

Pennsylvania Surgical News

October 2022



Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

October is history and we are rounding the corner to the final two months of 2022. Holidays will be celebrated and I hope you will be able to spend some quality time with family and friends during the upcoming holiday season.

This issue will focus on ACS Clinical Congress. **Congratulations** to our 116 initiates who were installed as Fellows during the Convocation on Sunday, October 16th. Great articles from our leaders and members who attended. Check out the photo collage shared from participants. Kudos to the Metro Maniacs for their stellar performance as first-time Surgical Skills Competition participants and to Dr. ReBecca Hoffman (Geisinger) for her participation in the Chapter Leaders panel discussion. The Keystone and Metro Philly Chapters were well represented at the Congress this year. We hope you will plan to attend next year's event in Boston.

I want to remind our members to log into your member portal and confirm your information is up-to-date. Twice per year we reconcile our database with the ACS database. We want to make sure our information is correct so you will receive communications throughout the year. The 2023 membership dues renewal period will open in December. Having your correct contact information is essential to timely renewals. Make sure we have a valid email address in your portal. Note that we do not sell, share, or provide your contact information. Your information is solely for the Chapter's use in communicating with you.

As always, if you have comments, suggestions, or an article of interest, please email me at rmcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com.

Robbi

Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

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Robbi-Ann M. Cook, CAE
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Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS
Keystone Chapter
Immediate Past President

Meanderings from A Wandering Surgeon

Friends and colleagues:

I hope you are all doing well as we transition into fall. It has been a busy time for us all both personally and professionally. After a several month hiatus from the newsletter, I return to you invigorated and with much to report following the 108th clinical Congress of the American College of surgeons.

What a meeting! What a phenomenal and unprecedented class of initiates! A record 2,355 new fellows from 77 countries – including 39 from Keystone and 21 from Metro Philly Chapter. Welcome to the House of Surgery.

In our subsequent pages we will include multiple commentaries and experiences from the PA Keystone and Metro Philly leadership actively working to represent you at the national level. And perhaps even more importantly on the following pages - the impressions of our new initiate class. They are the future of our organization.

Worthy of note, the Keystone Chapter is the **ONLY** domestic ACS Chapter that has grown annually in its membership, scope, and influence – even throughout the pandemic – well done. Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter – you have an even greater number of practicing surgeons in your distribution - the ball is tossed to ensure recruitment and active Chapter registration rather than national listing alone.

Please note those who registered for Congress whether for in person participation, virtual real time participation, or on demand - the educational content and CME portal will remain available through March of 2023. That means for those who have missed the opportunity to participate thus far, you can still register and have access to hours of thought-provoking and forward-reaching programs.

The next formal quality program – **EGS VP** - was previewed at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma in September and has now been fully launched: [ACS, AAST Launch New Emergency General Surgery Verification Program to Improve Quality of Care | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

In fact, after years of progress and growth, with an increasing number of ACS created and regulated verification programs, the ACS mission to bring quality to every hospital and every patient will reach new levels of unprecedented excellence with the formal launch of integrated quality programs. Preview this vision and work for the **Power of Quality**: [The Power of Quality | ACS \(facs.org\)](#).

Advocacy and active communication with local, state, and federal representatives is needed continuously to avoid devastating payment changes and other legislative impacts. To understand the work and action of the ACS, as well as to contribute to these efforts, visit: [Advocacy | ACS \(facs.org\)](#)

President Ellison has dubbed 2023 the year of **Surgeons United** – reminding us all that regardless of location, practice type, years post training, politics, and demographics – we are and must function professionally together.

Together we are the House of Surgery and The House of Surgery is strong. Stronger because **YOU** are here.

Thank you for being a member of your PA Chapter.

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS

Shannon Marie Foster, MD, FACS is Immediate Past President of the Keystone Chapter. She also serves as the PA Chapters Collaborative Task Force Chair, and at the national level as a Governor-at-Large, PA Liaison to CoT and WIS Committees, DEI Outreach Workgroup, Board of Governors Executive Committee, and the Communications Pillar Lead





Access On-Demand Content

Clinical Congress 2022 has ended, but you still have time to view content presented. All attendees, whether registered as in-person or virtual, will have continued access to an on-demand library of educational content and opportunity to claim Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit through May 1, 2023. Click [HERE](#) to access the on-demand portal.

