PRESIDENT’S LETTER
J. Scott McMurray, MD, FACS

There is no other professional society I know like the American Broncho-
Esophagological Association (ABEA). Organized in 1917 as the Association
of American Peroral Endoscopist, it became the American
Bronchoscopic Society in 1921 before it took its current moniker in
1939. There were already 261 members by 1955. Its original stated
purpose was to promote the
knowledge of diseases and injuries in
the respiratory and upper digestive tracts, and the advancement of
the art of broncho-esophagology; a purpose that holds true to the
present day. The uniqueness into which our small society has grown
stems from our founders. Their commitment was to master the
retrieval and to educate for the prevention of aspiration of
devastating aerodigestive foreign bodies. This combination of
excellence in scientific pursuit, education through didactic teaching
and perhaps most importantly impacting society and its health
through political and societal change makes our group special.

Our small group and its leaders have been instrumental in the
development of techniques for safe foreign body removal, the
establishment of the Federal Caustic Act, the foundation for the small
parts test fixture used in the Child Safety Protection Act and,
presently, the leadership of a multidisciplinary group to rapidly
identify and prevent the damage of aspirated button batteries, a
ture foreign body emergency with potentially lethal outcomes.

Membership in the ABEA not only portends clinical and scientific
acumen but also compassion that translates into a drive to not only hone skills for the assessment and treatment of disease but in prevention and education through community action.

Winston Churchill once said that to improve is to change; to be
perfect is to change often. To keep our society moving toward
improvement, our council has been working hard to modify its
structure; to keep with the times and to keep our current course in
alignment with our goals. The fruits of this work are at hand and the
committees and offices have been restructured to increase
involvement, activity, commitment and impact. I encourage you to
get involved. As Edward O. Wilson once said, “You teach me, I
forget. You show me, I remember. You involve me, I understand.”

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I would also add, however, that along with understanding, through involvement you make an impact.

I would implore you to get involved and to devote some of your time and energy to our society. Recruit a member, submit your work, create a panel, join a committee and reap the rewards of impact and understanding through involvement.

Give of your time but I also plead with you to give financially to support the mission of the American Broncho-Esophagological Association. Your contributions directly impact our ability to sponsor our young and bright minded through travel and research grants, to honor spectacular work with monetary awards and to continue in our quest to impact change for the good of our patients and families through the leadership of education and involvement.

The year has already taken hold and is promising to shape up to be a great one. The call for papers and panels has arrived. The 2016 Program Chair, Mark Gerber, has already been laying the groundwork for a spectacular scientific meeting in his hometown of Chicago. Send him your abstracts and your ideas and make a difference. You and your involvement is what make this society great.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the Windy City.

Scotty
Dear ABEA community:

Of all the blessings of being a part of the ABEA community, one of the most rewarding is the rich relationship we have with our international colleagues. For many of us, this begins back in fellowship when we are just laying down the foundation of our own careers.

Looking back at my wonderful year as Laryngology fellow at Vanderbilt, I was more than lucky that my time there coincided with that of Mustafa Gerek, MD. Mustafa was the international fellow for the year, visiting from his home institution of Gülhane Military Medical Academy (GATA) in Ankara. GATA is Turkey’s premier military medical referral center; Mustafa was a young Assistant Professor preparing for his promotion exams and I was an enthusiastic laryngology fellow trying to figure out which end of the laryngoscope goes into the mouth. Through 18 years together now, we have had a thousand cups of tea, plenty of Rakı, plenty of presentations/panels, family trips and compared notes on our careers and the growth of our families. Mustafa is now the Professor and Chair of his Department in Ankara. This year, he is the President of the National Congress meeting in Turkey and I am honored to represent the ABEA membership as his international guest of honor at that meeting. It all started due to our connection early on in our training.

Hakan Oğuz, MD was also a visitor from Turkey when he met Adam Klein while under the mentorship of Steve Zeitels. Adam Klein was Dr. Zeitels’ clinical fellow that year and they hit it off from the start. As Dr. Oğuz noted, “Adam’s hospitality helped me a lot in my first days in Boston. He was always warm, friendly and open to sharing his knowledge and experience. In the past years, I have stayed in contact with Steven Zeitels, Robert Hillman and Adam Klein from the clinic. Our friendship with Adam continued for the past decade. We discussed cases, we thought about conferences-courses and we co-edited a special issue for an international journal. Besides being a warm colleague, he has become a great friend for me. I am always very sure that he is just a phone call or an e-mail away to cooperate with me. I hope that we will do a lot together in the forthcoming years....”

