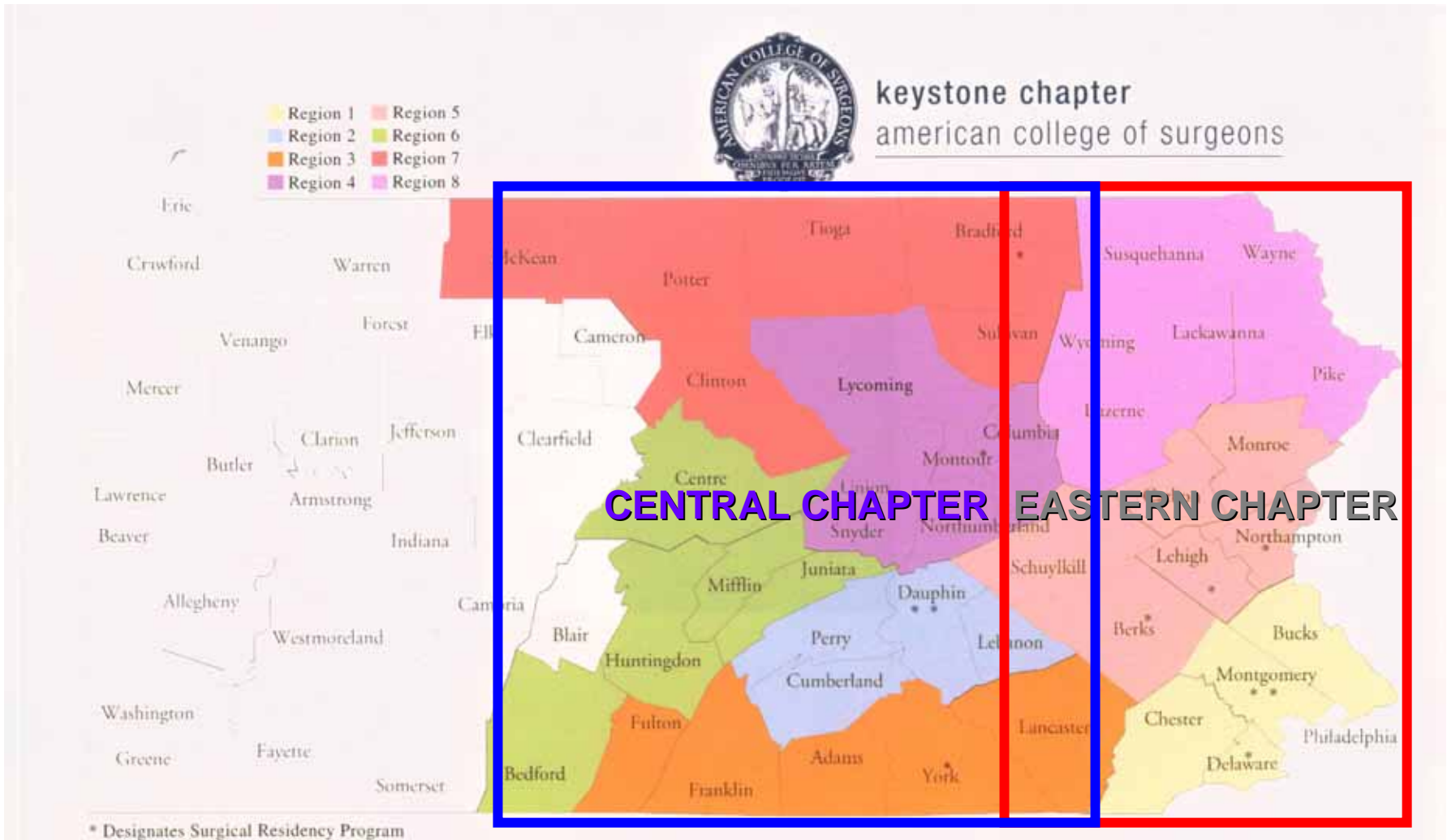


2001



2001

- Eastern Chapter
 - Region
 - Eastern $\frac{1}{4}$ of Pennsylvania excluding Philadelphia
 - Governors = 2
 - CoC State Chair
 - Training programs - active
 - Lehigh Valley
 - St. Lukes
 - Easton
 - Abington
- Central Chapter
 - Region
 - Middle $\frac{1}{2}$ of Pennsylvania excluding Altoona
 - Governors = 1
 - CoC State Chair
 - Training programs - active
 - Hershey*
 - Geisinger
 - York
 - Guthrie
 - PinnacleHealth