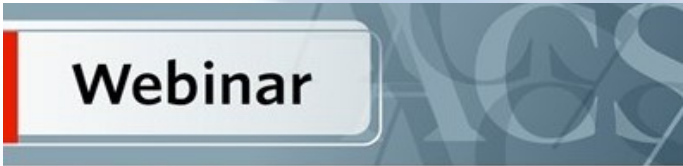


Don't Forget to Claim Your CME Credit Hours

This is a licensure renewal year in Pennsylvania. Make sure you claim your Clinical Congress CME credit hours in time to meet the December 31st deadline.

In-person and virtual attendees must complete an evaluation and complete the claiming process to earn CME credit hours, download/print your Certificate. The claiming process includes completing an evaluation for each session as well as the Global Evaluation. For additional information and to claim your credit hours, click [HERE](#).

DEADLINE TO CLAIM: May 1, 2023



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND WELLNESS

Break the Cycle—An Intimate Partner Violence Conversation

Wednesday, November 2 | 12 pm–1pm CT

REGISTER

This 1-hour conversation will explore the extent of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the United States and abroad, the signs and symptoms of IPV, the surgeon's role in IPV awareness and prevention, and how surgeons approach caring for patients experiencing or perpetrating IPV. There will be a live moderated discussion followed by questions and answers.

Attendance at the webinar is anonymous and all registrations for this webinar are confidential.



SURGEONS UNITED

CLINICAL
CONGRESS 2023
BOSTON, OCTOBER 22-26





Thoughts from Dr. Niels Martin on Attending Clinical

I always enjoy the invigorating return home after attending Clinical Congress and the 2022 meeting in San Diego was no different. I feel a renewed enthusiasm for clinical and academic excellence. There was a lot of cutting edge science on display, as well as sessions on clinical implementation...how to bring it full circle! This was clearly meaningful for all surgeons regardless of practice setting. Additionally, the fellowship of the meeting was palpable, back to pre-COVID standards. There were opportunities for networking continuously, be it to meet your peers, or leaders of our College. Of course, congress is also the “meeting of meetings”: boosting the effectiveness and impact of the meeting. To have surgical representatives from all our interrelated societies present in one place allows for real societal work to be done. Thank you ACS for another inspirational congress.

~ Niels D. Martin, MD, FACS, FCCM

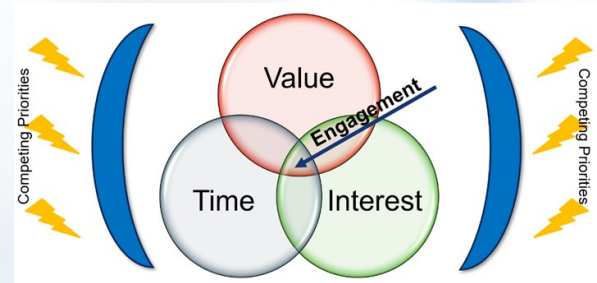
Engaging Young Surgeons: Recap from the American College of Surgeons Chapter Leadership Event



Rebecca L. Hoffman, MD, MSCE, FACS

Beautiful San Diego was the setting for this year’s, back in person, Clinical Congress—and what better year for Phillies fans to be in attendance! I was fortunate enough to be asked to give a brief presentation on the outstanding joint efforts of the members of the Keystone Chapter and the Metro Philly Chapter to engage young surgeons in Chapter activities, and the following serves as a summary of that talk.

