rather, remarkable, in how you give of yourselves to your states and the public:

1. Five new states have joined the Compact (Kentucky in December 2018 and most recently, Michigan on June 1, 2019).
2. A total of 3,145 applications have been processed, 3,809 licenses have been issued and 2,832 licenses previously issued have been renewed.
3. Our 2017 audit was finalized and a clean opinion was rendered; while work continues on the 2018 and 2019 audits.
4. The Technology Committee has been working on multiple projects and discussed system development with the IMLCC at our November full Commission meeting.
5. The Personnel Committee finalized the executive director contract and it was approved by the Executive Committee.
6. The Communications Committee prepared the 2019 Annual Report and has been working diligently on our webpage redesign.
7. The Bylaws Committee was renamed as the Rules and Administrative Procedures Committee and the committee worked on a number of rules, including Chapters 8 & 9.

Personally, I view my tenure as chair with tremendous gratitude for the experience of working with each and every one of our commissioners, past and present. As you all know, we are a volunteer organization and it takes the very valuable time and efforts of each and every commissioner through service on our committees to make the IMLCC function.

In particular, I wish to thank Commissioner Ruth Martinez for her sage counsel to a chair who is a physician with limited experience in rulemaking, and Commissioner Kevin Bohnenblust and Wanda Bowling for their steadfast work in leading the Technology Committee closer to the promised land so that our licensees have a seamless experience.

Also, I would like to thank Commissioner Edward Cousineau for being a trusted sounding board and fiscally prudent treasurer, former commissioner and past-Chair Ian Marquand (and the Communications Committee) for putting together a new Commissioner's Handbook.

Additionally, to Commissioner Tim Terranova for picking up the baton of this vital committee and to Commissioners Pat McSorley, Brian Zachariah and Christine Farrelly for their diligence and willingness to say what needs to be said to make sure the IMLCC always stayed true to its responsibilities.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the efforts of our counsel, Rick Masters, and our executive director, Marschall Smith. Any successes that accrued over the past year were a direct result of their able assistance and strong work ethic and for that, I will always be grateful.

I look forward to the future successes of the IMLCC as it advances the cause of maintaining state-based medical regulation through streamlining licensure processes for physicians that will ultimately serve the American public. As an ophthalmologist, it is fitting to end with a quote from Helen Keller, whose words provide an appropriate closure for us to remember always: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” I look forward to seeing how much more the IMLCC will accomplish in the coming years.

From the IMLCC Executive Director

The Commission and the opportunities it offers to physicians to expedite obtaining licenses in multiple states have proven their value. Commissioner Ian Marquand, the IMLCC's first chair, said it best when responding to the Commission's appreciation of his leadership by saying, “The IMLCC represents one of the most significant advancements in medical licensure.” - High praise which creates even higher expectations.

Three major events are going to take place in the next six months: the IMLCC will roll out a new webpage that is interactive and more robust; the Strategic Planning Committee will create a vision and plan that will lead the organization into the 2020s; and the IMLCC will implement a new data management tool which will provide greater sharing of information and understanding of the process.

So far, I believe that the commissioners and IMLCC staff have been living out Socrates' advice about change - “The Secret of Change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Marschall Smith, executive director

**Interested in having your
state become part of the
Compact?**

Contact Marschall Smith at

imlccexecutivedirector@imlcc.org.

Annual Meeting Updates

The IMLC gathered Nov. 18-19 in Las Vegas, with more than 30 commissioners present and others participating telephonically. Committees met separately on Nov. 18 and then came together to listen to a presentation on the efforts being made to enhance the website and licensing applications.

On Nov. 19, commissioners worked through a full agenda of annual meeting items.

