

“How Do I Become a TAFP Officer?” and other Frequently Asked Questions

From the entry level, there are several ways to join the TAFP leadership track. This FAQ will serve as a guide to becoming a TAFP officer.

I am interested in becoming a TAFP officer. Where do I start?

You can start by learning about the Academy and its functions through TAFP committees, commissions, sections, and the Board of Directors. These groups meet twice a year, at Interim Session in March and at Annual Session in July. Committees, commissions, and sections range in size from five to over 30 members and develop policy to guide TAFP. The chairs of these groups present recommendations to the Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives from each TAFP local chapter. All commissions and most committees are open to any member who wishes to attend as a guest.

How do I join a committee, commission, section or the Board of Directors?

Each spring TAFP sends correspondence encouraging members to “Make Your Mark.” Through this campaign, interested members fill out a form indicating their interest in one of 11 committees and commissions, 11 sections, or in serving on the TAFP Board of Directors or in other leadership position. Appointments to committees and commissions are made by the TAFP president-elect prior to Annual Session in July. Section membership is not assigned; anyone can attend these meetings. Two good places to start are the Section on Leadership Development or the Section on Special Constituencies. Members of the Board of Directors are elected to three-year terms. Local chapters send suggestions and the Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the Board, which conducts elections at Annual Session. If a local chapter is not represented at Interim or Annual Session, a resident of that chapter may approach the Board at the meeting to fill the spot in the delegate’s absence. Ask any TAFP staff member for information on being seated in place of an absent Director.

What are my responsibilities serving on a committee, commission, section, or the Board of Directors?

These members serve three-year terms and must attend two meetings a year. They may serve on more than one committee or commission at the same time. Students and residents are welcome to serve on committees and commissions for one-year terms. Board members also attend two meetings a year and vote on policy recommendations brought forth by committee and commission chairs.

I’m already on a committee, commission, or section. Are there other opportunities?

If you’re already on a committee, commission, section, or the Board of Directors, there are also spots on the 13-member TAFP Executive Committee. In addition to the six TAFP leaders—the president, president-elect, vice president, treasurer, parliamentarian, and immediate past president—the Executive Committee has spaces for a student representative, resident representative, special constituency representative, and four members appointed to at-large positions. Two of the at-large spots are appointed by the TAFP president and members can indicate their interest on the “Make Your Mark” form. Two are appointed by the TAFP Board. During the Annual Session Board meeting, the Board

will ask for nominations to fill the two positions of the Executive Committee. If there are more than two nominations, an election will be held and the two members with the highest number of votes will fill the positions.

I know everything about TAFP now. How do I become an officer?

In January, TAFP sends out a call to the membership asking for officer nominations for the positions of president-elect, vice president, treasurer, and parliamentarian. These nominations are collected and presented to the Nominating Committee at Interim Session. The Nominating Committee reviews these submissions and presents a slate of officer nominations to the Board of Directors for approval. Those nominations are published and elections are held during the Board meeting at Annual Session. While it is not required, members generally serve at least a year as an at-large member of the Executive Committee before becoming an officer.

I know I'm going to the top! Can I run for TAFP president my first year?

While there isn't an official track, officers generally follow a path to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of the office of president. You can start by submitting your name as a parliamentarian candidate, then move up through the offices of treasurer and vice president to president-elect. Because being TAFP president requires you to have intimate knowledge of the Academy and each of the TAFP offices, and serve as the voice of the family physicians of Texas, the progression through the different offices and spending a year of training as president-elect will prepare you to serve as TAFP president.

Who can I ask if I have questions?

TAFP staff and leadership are here to help. Kathy McCarthy, TAFP's chief operating officer, and Juleah Williams, membership coordinator, are the best staff resources for leadership questions. Contact them at (512) 329-8666 or e-mail tafp@tafp.org. Also, each of the TAFP officers, Board members, and committee and commission chairs are happy to answer questions from members wishing to become more involved in the Academy. Attend Interim and Annual Session and introduce yourself!