Do you have a newsworthy item or would you like to submit a news article for ABEA’s Newsletter?

ABEA is looking for contributing authors to expand the newsletter.

The next deadline is February 10, 2016.

Please send your newsletter item to abea@facs.org.
Fall/Winter 2015 ABEA Newsletter

Mike Johns (the 3rd) also shared a similar story of a positive experience – it started with simple hallway conversations and developing, substantive connections that we as trainees often get to experience while studying with our mentors. Mike met and befriended Nupur Nerurkar, a dynamic laryngologist from Mumbai while they were both at Vanderbilt. They stayed in touch over the years – fast forward to the World Voice Congress in Seoul 2010 and many other meetings; since then Mike and Nupur have joined forces for meetings here and in India, where Dr. Johns has been a guest on several occasions. Dr. Nerurkar adds, “It is a blessing to have a colleague like him who I can bounce ideas off and who is so generous in sharing his knowledge!”

For me the punchline is this: we are more than lucky to have these wonderful careers that put us in contact with lots of remarkable people from around the world. Our early career ABEA folks may indeed find that the seeds for their most rewarding long-term professional relationships are planted very early – reach out to the visiting scholar at your fellowship or residency. No matter how busy or overcommitted you feel at the time, talk to them, invite them to your happy hour, encourage them to attend your meetings (including the ABEA) …listen and learn from them. Your journey is just beginning.

Best,

ALM

PROPOSE A MEMBER TO JOIN ABEA!

Individuals who wish to become members of the association must be proposed and seconded by ABEA members and obtain letters of support, among other requirements. Applications are due February 15, 2016. Please visit ABEA’s website at www.abea.net or contact the ABEA offices for more information.

There are six classes of membership in the ABEA:

- **Active Members**: The only class permitted to vote and hold office.
- **Allied Members**: Practitioners in allied specialties.
- **International/Corresponding Members**: Prohibited by geographical location from regular attendance to meetings.
- **Senior Members**: Former active, associate, or corresponding members who may request after 25 years of membership or after reaching age 65 to be relieved by the Council of the duties and prerogatives of their membership class.
- **Honorary Members**: Individuals who have contributed in a unique way to Broncho-Esophagology, or whom the ABEA confers a special honor.
- **Candidate Members**: Individuals who are not yet eligible for active membership, but are interested in participating with the ABEA.
- **Resident Members**: Residents and fellows in training who are not yet eligible for candidate membership, but are interested in participating with the ABEA.
SUPPORT THE ABEA TODAY!

We would also like to recognize the following members who have made notable contributions to the development efforts of the ABEA:

**President’s Circle Contributors:** Jonathan Aviv, Andrew Blitzer, Ellen M. Friedman, Gregory A. Grillone, Gady Har-El, Peter Koltai, Jamie Koufman, J. Scott McMurray, Gregory Postma, Clarence Sasaki, Peter Sasaki, Eiji Yanagisawa, Peak Woo, Steven Zeitels

**Council Leadership Circle Contributors:** Milan Amin, Michael Benninger, Seth Dailey, Edward Damrose, Ellen S. Deutsch, Michael Hinni, Peter Koltai, Albert Merati, Reza Rahbar, Gresham Richter, J. Paul Willging, Karen Zur

**Button Battery Task Force Contributors:** American Academy of Pediatrics, Ian Jacobs

To make your contribution, visit the ABEA website www.abea.net and click on “Support ABEA”. You may log into the new ABEA Members area at www.abea.net or fill in the form directly online.
The American Broncho-Esophagological Association

ABEA 2015-2016 Donor Support Form
Tax Exempt# 56-6060790

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Additional opportunities:
Named Discussion Panel #1 for 2016 Annual Meeting: $25,000
Named Discussion Panel #2 for 2016 Annual Meeting: $25,000

Opportunities for bequests are welcomed.
This form may be submitted to ABEA Headquarters at abea@facs.org, fax to 312-278-0793 or mail: ABEA c/o American College of Surgeons 633 N. St. Clair St. Chicago, IL 60613
ABEA’S 2015 ANNUAL MEETING
ABEA’s Immediate Past President: Gregory A. Grillone, MD, FACS

2015 GUEST OF HONOR

In recognition of his visionary contributions our field, his altruistic approach to his students, residents and patients, and for the profound influence he had on so many of us, it was my very distinct pleasure to have Dr. M. Stuart Strong as my Guest of Honor this year.

