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Dear Fellow Members:

I am pleased to report that the indispensable Jean Owen and I have just completed a site visit to The Homestead, location of our upcoming CME meeting this year from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>. Suffice it to say, that I believe you will love this venue. The Homestead is America's first resort, founded in 1766. In those days it was very common for people to "take the waters," and many resorts sprang up (pun intended) around local springs thought to have medicinal benefits. This phenomenon is detailed in the book [The Springs of Virginia](#). The springs at The Homestead apparently also supply the water for the indoor pool originally built in the 1890s.

Activities abound at the resort foremost being golf. The notable legend Sam Snead, about whom it was once written that Sam Snead is to golf what Michelangelo was to art, hailed from the area. He is honored in many ways – the Sam Snead Tavern locally as well as Highway 220 bearing his name. In addition to golf, the hotel grounds have a lovely pool, water slides, tennis courts, numerous lawn games including croquet, miniature golf course, and of course the spa. Other activities offered include horseback riding, fly fishing, kayaking, hiking, and skeet shooting.

The town of Hot Springs has an interesting microbrewery (Bacova, winner of the 2019 local business award) which is located roughly across the street from Sam Snead's Tavern. The tavern in addition to excellent food has some fascinating memorabilia from Mr. Snead's career, including a framed collection of balls from his thirty-five hole-in-one shots. At The Homestead, the main dining room serves a fantastic breakfast buffet. The principal restaurant for lunch and evening dining is Jefferson's and adjacent to it is the Lounge, which does not require reservations allowing more flexibility. I had occasion to speak with the executive chef, Todd Owen, who pointed out that the Lounge serves more typical Allegheny area cuisine while Jefferson's features more haute cuisine. Additionally, there is an Italian themed restaurant with great pizza, Woody's.

The resort is steeped in history and justifiably proud of historic preservation but also natural preservation. Each morning there is a history tour at 10 a.m. Noteworthy are the portraits of the numerous presidents who have visited The Homestead. The Homestead is in a most silvan setting, situated on fifteen thousand mostly preserved natural acres. In fact, the county in which it is located, Bath, is the only county in Virginia without a single traffic light. Hiking the nearby Cascades helps bring the nature preservation efforts of the resort into focus through the excellent commentary of guide Brian LaFountain. This naturalist is a wealth of information on flora and fauna.

As our conference occurs over the weekend, I would be remiss if I did not mention that there are several churches in the area. Most convenient to the hotel is Shrine of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which has mass at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Let me encourage you all to attend this year's meeting. I can assure you that you will find the site most interesting and enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack R. Eades, M.D.  
Site Selection Commit Chairperson