First and foremost, engaging young surgeons at the Chapter level is a hot topic for all Chapters, because engaging young surgeons is what will ensure the viability and longevity of the group. Moreso, however, engagement of young surgeons is what invigorates the Chapter and supplies the energy that Chapters so desperately need and seek. But this should come as no surprise to Chapter leaders and young surgeons alike—garnishing the type of engagement that the leadership seeks is hard work! For leaders and Chapter members, it takes persistence and support and innovation, with just the right amount of mentorship, sponsorship, voluntold-ism and demonstration of value. For young surgeons, it takes recognition of value in participation with your peer community, it takes willingness to try something new and a willingness dabble in “surgical” life outside of the hospital, outside of your program. The sweet spot of engagement is finding that intersection between value, time and interest amidst the barrage of competing priorities (see Figure).



Our Keystone-Metro Philly Young Surgeons Work Group would not exist if it weren’t for the vision, support and the sheer willingness of the Chapter Councils to *want to dedicate their precious time and attention to the engagement and inclusion of the young surgeons practicing in our areas*. They see the potential in you—students, residents, associates and young fellows—to benefit from all that the Chapter and the College has to offer, and they want to engage with you and be part of your growth in our profession. **Young surgeons, we need to take advantage.**

Here are some of what we hope will be the secrets to success for engagement:

Create FOMO-The Fear of Missing Out. We want to create programming that will have all surgeons, not just the “young” ones, feeling like if they don’t attend, they

will be missing out on something great—because it is something great! If something truly is not to be missed, its value increases and the time and effort required to engage all become worth it.

Using repetition strategically. Once we work hard to create FOMO, we want to repeat events which have had excellent feedback to allow engagement to increase. We want you to tell your friends and colleagues what they missed, and to make sure they have a “next time” to attend. If we give up on events too quickly, they won’t have a chance to reach their potential.

Be Unconventional. We are working hard within the Young Surgeons Work Group to be innovative in the types of events we consider. There is certainly tremendous value in some of the more conventional programming—leadership training, didactics, our Fellowship 101 event—but we also want to consider the expanding our platform to include more unconventional ways to spend time getting to know the profession and networking outside of the hospital—cooking classes, book clubs, maybe even a family event?

What you put in, you have the potential to reap in fold. For the young surgeons who may be reading, I can’t begin to express how instrumental to my career being part of the American College of Surgeons and my local Chapter has been. No matter what your future brings, demonstrations of engagement and leadership matter—no where is finding those leadership opportunities easier than within your local ACS Chapter. There are faculty waiting to meet with you, engage with you, impart wisdom, and sponsor you. Show up. Be engaged, and see where it takes you. This profession is a great one, and engagement in the larger community can do wonders for your development, well-being, and sense of belonging—all of which contribute to the joy you find in your profession, which in turns creates in you a better surgeon for patients.

We hope to see you all engaging with some of our upcoming events! Pass the word to friends and colleagues about membership and engagement, and

together, we can make belonging to the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters truly something not to be missed.

Rebecca L. Hoffman, MD, FACS is a colon-rectal surgeon at Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA. She serves as the YFA Representative on the Keystone Chapter Council and is co-chair of the collaborative Young Surgeons Work Group.



Think You Are An Expert at ACS History?



First person to email the correct answers by November 7, 2022 to our Executive Director, Robbi Cook at rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com, will receive a prize package mailed to your home or office.

1. Year ACS was established?
2. Who was the first female ACS president?
3. Where is the ACS headquarter?
4. How many Chapters does the ACS have in the United Stated?
5. Who is the current Executive Director of the College?
6. How many ACS Presidents hailed from Pennsylvania?
7. When was the ACS seal unveiled?
8. Who was the ACS Founder?
9. Who was the first Executive Director of the College?
10. How many Chapters are located in Pennsylvania?