2001

- Eastern Chapter
 - Financial
 - Deteriorating but viable
 - Membership
 - Stable (~75% eligible members)
 - Activities
 - Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Prof Education
 - Politics
 - PA Med Society
- Central Chapter
 - Financial
 - Deteriorating and insolvency imminent
 - Membership
 - Falling (~25% of eligible members)
 - Activities
 - Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Residents

Merger Timetable

- Summer 2001
 - Initial discussions regarding potential merger
 - Drs. Robert Sinnott and Narayan Deshmukh
 - Charlene Wandzilak
- Fall 2001
 - Meetings with chapter councils
 - Dr. Aaron Bleznak & Eastern council
 - Dr. Robert Sinnott & Central council
 - Approval to move forward with potential merger

Merger Timetable

- Winter 2002
 - Merger recommendations
 - Identify/preserve each chapter's interests
 - Equal representation
 - Officers
 - Elected representatives
 - CoC State Chairs
 - Governors
 - Bylaws proposal
 - Substantial assistance from the College!

Merger Timetable

- Spring/Summer 2002
 - Recommendations for merger reviewed and approved by both chapters
 - At Central Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting, authorized council to dissolve Chapter and merge
- September 2002
 - Bylaws, chapter and council structure, and geographic regions are approved by both councils
- October 2002
 - Central Chapter votes to dissolve chapter and merge with Eastern Chapter to form **Keystone Chapter**
 - Assets (\$9537) transferred to Keystone but designated for educational purposes only

Merger Timetable

- October 2002
 - Eastern Chapter notified of merger and proposed Bylaws changes.
- November 2002
 - Eastern Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Approves merger and new Bylaws
- January 21, 2003
 - First council meeting of the Keystone Chapter of the American College of Surgeons

Key Points

- Despite differences in status/stability/goals of chapters, both were dissatisfied with their ability to make a significant impact on issues effecting Pennsylvania surgeons
 - Issues
 - State and National legislative issues
 - Reimbursement
 - Malpractice
 - Reasons
 - Fragmented voice for surgeons
 - Lack of manpower
 - Limited financial resources

MISSION

- The mission of the Keystone Chapter, American College of Surgeons (KC/ACS) is to provide a regional voice for surgeons in all specialties, be an advocate for its members and the patients they serve, provide educational opportunities for its members, and to encourage the highest standards of ethical surgical practice.

Key Points

- Despite the greater financial stability of the Eastern Chapter, both chapters were treated equally as regards representation on the council and in leadership roles
 - Both CoC positions retained
 - More appropriate and equal distribution of responsibilities
- Chapters had similar constituencies
 - Rural/small towns/smaller urban regions

Key Points

- Both chapters accommodated the needs/traditions of the other
 - Scientific meeting expanded to 1 ½ days to accommodate traditions of both chapters
 - Increased number of resident presentations
 - Mock oral boards
 - CME
 - Increased activity in conjunction with the PA Medical Society
 - Increased political activity

Key Points

- Open process with substantial effort spent communicating activities to the councils and the membership.
- Neither chapter required 100% agreement with merger from its council/members.
- Maintained the same representation at the College (Governors, CoC State Chairs)
- Substantial support from the college
 - Rhonda Peebles
 - Dr. Russell
 - Kate Phair, CoC

Signs of a Successful Merger

- Absolutely no consideration of whether councilors are from “old” EC or CC.
- Ignore Bylaw specifications regarding alternating meeting sites
- Increased political activity and “clout” with the PA Medical Society
- Interest from other Pennsylvania ACOS chapters in coordinated activities or even possible merger
- Interest with other Pennsylvania organizations (PSOH) in joint scientific meetings

Issues

- Membership
 - 45-50% of eligible ACOS fellows pay dues
- Philadelphia suburbs
 - Teaching appointments/affiliation with Metropolitan Philadelphia chapter members
- Person power
 - Virtually all work being done by chapter officers and councilors
- Loss of interest of two teaching programs
 - Smaller programs from periphery of geographic boundaries of Keystone Chapter have become inactive