

Changes to our affiliation with the AAPCA: I would like to let you know that our Chapter board voted to withdraw our membership with the AAPCA (The 501c4 corporation). We are not withdrawing from AAP District IX. We are planning to continue our involvement in statewide advocacy efforts with the other chapters because we realize that the seven counties in Chapter 2 represent 44% of the total population in the state. Also, we are gathering information on how to support the Resident Advocacy Program once the existing program closes by June 30, 2021.

I became concerned with the liabilities of the AAPCA Las Vegas contract and expressed my concern to our Board, who agreed that it was our fiduciary responsibility under our 501c3 to investigate this further. We retained an attorney who is experienced in large non-profit corporations to review all of the documents, including the AAPCA bylaws and the Caesar's Palace contract, and her formal recommendation in writing was to withdraw from AAPCA before our next dues payment to protect our Chapter.

We had a chapter Executive Board meeting with nineteen voting members this past Wednesday and this was on the agenda. Our primary concern is the financial liability that would result from AAPCA's commitment to the Las Vegas conference. We understand that it has been successful in the past, but the pandemic has changed how people are thinking about gathering, and even if the conference were held in person next year, we anticipate that it will not be able to make the same amount it has made in previous years or even break even. For these reasons, our Board voted unanimously with 1 abstention to withdraw from AAPCA.

District IX is the entity recognized by National AAP. AAPCA is a 501c4 corporation started in 2007. Every other state has a 501c3 and can do legislative visits in their capitals. New York dissolved their District Office two years ago and all three chapters in NY work together to do state-level advocacy. They hire a lobbying firm and do as much statewide advocacy as we do. They do not have a 501c4 and they have shared with us that as long as each chapter has Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance (Which we have), the protections of a 501c4 corporation are not needed. They have taken on Big Tobacco and have done significant advocacy around anti-smoking and anti-vaping.

State Government Affairs is a committee of District IX. Because of that, we remain committed to participating actively in SGA efforts. We are planning, at our Chapter level, to hire an employee who will review all of the bills and create short lists for each statewide SGA meeting. We will start the hiring process immediately so that an individual can be identified by February 2021 to support the statewide SGA meetings. Our Board has agreed to pay for this individual 100% and not ask any of the other chapters to contribute as a gesture of good faith.

We feel that we are aligned with National AAP in supporting our District and all of the activities within it. Our Board made the decision to withdraw from AAPCA because of its fiduciary responsibility, and I hope you all will respect that. We remain committed to working with the other three Chapters in California to advocate on behalf of all children in the state and support the Resident Advocacy Program.