2022 Class of ACS Fellows

Congratulations

Congratulations to the newly conferred Class of 2022 Fellows of the American College of Surgeons. Keystone and Metro Philadelphia Chapters recognize 60 new Fellows:

Maria Altieri, MD, FACS
Jeffrey Anderson, MD, FACS
Jacob Adam Baber, MD, FACS
Naveen Balasundaram, MBBS, FACS
Jason Alexander Bran, MD, FACS
Maxwell Braverman, DO, FACS
Fitzgerald J. Casimir, MD, FACS
Jason Alfred Castellanos, MD, FACS
Esther Cha, MD, FACS
Tan Chen, MD, FACS
Karen Yeji Choi, MD, FACS
Ephraim William Church, MD, FACS
Hadassah Consuegra, DO, FACS
Leahna Cooney, MD, FACS
Scott Cronin, MD, FACS
Mary Ann Decoteau, MD, FACS
David Joshua Deisher, DO, FACS
Alexandra Maria Falvo, MD, FACS
Mark Ferretti, MD, FACS
Joseph Neil Giacometti, MD, FACS
Jeffrey Glaser, MD, FACS
Eric Glendinning, MD, FACS
Jaime Michelle Glorioso, MD, FACS
Tyler Grenda, MD, FACS
Sarah Himmelstein, MD, FACS
Henry Hirsch, MD, FACS
Charlotte Horne, MD, FACS
Oksana Jackson, MD, FACS
Sagar S. Kadakia, MD, FACS
Elinore Juliana Kaufman, MD, FACS
Katherine Kelley, MD, FACS
Ajif N. Kulaylat, MD, FACS

Jessica Latona, MD, FACS
Erika Lindholm, MD, FACS
Claudia Patricia Lozano Guzman, MD, FACS
Jason Paul Marone, MD, FACS
Nathaniel R. McElhaney, MD, FACS
John T. Miura, MD, FACS
Chetan Satish Nayak, MD, FACS
Michael Nowicki, MD, FACS
Thaer Obaid, MD, FACS
Matthew David Painter, MD, FACS
Erica Nicole Pettke, MD, MPH, FACS
Jenny Shao, MD, FACS
Faiz Shariff, MBBS, FACS
Edward J. Skicki, DO, FACS
Justin A. Sloane, MD, FACS
Matthew Smith, MD, FACS
Renganaden Sooppan, MD, FACS
Matthew Glen Souder, MD, FACS
Anna Spivak, DO, FACS
Timothy Storm, DMD, FACS
Mausumi Natalie Syamal, MD, FACS
Jose Torres, MD, FACS
Adam Vasconcellos, MD, FACS
Abdullah Wafa, MD, FACS
Joshua Stewart Winder, MD, FACS
Samantha Rose Witte, MD, FACS
Hong Zheng, DO, FACS

New Fellows of ACS were conferred during the Convocation held on Sunday, October 16th at the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA. To watch the Convocation, click [HERE](#).

We encourage our new Fellows to get involved in the local ACS Chapters. If you are not a current member, consider joining today.

For Keystone: Click [HERE](#)

For Metro Philly: Click [HERE](#)

Questions? Email our Executive Director, Robbi Cook at rcook@rmcmanagementsolutions.com.

Venue Rule Change Will Likely Increase Cost of Healthcare and Threaten Patient Access in Pennsylvania

*Guest Article by Curt Schroeder, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform*

Pennsylvania's medical liability landscape is scheduled for a sweeping overhaul starting in January 2023 thanks to a change to the state's venue rule – with surgeons and other medical professionals likely to feel the negative impacts directly. In August, the state Supreme Court rescinded the venue rule for medical malpractice cases – which had previously stated that medical malpractice cases had to be tried in the county in which the alleged injury occurred – thus allowing forum shopping to once again take place in the Commonwealth.

The original venue rule was put in place nearly 20 years ago to help address a health care crisis that was gripping the state. At the time, rampant venue shopping had led to skyrocketing liability premiums, which in turn was driving physicians and specialists out of Pennsylvania and causing hospitals and medical professionals to curtail services and close maternity wards. The issue rose to such a critical level that the state Supreme Court, Governor, and General Assembly came together to stop venue shopping. In 2003, the Supreme Court adopted a rule requiring all medical liability cases be filed in the county where the alleged cause of action, or injury, occurs.

