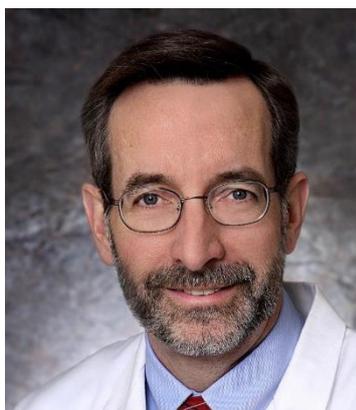


## New Member Spotlight



Doctors for Emergency Service (DFES) is a democratic physician group based in Newark, Delaware. This physician group has been in business since 1969 with a "family first" philosophy. The group includes 65 emergency physicians and 35 physician assistants staffing the Christiana Care Health System's three emergency departments. For more information on Doctors for Emergency Service, please visit <http://www.dfes.com/>.

### **Excerpts from a conversation with Thomas Sweeney, MD, MMM, FACEP, FAAEM**

Dr. Sweeney started his career as a DFES emergency physician and became the first EMS medical director of the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission and then served as the New Castle County EMS Medical Director. With this experience, he became more involved with DFES and has now been with the group for over 24 years, 17 of those years as Vice Chair of Emergency Medicine. Recently, Dr. Sweeney was elected to the DFES Board of Directors as Treasurer. He completed a Masters of Medical Management at Carnegie Mellon University and is the Chair of the Board for Westside Family Healthcare, a federally-qualified health center with 260 employees and six clinical sites. On a personal note, Dr. Sweeney speaks fluent German and enjoys hiking with his family in his wife's homeland, South Tyrol.

DFES supports Christiana Hospital, the only Level 1 Trauma Center between Philadelphia and Baltimore which also functions as a comprehensive stroke center and a cardiac center. DFES also staffs Wilmington Hospital and the Middletown Free-standing Emergency Department. Wilmington Hospital is only 30 miles from Philadelphia and sees patients from both the inner-city and suburbia.

DFES provides academic faculty for the Christiana Care Emergency Medicine Residency and the Christiana Care Emergency Ultrasound Fellowship. All DFES physicians have an academic role. This is, in part, what attracts so many qualified physicians to DFES and most have multi-decade careers with the group. Through this academic partnership, DFES supports 61 residents in emergency medicine. The wide range of patients and facilities offers EM residents a full and varied emergency medicine experience.

Dr. Sweeney and the team at DFES have followed EDPMA with interest for a number of years. The group decided to join with the encouragement of a long-standing member. DFES strives to remain politically active in the state by fostering relationships with state senators and representatives. DFES sees the reimbursement landscape changing over time and believes it's important to stay on the cutting edge of ideas and options occurring at the state level. Dr. Sweeney is happy to share what he sees happening in Delaware and to take the lessons learned from others and apply them in his state.

Dr. Sweeney and his team participated in EDPMA's 2017 Solutions Summit and said, "I was very impressed by the committee meetings on the first day, in particular. I attended all of the Committee meetings and found them to be very enlightening. There was a lot of valuable information shared by many participants." Dr. Sweeney said he will certainly be continuing his Solutions Summit participation and has joined EDPMA's State Regulatory and Insurance (SRIC) Committee.