Educated in Ireland, Dr. Strong came to the Boston University School of Medicine in 1952 after completing residencies at the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital in Dublin, the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, and the Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Boston. By 1956, he was named chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at Boston University School of Medicine and the University Hospital. In 1968, he joined forces with Dr. Werner Chasin, then chairman of the Tufts training program, and together they formed the BU-Tufts Combined Training Program in Otolaryngology, which lasted for 25 years. I was one of those fortunate enough to train in the combined program.

Dr. Strong’s contagious enthusiasm for scientific discovery led to an historic collaboration with Drs. Jako, Vaughan, and Polanyi to develop the use of the carbon dioxide laser to treat diseases of the upper aerodigestive tract. This “minimally invasive” – transoral approach to these diseases changed the face of our specialty forever and improved the lives of countless patients.

Beyond his academic achievements, Dr. Strong was a model of professionalism and compassion. His love of otolaryngology, “the Queen of specialties” as he likes to refer to it, was infectious. Students and patients alike revered him. To this day former pediatric patients of his, now grown, still ask about him.

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

I was very pleased to present a presidential citation to my good friend, colleague, and mentor, Ken Grundfast. Ken arrived in Boston from Washington D.C. in 1999 to become the Chair of Otolaryngology at Boston University Medical Center (BUMC). I was in mid-career at the time at BUMC. Over the past 15 years, I have watched in awe as he transformed BUMC Otolaryngology into an outstanding, world-class department with bright, young, energetic faculty. He has mentored not only faculty and residents but countless students over the years.

More than any other individual, Ken has been instrumental in my own career development. He is, without question, the best chairman anyone could ever hope to have.

It was a great privilege for me to be able to honor Geza Jako with a presidential citation at the annual meeting. Although Dr. Jako could not be present to accept his citation, his two sons Ron von Jako and Chris von Jako and his daughter Cynthia von Jako accepted the award on his behalf. A few months after the annual meeting, Steve Zeitels, Ken Grundfast and I visited Dr. Jako in his home where I was able to personally present him with the presidential citation.
I first met Geza Jako back in the 1980’s when I came to Boston for residency training. I quickly realized how significant his contributions to our field had been. In the early 1960’s he was developing specialized instruments and laryngoscopes (the well-known Jako laryngoscope) to be used with the surgical microscope to perform what is now known as microsurgery of the larynx. Soon after, he began working with his physicist friend, Thomas Polanyi, and with Drs. Strong and Vaughan, to couple the carbon dioxide laser to the microscope. The visualization and precision provided by this setup revolutionized our ability to diagnose and remove disease in the larynx. Dr. Jako has served as an advisor to several U.S. presidents and is widely considered the “Father of Laser Surgery” in our field.

He has had an enormous influence on me and many other laryngologists and I hope that this Presidential Citation will serve to recognize and honor the achievements of this great man.

Dr. Shapshay was the Chief of Otolaryngology at the Lahey Clinic, which was part of the Boston University –Tufts University combined otolaryngology training program, during my residency, and so I had the privilege of training under him. Stan was a wonderful mentor to me and was a great influence in my decision to enter academic practice. Years later, he joined the faculty at Boston University Medical Center (BUMC) and I again had the privilege and pleasure of working with him. Stan became a close colleague and we collaborated on a number of projects during that time. He was instrumental in launching my interest in the use of spectroscopy for detection of oral cancer. I have to say that the years that Dr. Shapshay was at BUMC were among the best years of my professional career.

I was very honored to present a posthumous presidential citation, honoring Dr. Vaughan, to his lovely wife Joanne and his daughter Laura at the annual meeting.

