

AOOA BULLETIN

A Publication of the Advocates for the Ohio Osteopathic Association

Spring 2010

Statewide Meeting Earlier than Usual Destination Convention and Welcome to Columbus

by Sheila VonderEmbse

The Ohio Osteopathic Symposium is fast approaching. This year, with the support of the Ohio Osteopathic Foundation and Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the meetings are scheduled for April 29 - May 2, 2010. The Hilton at Easton Town Center will be the location of this year's events.

When we think of the annual meeting in Ohio, we think of fun, friends, education, exchange of ideas and investigating new concepts. This year is no different.

Easton Town Center has become a destination for many with specialty stores, entertainment options, and restaurants. We have a special offer from Macy's at Easton to work with their personal shopper, Mark Miller. Mark makes shopping an experience, pointing out sales items as well as offering suggestions on what might fit you best. Plus, Columbus has other activities to offer throughout the city, including the Titanic exhibit at COSI. Brochures will be available at the meeting so that you will be well informed.

As always, the AOOA will hold a raffle at the meeting. The prizes are two new design fashion COACH purses. The value of each purse is over \$400. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25.

We will again offer breakfast on Friday morning, April 30 followed by the Annual Meeting. In addition to business, Brian Blasko, a nationally known speaker and trainer, will offer a motivational presentation. A fun communicator, Blasko's contagious energy encourages attendees to feel comfortable about themselves and their personal development. Advocates are also invited to attend the Alumni Receptions (Des Moines will be here for the first time in several years plus OU-COM and other schools) and the closing Symposium session on Sunday morning. In addition, there will be an evening Open House at Doctors Hospital for everyone to experience the new, state-of-the-art facility there; the always elegant OOA President's Dinner; and the traditional Farewell Brunch on Sunday morning. For a complete schedule and registration, go to www.ooanet.org/cme.

This inaugural Ohio Osteopathic Symposium combines and replaces the OOA Convention, usually held in June, and the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine CME Conference & All Class Reunion, usually held in the fall, to offer a quality education program for which both organizations are known.

Plan to be part of the fun in Columbus April 29 - May 2. We promise the snow will be gone by the time you arrive. •



The Advocates Need You

by Mary Schreck

The Advocates would love to have your involvement! Please consider bringing your talents to the Advocates for the Ohio Osteopathic Association (AOOA). Your presence will help us continue the many great projects we have. We love getting new ideas and input.

Our public education project, the Safety Activity book, is used across the state in schools, safety city programs, doctor offices and other activities involving children.

Scholarships are awarded to OU-COM students from our endowed scholarship. We also support other osteopathic programs in the state and nationally.

The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program has no doubt saved lives across the state. Many presentations are given to schools and groups around the state.

Please consider taking an office or committee chair position. Let us know if you just want to be informed of our meetings so you can come and better familiarize yourself of our activities. We do not have a nominating chair this year, so if you are interested in serving please contact **Mary Schreck** at schreck@ohio.edu or 740-541-1384 (cell).

Thank you for considering your role in our organization. Your involvement will help us continue this good work. •

AOOA leadership met February 24, 2010, in Columbus. In attendance were (front, l-r) Kelly Bull, Fatema Baumgardner, Mary Schreck, (back row) Barb Wills, Dana Rodgers, Merry Beth Vargo, and Sheila VonderEmbse. Plans for the upcoming meeting, April 29 - May 2 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton, were discussed.



Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program Saves Lives

by Mary Schreck

Becky Marx and I continue to give presentations, letting youth know that it is OK to ask for help. We also educate adults about the seriousness of suicide.

Becky now presents at Liberty High School and Brookfield High School. Officials at Brookfield, located in Trumbull County, asked for her help after they lost a student to suicide. It was a very difficult presentation and Becky could easily tell who the student's friends were. It helped with some understanding of what led to the suicide. They now know what to look for and how to get help. Becky gets a lot of good feedback from the students.

I continue to present to medical students, college classes, high schools and other groups. One student told me he had used the Yellow Ribbon card to get help. Another student told about a classmate calling her and saying he was thinking about suicide. She panicked until she noticed the YR card which she used to get help for her friend.

I learned about a teacher's experience. The teacher had heard my presentation and was looking at the handouts. She thought her mother had Alzheimer's but began to think differently when reading the materials about the symptoms of depression. It turned out that her mother was depressed. She got help and is now doing very well. Our information can help any age group.