In the years since the rule was implemented, the rule has done exactly what it was designed to do. The Commonwealth's medical liability environment was right sized as the number of medical liability cases filed in Philadelphia, and other high verdict counties, plummeted and medical liability premiums stabilized. Despite the success of the rule, over the past several years, plaintiffs' attorneys have launched a full-scale campaign to have it reversed in order to go back to the days of venue shopping in search of the bigger jackpot verdicts. While this rule change is a huge win for the trial bar, it will have dire impacts for residents throughout the state.

The Commonwealth already suffers from the second highest medical malpractice payouts in the nation and is in the midst of a clinician shortage. Additionally, a recent [report](#) from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform has identified Pennsylvania as a top state for nuclear judicial verdicts. The report found that more than half of the nuclear verdicts, which are defined as a jury verdict of \$10 million or more in personal injury and medical malpractice lawsuits, took place in Philadelphia. Now that the Supreme Court has paved the way for plaintiffs' attorneys to steer cases to high verdict courts, the number of nuclear verdicts is expected to go up. And that won't be the only negative impact. A recently released independent [actuarial report](#) commissioned by Senate Judiciary Chair Lisa Baker, found a rule reversal would lead to a substantial increase in premiums. In Lancaster County, for example, physicians could expect upwards of an 82 percent premium increase! Medical professionals in the collar counties of the southeast region of the state are also likely to see spikes in premium costs, with physicians in Chester County and Montgomery County expected to see an estimated 23 percent and 49 percent increase respectively. Other counties mentioned in the report that would see substantial premium increases included Bedford, Chester, Clinton, Lycoming, Montgomery, Potter, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Venango.

The Supreme Court's unilateral decision to undo two decades worth of legal stability in medical malpractice cases will have long-term ramifications if left unchecked. Clearly, action is needed to prevent another health care crisis. The Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform is encouraging lawmakers to address the venue issue once and for all to bring fairness and balance back to the state's legal environment. We urge you to join us in this effort by reaching out to your state representative and senator to convey the negative impact the venue rule change will have on the Commonwealth's health care landscape and ask for their support on this issue. It is critical that the General Assembly acts quickly in the upcoming legislative session. Maintaining access to affordable, quality health care is too important to risk by allowing venue shopping to again run rampant.

Keystone *Chapter*

ACS Chapters American College of Surgeons

Metropolitan Philadelphia
Chapter

ACS Chapters American College of Surgeons



Congratulations!

Welcome to Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons

As a new Fellow, the Keystone and Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters (your local ACS voice) invite you to join members of the Chapter Councils and representatives of the Young Surgeons Work Group (a collaborative task force for residents and young Fellows in the Keystone and Metro Philly Chapters) for a virtual Meet, Greet, and Network event.

Please plan to join us at one, or both, of our upcoming virtual MGN sessions. Registration is required. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with information and a link to join the event.

Meet the Chapter leaders, learn about the importance of being part of the local voice for the surgical community, and find ways to connect with your peers and colleagues.

Wednesday, November 9th (6:00 PM—7:30 PM)

Wednesday, November 16th (6:00 PM—7:30 PM)

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

We look forward to meeting you!

Keystone & Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter Councils
Young Surgeons Work Group Task Force

Toxic Workplaces Are Bad for Mental and Physical Health, According to Surgeon General

By [Lindsay Ellis](#)

In the October 20th issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, staff writer shared the concerns the Surgeon General shared regarding toxic workplaces and the affects it has on the mental and physical wellbeing of employees. The following is some highlights from the article. As always, self-care is important and necessary. You need to take time for your well-being and mental health to be the best surgeon.

The U.S. surgeon general tells Americans that disrespectful or cutthroat workplaces could be hazardous to their health. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued a guidance recently outlining how long hours, limited autonomy, and low wages affect workers' health and organizational performance. We are aware that chronic stress disrupts sleep, increases vulnerability to infection, and in some cases has been linked to conditions ranging from heart disease to depression. Research studies from the American Psychological Association and a Stanford University psychologist were cited in Dr. Murthy's guidance remarks.

"Toxic workplaces are harmful to workers—to their mental health, and it turns out, to their physical health as well," according to Dr. Murthy.