When I began planning for the annual meeting, I had imagined that Dr. Vaughan would be sitting in the front row, but sadly, he passed away unexpectedly in March of 2014. I first met Dr. Vaughan in 1982 when I interviewed for a residency position in the Boston University-Tufts University otolaryngology-training program. I had the good fortune not only to be trained by him but also to work with him when I accepted a faculty position at Boston University Medical Center after residency. Dr. Vaughan was a true innovator – performing (and teaching his residents how to perform) endoscopic partial laryngectomies back in the early 1980’s. He was a master clinician and taught us to be astute and skillful otolaryngologists. He taught us to be calm under pressure no matter how harrowing things got in the operating room. He loved teaching residents and students. Even after he retired from clinical practice, he found great joy in teaching medical students the nuances of the head and neck exam.

Throughout his career, Dr. Vaughan influenced countless otolaryngologists. To me he was a mentor, teacher, advisor, and most of all a friend.
CHEVALIER JACKSON

I was very pleased that Bert O’Malley accepted my invitation to be the Chevalier Jackson Lecturer. In keeping with the theme of this year’s meeting, Bert delivered an outstanding, inspiring, and truly visionary presentation about the future of minimally invasive surgery in our field using the lessons learned from TORS.

Bert is the Gabriel Tucker Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Director of the Head and Neck Cancer Research Program, and Co-Director of the Center for Head and Neck Cancer and the Center for Cranial Base Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

It was a great honor for me to present this year’s Chevalier Jackson award to my good friend and colleague Steve Zeitels.

Steve is the Eugene B. Casey Professor of Laryngeal Surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Center for Laryngeal Surgery and Voice Rehabilitation.

Steve is widely regarded as one of the leading laryngologists in this country and abroad. He has authored more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters and has presented over 300 papers and lectures. He is a prolific surgical innovator, having designed numerous voice restoration procedures and instruments (and is perhaps best known for his pioneering work on laser applications to treat dysplasia, cancer, and papillomas).

He has been the recipient of numerous awards for his achievements, including our very own Broyle’s Maloney Award and the Casselberry and Newcomb Awards from the American Laryngological Association.

Steve’s recognition goes well beyond our specialty societies and his achievements have been profiled in such notable public media outlets as the National Geographic Channel, The Today Show, The New Yorker Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. Steve has been a loyal member and supporter of the ABEA, having served on the council for a number of years and then as its President in 2004. He has been a prolific contributor to the ABEA as well. I cannot recall a meeting where Steve has not had a new idea or technique to share with us. Back in 2004, The Voice Health Institute, a non-profit group formed by some of Steve’s loyal patients, provided an endowment to the ABEA that has been used to support a Panel at each scientific meeting since then, including this year’s Panel on Difficult Airway Cases.

ABEA’s 2015 Annual Membership Photograph
SURVEY FATIGUE? ABEA Responds With Clarified Guidelines
ABEA's Research and Education Committee Chair: Seth Dailey, MD

The ABEA is committed to improved clinical care through research. As such, physicians wishing to query the membership with questionnaires may do so with the following guidelines.

A brief 1-2 page research proposal should be sent to the chair of the ABEA’s Research and Education committee by email.

Each proposal must have an ABEA member sponsor.

The committee will review the proposal within a two week period and provide the proposer with feedback by email. The proposer may be asked for revisions in an iterative process with the committee. If the committee approves the proposal then it will be circulated to the ABEA council by email for approval or suggestions for edits.

If approved (not all proposals are approved), then the questionnaire will be distributed to the membership on two occasions to maximize participation and the results returned to the researcher. Parameters that enhance the chances of acceptance for distribution include home institution Institutional Review Board approval, a timely and pertinent knowledge gap to be filled, clarity, and brevity.

There is a strong expectation that the results will be presented and subsequently published. Research questions should pertain to the field of expertise of the society. The ABEA membership is comprised of busy practitioners who possess considerable collective knowledge.

The committee’s goal is to balance the access to these practitioners with a desire to focus our member’s energy for surveys on a modest number of cogent and promising projects.