Please stop by the Advocates table at the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium to learn more and to pick up Yellow Ribbon cards and other information. In addition, you can always get in touch with me or Becky at the phone, e-mail or address below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mary Schreck

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2009 AAOA Annual Meeting Report

The 70th AAOA Annual Convention was held in conjunction with the 114th AOA Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED 2009), held November 1-5, 2009, in New Orleans. Ohio delegates included **Dee Angel**, of Cincinnati; **Terry Martin**, of Dayton; and first-time delegate **Amy Stiltner**, of Piketon.

In keeping with President Linda Adam's theme for the year, *Healthy Families - Healthy Children*, delegates heard from guest speaker Paul Ehrmann, DO, creator of the award winning Children's Health Initiative Program known as CHIP. Ehrmann, a family physician from Michigan, encourages lifetime wellness through community based grassroots activism. He works to promote healthy living strategies for families in order to achieve healthier communities and a healthier society.

During the business portion of the meeting, Heidi Couch, of Kentucky, was installed as 2009-2010 president and delegates voted to amend the bylaws to add an Intern/Resident to the national Board of Directors. The new representative is in addition to the SAA representative. A Committee Recruitment Fair was held to educate delegates about the various AAOA committees and their tasks and Sessions of Knowledge offered an opportunity to learn about art and creativity, health care reform, and the Patient Centered Medical Home concept.

Each year as part of the Annual Meeting, the AAOA choose a project in the host city to feature and support. This year's recipient was Covenant House New Orleans, a safe haven for at-risk and homeless youth ages 16-21. More than just a shelter, CHNO provides support and training needed to help youth become independent, productive members of society.

Forty golfers participated in the annual AAOA Fore You Golf Tournament, held Sunday, November 1, 2009, at the Audubon Park Golf Course in the New Orleans Garden District. The outing featured a four-person scramble with added competition for closest to the pin and long drives for both men and women.

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held October 24-28 in San Francisco, California. •



Dee Angel, past president of the AAOA and AOA, at the national Annual Meeting, November 1-5, 2009, in New Orleans.

Safety Activity Books Coming Soon

by Amy Stiltner

Each year the Advocates publish *Smart Kids, Safe Kids*, an activity and coloring book promoting safety. This 20-page book helps young children learn how to make good choices. It is designed for parents and children to work together and includes a short section about osteopathic medicine and a list of donors who make the publication possible.

This year, we printed 320 copies of the book and received contributions totaling \$600 to cover the cost of printing and shipping.

Those who ordered books will receive them at the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium, April 29 - May 2 in Columbus. For those who aren't in attendance at the meeting, the books will be shipped to them. •



Do You Tweet?

Join the Conversation.

www.twitter.com/Advocates4DOs
www.twitter.com/ColumbusDO

Osteopathic Profession Plays Important Role in Health IT Project

The Ohio Health Information Partnership, which was formed by the State of Ohio, BioOhio, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Ohio State Medical Association, and Ohio Hospital Association to apply for federal stimulus money, was awarded \$43 million in federal grants to implement a statewide health information exchange (HIE) and a statewide Regional Extension Center (REC).

Coupled with \$8 million from the state of Ohio as matching funds, OHIP will have \$51 million to help Ohio providers achieve "meaningful use" of health information technology over the next four years.

The grant is part of the HITECH provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The state's share was allocated to the Ohio Department of Insurance to support efforts in health information technology (HIT).

"We are very thankful for the financial commitment that the federal government and state of Ohio have shown to help achieve OHIP's mission of advancing the use of health information technology among health care providers and facilitating a statewide health information exchange," said Amy Andres, OHIP Board Chair. "OHIP looks forward to utilizing this funding to improve the safety, quality, accessibility, availability and efficiency of health care for the citizens of Ohio."

More than one-third of the federal funds, \$14.8 million, will go toward development of a statewide health information exchange to allow for the sharing of electronic health records between authorized health care facilities and health care providers. In addition, \$28.5 million of these funds are designated to help with the creation of the REC, which will support hospitals and health care providers in their adoption of electronic health records.

HealthBridge, a not-for-profit health information organization serving Greater Cincinnati and surrounding areas, was awarded a \$9.7 million Regional Extension Center grant from the federal government to serve a tri-state region, including portions of southern Ohio, northern Kentucky and southern Indiana.

In September 2009, Gov. Ted Strickland designated OHIP as the non-profit entity to lead the implementation and support of health IT throughout Ohio. OHIP subsequently applied for the HITECH grant.

