

An Open Letter to the Members of FOGS and Florida Section ACOG

Dear Florida Colleagues,

As you may know the **Florida Section of the American Congress (and College) of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG)** has embarked on a process by which the Section will achieve **District** Status within the next two years. This process has been considered in the course of several meetings of your ACOG Section Advisory Council and the **Florida Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society (FOGS)** Board, in consultation with District and National ACOG officers. The rationale for this transition has been recently reviewed in the Spring FOGS/ACOG Newsletter. That and several other articles on the subject may be accessed on our website at flobgyn.org.

This major change will affect the nature of both of our two sister organizations. There will be a continuation of both FOGS and Florida ACOG with some important **advantages**. These include a voice by our newly created District on the ACOG national level as well as input to national Committee appointments. We will also receive a substantial infusion of reserve revenues as our portion of current District IV reserves. We can expect greater autonomy in District meeting venue selections and probably an enhanced operating budget, along with greater flexibility in political action through our new Congress 501-C(6) status. With a small number of intrastate Sections, grassroots sharing of information and ideas should be facilitated. FOGS will continue to have an indispensable role in management, intrastate politics, planning annual meetings, educational and other key functions. There will be a streamlining of the FOGS board, and progression of officers to District office now delayed by the existing Section structure, will be expedited. If you are a member of both FOGS and ACOG, you will likely see a reduction in your combined annual dues. Some relevant **disadvantages** include a greater officer responsibility for attending National meetings, and increased administrative costs. There will be issues that arise relating to the shared responsibilities of ACOG and FOGS that will need to be resolved. We may lose some of the camaraderie with the other 9 Sections within District IV, and theoretically diminish the availability of some of the District IV academicians for our annual meetings. Some belt-tightening will likely be necessary during the formative years as we become more comfortable with our evolving budget. And if you are an ACOG member only, you may see an increase in your District dues, but note that our plan includes automatic FOGS membership when you pay your ACOG dues so you will receive "two for the price of one."

In a short time you will be receiving a REFERENDUM BALLOT on "Districtization." Please be certain to vote and return your ballot. To make an educated choice, you should be well-informed. Please log-on to the website (flobgyn.org) if you desire additional background material. You may contact us with comments or questions.

Thank you sincerely for your interest and your support of our Society and Congress, truly the voices of obstetrician-gynecologists and their patients in the state of Florida.

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