11th Congress of the European Laryngological Society
3rd Joint Meeting of ELS-ABEA & ALA
2nd Meeting of Società Italiana di Laringologia

June, 8th - 11th 2016
Genoa, Italy

www.els2016.org
Please join us in Seattle next spring, April 22-23, 2016, for the “Art and Science of the Performing Voice” symposium. We have several keynote speakers, an enriching and enjoyable program, a master class, and a recital by Metropolitan Opera singer, Michaela Martins. There will also be an inaugural free paper session as well; submitted abstracts must be limited to 250 words. The subject of the free papers must relate to the title of the symposium - "Art and Science of the Performing Voice". Original material is preferred but previously presented work will be considered. The deadline for abstract submission is DECEMBER 1, 2015.

This symposium is supported by the Bergstrom Award for Art and Science at the University of Washington. For further information on the symposium, please contact Kari Ragan at dkr@kariragan.com or Martin Nevdahl at mnevdahl@uw.edu.

Abstract submission: Please send to Albert Merati amerati@uw.edu.
Dear Laryngology Colleagues,

The fourth annual Laryngology Fellow's Day (LFD) is coming to Pittsburgh, PA October 15 as a prelude to the 2015 Fall Voice Conference.

This year’s Fall Voice Conference is being held October 15-17 at the Sheraton Station Square hotel. The main conference program is designed to encourage and educate professionals in the multidisciplinary approach to the management of voice and swallowing problems – for more information, please visit Fallvoice.org.

First and foremost, Fellows Day is an opportunity for incoming, current and recent graduate fellows in Laryngology to gather in one place and interact; this will be an all-day FREE program of laryngology content to attend and foster discussion/collegial interaction. The format will be mostly panel discussions with plenty of opportunity for audience participation and will include voice, airway and dysphagia topics.

This was a great success last year, with world class presenters and dozens of attendees at the San Antonio Fall Voice Conference. Thanks again to all the speakers and participants!

Laryngology Trainees: If you are 1) an incoming laryngology fellow or interested senior resident, 2) a current laryngology fellow, 3) a recent graduate of a laryngology program completing your fellowship in 2015), please feel free to join us in The Steel City for LFD. There is no charge for registration, but you must RSVP to Dr. Postma at gpostma@gru.edu and also to Alyson Conley (alyson@theassociationcompany.com).

We hope you stay and attend the Fall Voice Conference the following two days; registration for the Fall Voice conference is separate and can be done through the website listed above.

In addition to LFD and Fall Voice, this year we have added an all-day Transnasal Esophagoscopy (TNE) and Advanced Esophageal dilation didactic and hands-on course as well as a special evening session about diagnostic dilemmas in voice disorders that will be held on Wednesday October 14, 2015.

If you are a laryngology fellowship program director, we are asking for your help with getting this invite to your incoming, current, and recently graduated fellows. Please feel free to forward this to your current or former trainees.

We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh on October 15 for LFD and for Fall Voice 2015.

See you there!

Greg Postma
agpostma@gru.edu

James Burns
burns.james@mgh.harvard.edu
The Fall Voice Conference this year will be bigger than in past years and should be a great exchange of clinical laryngology information among physicians and speech pathologists involved in the care of laryngology-related diseases. The main conference will be October 16-17, 2015 in Pittsburgh. We will have 2 days of pre-conference activities including a new, hands-on Esophageal disorders workshop and a new Wednesday evening program focusing on the diagnostic process which will include live patient evaluation. The Fall Voice conference is the perfect place to bring your entire laryngology team (MD, SLP,...).

Further information can be found at: Fallvoice.org

**Wednesday, October 14, 2015 (8am-4pm)**

*Contemporary TNE and Advanced Esophageal Procedures Course *(limited to the first 20 registrants)*

This exciting course will offer beyond state-of-the-art training in office-based esophagoscopy and advanced procedures. Topics that will be covered include contemporary indications and techniques of, transnasal balloon dilation of the and airway, office-based injection, office TEP, and frequency energy delivery to the LES (STRETTA) a treatment of reflux disease. This course is both didactic and a workshop with hands on practice with models.