- The executive director provided updates regarding licensing statistics, administrative issues, and future work.
- An FSMB representative presented information regarding a new HRSA grant, effective 7/31/19, and the expectations it places on the compact. The presenter indicated that the compact is ahead of schedule in many areas. A representative from HRSA will be invited to address the commission at the next commission meeting.
- Two items for general discussion were presented. Following discussion, the commission voted to create a policy regarding consultation with the full commission prior to initiating legal action against a member state. In addition, the commission voted to recommend removing a section of Chapter 4 (Rule on State of Principal License). Both of those issues will be referred to the Rules Committee.
- A public hearing regarding proposed rules 8 and 9 was held. The Commission voted to accept the rules.
- Committee Chairs provided updates on the work of the committees and recommendations for moving forward in the coming year.
- Election of Officers was held and the following commissioners were elected:
 - Chair - Tim Terranova (Maine)
 - Vice Chair - Ed Cousineau (Nevada)
 - Treasurer - Kristine Farrelly (Maryland)

- The meeting ended with a strategic planning session. Commissioners were asked to provide input regarding where they would like to see the compact in three to five years. Vice Chair Ed Cousineau will chair a strategic planning committee and use the ideas generated from the meeting as a starting point.

The commission successfully completed a great deal of work that is vital to the compact fulfilling its mission. Thank you to all the commissioners who were able to attend, both in person and telephonically. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's annual meeting in Alabama.

Meet the Executive Director - Marschall Smith -

It has been two years since I was named as the IMLCC's first executive director. The first orientation meeting in Dallas sometimes seems like it was yesterday and at others seems like it was 100 years ago – much the way any productive relationship feels.

My personal life is filled with my kids. I have two daughters and two sons – Chelsea, 30; Page, 28; and twins Emerson and Logan, 16. My daughters are both married and live in Colorado. Chelsea works as an analyst for the Colorado Public Retirement Association and her spouse is an apprentice brew-mistress. Page is an ER nurse and her spouse is a firefighter in Castle Rock, CO. Emerson plays football, wrestles, and throws the discus, with ambitions to attend CU Boulder to study aerospace engineering. Logan plays lacrosse both for his high school and competitively, with ambitions to attend an Ivy League school back east, play collegiate level lacrosse and study business. Sports fills almost every weekend.

My work background is varied. I grew up in northeast Iowa and moved every couple of years until high school as my dad was promoted upward in his company. I graduated from Dubuque Hempstead High School in 1980; served in the U.S. Marine Corps in an enlistment program that allowed me to attend college while serving. My military occupational specialty was 3011-Infantry, and I was honorably discharged as a sergeant.

I attended Drake University for my undergraduate degree and worked as a high school social studies teacher for two years in West Des Moines, Iowa. I moved to Colorado in the mid-80s and started working for the state, first in the student loan program, took a break to work in private industry running a government collection call center, then with the Colorado Medical Board and finally running the EMS and air ambulance licensing branch.

I earned a master's degree in public administration in 2002, just days before the boys were born. After 27 ½ years, I was able to retire from the state, preserve my pension, then start working with the IMLCC.

I love to travel and this summer I will be visiting my 50th state – Alaska. I have also traveled to South America, Central America and Australia. I'm looking forward to Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and India. The major item on my bucket list is to take a 9-month cruise around the world.

Member Profile: Wyoming

The state of Wyoming was the first state to enact legislation to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact on Feb. 27, 2015. Wyoming Board of Medicine member Anne MacGuire, MD, and Executive Director Kevin Bohnenblust, JD, serve as Wyoming's commissioners to the Compact, serving on the Audit and Technology committees, respectively. In addition, Bohnenblust served as the first chair of the Technology Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee.

Since April 2017, Wyoming has issued nearly 400 licenses through the Compact and more than 65 letters of qualification to Wyoming physicians seeking licenses in other Compact states, exceeding staff expectations.

“When our legislature considered the Compact legislation, the Wyoming Board of Medicine estimated around 10 percent of physicians would take advantage of the Compact,” Bohnenblust said. “We were pleased to find that in 2019, 32 percent of all Wyoming physician licenses issued came through the Compact. We have also found that while specialties – including the usual telemedicine areas of radiology and pathology – are well-represented, primary care physicians received more than half of the licenses we issued through the Compact.”