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The CUA exists to promote the highest standard of urologic care for Canadians and to advance the art and science of urology.



This is my first message as CUA president, the voice of “*The Voice of Urology in Canada*,” or something like that.

One thing I have noticed over the last 25 years serving on and off various CUA committees is the complexity of our organization. Especially during the four-year executive march from VP to President-Elect, President, and then Past President, one has a front-row seat to appreciate the number of moving parts and people that make your CUA hum. A few observations:

1. **Members of the executive work really hard.** They volunteer their time and expertise out of a sense of community and responsibility. They travel to Montreal every January for a 2–3-day meeting to plan and execute policy, review finances, and discuss future CUA meeting venues for the membership. We also spend two days in advance of each CUA meeting doing much the same. Countless emails and teleconferences take place over the course of each year.
2. **Members of the executive are not paid.** However, they have a lot of fun!
3. **Any CUA member can become a member of the executive.** Nominate yourself if you want to get involved. Make a difference.
4. **The executive is responsive to input from its members.** For example, the CUA funded a series of seven community urology focus groups across Canada this year in order to better understand the needs and wants of community urologists. One of many outcomes will be the CUA support of more regional CME events for community urologists, particularly in the West. In 2015, the new executive position of Chair of the Community Urology Committee (CUC) was created. At the summer executive meeting this past June, the Chair of the CUC was granted full voting rights at the Board of Directors meetings. Some members felt it was wrong to enshrine a leadership position for one particular stripe of urologist (community-based) when no other executive positions are reserved. Other members felt that this change was not radical enough and more positions on the executive should be reserved for community-based urologists. Sigh...like Winston Churchill said, “*Don’t confuse leadership with popularity.*” Nevertheless, I look forward to working with the new CUC Chair, Lorne Aaron, as he receives the baton from outgoing chair, Frank Papanikolaou.
5. **Trainees are our lifeblood.** The executive works hard to register all incoming residents as CUA candidate members to ensure a seamless transition to active membership upon graduation. The recently created Resident and Fellow Committee now reports to the executive in order to keep us abreast of their educational needs and aspirations. The CUA currently funds numerous trainee-focused initiatives, including QUEST, T-Res, and CSUR, to name a few.
6. **The corporate office does a fantastic job.** Without these seven individuals working constantly behind the scenes to keep the CUA organized, financially sound and visible, the executive would just be a bunch of chaotic, harried urologists dabbling in HR.
7. **One year is a cameo appearance.** Before you know it, we will be in Victoria next June, and Armen Aprikian will become President as I transition to Past President. I have a lot to learn before then. I’ll keep you posted!