

Dear Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Board;

As we start 2012, I want each of you to know how grateful I am that you have chosen to serve TNAAP in a leadership role. We are each pieces of an amazing team of which I am very proud to be apart. We start 2012 with a great, veteran staff. We are at a level of organizational clarity that is extremely healthy. Because of this, we are in a place to accomplish great things for our profession, for the children of Tennessee and for our cherished state.

I want to commit to you that we will continue to pursue a more efficient and effective Tennessee chapter. As such, Ruth and I will work hard to arrange board meetings so they are energizing, informational and invite you into visional leadership of your chapter. I will work hard to move board business from the “management, operations and activities” to more “strategy and policy” of TNAAP. We have a world class and well-rounded staff. I would like them to be well-led and completely communicated the vision and purpose of the organization. Then, they can work hard to operate the organization in an appropriate way with the full authority of the board.

I would like to introduce our organizational diagram for 2012. It shows our three fundamental elements: Pediatric Advocacy, Supporting Pediatric Practice and Serving TNAAP Membership. It also shows the three major are of organizational impact this year: Obesity, Health Information Technology and an Appropriate Medical Home for All Infants, Children, Adolescents and Young Adults. Finally, all of these are housed under the Tennessee Pediatric Society Foundation.

I hope this diagram helps the board visualize and better describe what TNAAP cares about, is doing and is structured. We will be using this a lot this year to focus our discussions and work.

You are receiving a great deal of information for our first board meeting I would ask that you review it briefly (this should take 15-20 minutes). This information will be the back bone of our discussions at the board meeting. We will not spend much time presenting or reviewing much of it. It will be available in this format if more review is required later. I would ask that as you present information at board meetings you work hard to get most of the background information to Ruth well in advance of board meetings.

Thank you again for your commitment to TNAAP. I look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Allen Coffman, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

R. Allen Coffman, Jr., M.D., F.A.A.P
TNAAP President