Lindsay Ellis shares in her October 20th article, that the surgeon general's guidance on the role of the workplace in well-being comes as many workers report work stress and difficulty concentrating. Meanwhile, companies have stepped up spending on mental-health and well-being benefits in recent years.

Recommendations shared by the surgeon general in Ellis' article include asking workplace leaders to listen to workers about their needs, and increasing pay and limiting communications outside of work hours.

A mentally healthy workplace, [according to the framework](#), includes growth opportunities, work-life

balance, community, protection from harm and employee influence on workplace decisions.

"People are asking themselves what they want out of work," Dr. Murthy said. "They're also asking themselves what they're willing to sacrifice for work, and the fundamental questions are reshaping people's relationships with the workplace."

Ellis' article shares that about 80% of the roughly 11,300 workers surveyed between 2020 and 2021 by Mental Health America said work stress affects relationships with friends, family, and co-workers. Stark differences are noted in respondents when asked about difficulty concentrating at work. In 2018, 46% indicated they had difficulty, compared to 65% in 2020, and 71% in 2021. The survey cited the pandemic as one potential contributor to this shift.

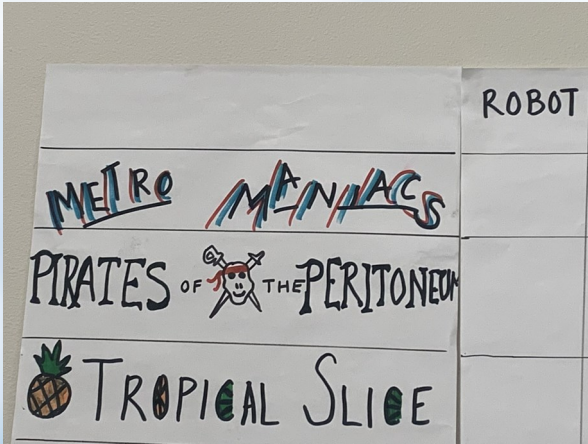
More than 2,000 [workers were surveyed](#) by the American Psychological Association in April and May and were asked to describe the dynamics of their workplace. Of the respondents, 18% described their workplace as somewhat or very toxic, and 30% said they had experienced harassment, verbal abuse, or physical violence at work, including from customers/patients.

Mental health and providing resources to employees has become a high priority around the globe. Providing avenues for wellness, including increasing wellness benefits, especially for the healthcare sector, is critical in maintaining mental wellness, physical health, and preventing burnout.

Are you taking steps for self-care? Do you have access to resources to help alleviate stress, fatigue, and burnout? If not, now is the time to re-evaluate your self-care routine. Take time to go outside for a walk, grab a few mid-afternoon "ZZZ's", or do something fun and spontaneous with family, friends, or colleagues. Disconnecting for social media, phones, and emails is a great way to re-energize and rejuvenate your mental well-being.

To read the Lindsey Ellis' full article, click [HERE](#).

Out and About At Clinical Congress



Photos Courtesy of Niels Martin, Shannon Foster, and Rebecca Hoffman



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Academic Surgery

JUMPSTART
Junior Underrepresented Mentorship and Promotion – Start Program
2022-2024 Cohort



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<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Sponsored by the Eastern Surgical Society</small></p>				
 <small>Crisanto M. Torres MD, MPH Boston University</small>	 <small>Jessica Zagory MD LSU – Children's Hospital of New Orleans</small>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Additional Grant support from the ACS</small></p> 	 <small>Julia Glaser MD Univ of Pennsylvania</small>	 <small>Neil King MD Temple University</small>



WHY JOIN AN ASSOCIATION?

Associations are stronger than ever. By joining, you get members-only perks, exclusive advertising and networking opportunities, and a whole lot of exposure for yourself and your institution. Get on board and see the difference!

NETWORKING

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Gain a say in what happens in government through the association advocacy efforts.



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*Available with your ACS Membership



CREDIBILITY

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Keystone & Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapters
American College of Surgeons

JOIN US!

Contact us to learn more about the benefits of membership today!