Greetings! As your AMA Alternate Delegate, you can expect me to provide submissions to the El Paso Physicians related to those activities. Election results were victorious for the Texas Delegation. After much campaigning on the part of the delegation, Russ Kridel was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees! Dr. Kridel is a Facial Plastic Surgeon from Harris County. Visit his blog at KridelHealth.com. The other election victories for Texas were the re-election of Asa Lockhart to the Council on Medical Service (uncontested) and Susan Rudd Bailey as Vice Speaker! We are so proud of our leadership.

The reference committees met and presented their reports. The most meaningful work of the House of Delegates could probably be summarized as that related to ICD-10 conversion and the Immediate Resolution of Veterans Administration Waiting Lists for Veteran Access to Care (Texas). Asa Lockhart worked hard and fast to involve stakeholders in this work at the highest levels of government. The report from the Board of Trustees titled “Conforming Birth Certificate Policies to Current Medical Standards for Transgender Patients” was publicized by national news. The Council on Medical Service Report 6 “Development of Models/Guidelines for Medical Health Care Teams” was debated and wordsmithed to reflect that the AMA believes medical care team leaders are exclusively physicians. Much discussion took place on Resolution 732 Federal Advocacy for Protection of State Law Under the 90 Day Grace Period. The AMA will be responding and interacting with the Federal Government on this topic like no other physician advocacy organization.

The AMPAC luncheon speaker was a humorous governmental white house journalist. By the way, I know that you care about your own future. You don’t have to feel helpless. Donate generously to the AMPAC and the TEXPAC—they do the job for you! AMPAC stands for American Medical Political Action Committee. TEXPAC stands for Texas Medical Association Political Action Committee. Physicians are most effective when all affected physicians do at least their fair share in regards to professional advocacy, regardless of your specialty, point in professional life or country of origin. Other competing groups outperform us and defeat us when civic duties are ignored or willfully neglected.

The session by the AMA Innovators Committee Panel Discussion was very well received. An advisory group of physicians with hands-on reform experience described how their practices evolved in response to new payment models for independent physician groups. Did you know that the AMA Code of Medical Ethics has been comprehensively modernized by the Council on Judicial Affairs for the first time in 50 years? This transformation is almost complete.

My duty as your AMA Alternate Delegate is to collect grassroots input from physicians about how this organization can help its membership. We can help you craft meaningful resolutions. Have a great summer!

Ray Callas, MD, Gary Floyd, MD, Larry Reaves, MD, Art Klawitter, MD, William Gilmer, MD

Roxanne Tyroch, MD, FACP, AMA Alternate Delegate, El Paso County Medical Society Delegate.