OHIP will focus on working with health care providers to lower the cost of acquiring and implementing electronic health records. Additionally, OHIP will assist providers in identifying qualified vendors to ensure electronic health records are properly integrated into the health care provider's individual environment. This will help make sure the full value of the technology is achieved.

The OOA has one of five permanent seats on the board. OOA Executive Director Jon F. Wills has been actively involved in the project and serves on the board, which includes representation from health care payers, the business community, behavioral health providers, community health centers, and consumers. •

OOA Members Eligible for New Investment Program with Cap City Financial and Nationwide

The Ohio Osteopathic Association has launched a new membership program with Capital City Financial Services and Capital City Investment Management Company of Columbus.

Through this new retirement savings and investment planning program OOA members can receive guaranteed lifetime income.

The program, offered through Nationwide Life Insurance and Annuity Company, offers the opportunity to be invested in the market while protecting against loss of future guaranteed lifetime income.

Nationwide, one of Ohio's largest insurance companies, specializes in small business and public sector plans.

For details, call Clark Harmon at Capital City Financial Services at 800-956-6206. •

Grant Will Fund Health Policy Project

The Ohio Osteopathic Foundation has received a \$3,000 grant from Pfizer to fund a mini health policy fellowship at the Ohio Statehouse for osteopathic medical students and residents.

OOA Advocacy Chair Peter A. Bell, DO, and Executive Director Jon F. Wills are currently developing the program and have already approached State Rep. John Patrick Carney (D-Columbus) about participating. Carney, a health care attorney, is vice chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee and also serves on the powerful Finance and Insurance committees. •

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usually held in June, and the
OU-COM Conference & Class Reunion.



APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2010
HILTON COLUMBUS
EASTON TOWN CENTER

register at www.ooanet.org/cme

FROM THE DISTRICTS...

District VI/Columbus

One of the organization's objectives is to ease the transition of residents' families into residency and into the community through a support network. The group has been very busy these past few months meeting that goal and has been very active with the Intern and Resident Advocate Association (IRAA).

Activities include hosting a wine and cheese night, handmaking and writing holiday cards to the troops overseas, and hosting many regular get-togethers at Doctors Hospital. In addition, an annual member appreciation holiday party was held in December with more than 25 members and their spouses in attendance. At the party, each family contributed to adopt-a-families with the Buckeye Ranch.

Plans are already underway for the 3rd Annual Linking Up for DOctorS golf fundraiser. Proceeds from the outing, scheduled for September 14, 2010, support osteopathic medicine and education at Doctors Hospital.

In October, **Fatema Baumgardner** stepped down as president of the Columbus Advocates after more than six years of service. She passed the reigns to **Dana Rodgers** who is very excited and eager to be involved. Fatema is still involved with the Advocates at the state level and will be a continued friend and support to the group.



Dana Rodgers, Keren Terry, Kelly Bull

The group bid farewell to **Kelly Bull**, past leader of the Columbus IRRA, as her husband finishes his residency in June, and welcomed **Keren Terry** to take over the position.

For information about the 6th District Advocates, send an e-mail to columbusadvocates@gmail.com. •

District IX/Athens-Marietta

The organization has occasional meetings and continues to work on growing membership involvement. While not formally affiliated, the Student Advocate Association (SAA) at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine is located within District 9. In August, SAA members were invited to a welcome gathering at **Mary Schreck**'s home, and in December they hosted a bowling outing. The student group sells OU-COM sportswear at the medical school and at the annual statewide meeting. •

Officers

President, VP	Duties Shared by Board
Secretary	Becky Marx, 330-759-0273
Treasurer	Dee Angel, 513-984-3971
Advisor	Schild "Sandy" Wikas, DO

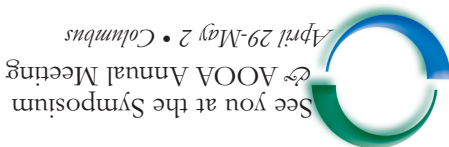
Committee Chairs

Awards	Jane Routh
Bulletin / Webmaster	Merry Beth Vargo
Bylaws / Parliamentarian	Linda Raub
Convention	Sheila VonderEmbse
Membership	Fatema Baumgardner
Public Education	Amy Stiltner
SAA Advisors	Judy Jenkinson; Mary Schreck
SAA President	Fayth McAninch
SPCHEO	Barb Anderson
Webmaster	Chris Darrah
Yellow Ribbon	Mary Schreck

Useful Numbers

Ohio Osteopathic Association	800-234-4848
American Osteopathic Association	800-621-1773

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