**Wednesday, October 14, 2015 –Dinner Program**

"Diagnosis: How, What and I Don't Know"

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. - Cocktail and Dinner Reception
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. - Live Diagnostic Patient Evaluation with a Multidisciplinary Team Evaluation
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. - "Please Help Me With This Case": Challenging Diagnostic Cases from the Audience. (Attendees can submit a challenging Laryngology case from their practice to be reviewed and discussed by an expert panel.

**Friday, October 16-17, 2015 – Main Conference**

Work developed through the ABEA's Button Battery Task Force will be presented to a national audience of surgical colleagues. Register for the panel session featuring Ian Jacobs, Toby Libovitz, Kris Jatana and Craig Derkay will present "Button Batteries and Magnets" in conjunction with our Pediatric Surgical colleagues at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons on Tuesday October 6, 2015 in Chicago, IL at McCormick Place. Register at: www.facs.org/clincon2015/register.

Second Caribbean Pediatric and Adolescent Otolaryngology conference at the Ritz Carlton in San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 15-18, 2015. Our website for registration is: www.caribbeanpediatriccoto.org. Rooms start as low as $209/night and the conference features an all-star line-up of Pediatric Laryngologists and Otolaryngologists.
17th International Endoscopy Days
Friday-Saturday November 13-14th, 2015
San Diego, California

The “Cutting Edge” of Pediatric Airway Management
Seth M. Pransky, M.D., Program Director
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

4 Live Endoscopic Operative Cases
Lectures, Panel Discussion and Debates of the following topics:
1. Laryngomalacia-Unusual Presentations, Unusual Thoughts--Is It Swallowing Dysfunction or GERD? Dana Thompson/ Panel: Jeffrey Simons, Gresham Richter
2. We’ve Fixed the Airway-Now What Do We Do About the Voice Dave Albert / Panel: Alessandro de Alacron, Murali Mahadevan
4. OSA: Management of Supraglottic and Hypopharyngeal Obstruction—Beyond T + A; Christopher Hartnick / Panel: Ari De Rowe, James Sidman
5. Airway Cases I Wish I Could Re-do: Patrick Froehlich / Panel: Michael Rutter, Andrew Inglis, John Russell

Special Guest Presentations
Tracheal Surgery-State of the Art and Beyond: Richard Hewitt
Panel: Frederic Kolb, Glenn Green, Noel Garabedian, Colin Barber
Laryngeal Robotic Surgery; Philippe Ceruse
Technology: New Stents; Robert Ward
International Consensus on Post Tracheotomy Care; Reza Rehbar
The Adult Laryngologist View; Peak Woo
General commentary and Lunch Presentation: The Young Professional Voice

Audience Participation:
Ask the Experts: Show Us Your Albatross
Tools I Want /Need to be a Better Airway Surgeon

International Faculty
David Albert; London, England
Robert Berkowitz; Melbourne, Australia
Colin Barber; Auckland, New Zealand
Philippe Ceruse: Lyon, France
Ari DeRowe; Tel Aviv, Israel
Patrick Froehlich; Montreal, Canada
Noel Garabedian; Paris, France
Richard Hewitt; London, England
Frederic Kolb; Paris, France
Murali Mahadevan; Auckland, New Zealand
John Russell; Dublin, Ireland

US Faculty
Alessandro de Alacron, Cincinnati
Glenn Green, Ann Arbor
Christopher Hartnick, Boston
Andrew Inglis, Seattle
Reza Rehbar, Boston
Gresham Richter, Little Rock
Michael Rutter, Cincinnati
James Sidman, Minneapolis
Jeffrey Simons, Pittsburgh
Marshall Smith, Salt Lake City
Dana Thompson, Chicago
Robert Ward, New York
Peak Woo, New York
Karen Zur, Philadelphia

Local Faculty
Anthony Magit, M.D.
Daniela Carvalho, M.D.
Marcella Bothwell, M.D.
Wen Jiang, M.D.
Shelby Leuin, M.D.
Javan Nation, M.D.
Matthew Brigger, M.D.
Do we have your current information? Notify ABEA Management if you change positions, institutions or update your email address. We would like to stay in touch!

Email us at ahea@facs.org.

PAY YOUR ABEA DUES
We have a new system to make it easier for you to pay your ABEA Membership dues. Click here to request a password.
Your log in is your email address.