

2011 – 2012 in a Nutshell:

Annual Reports from AOOA Committee Chairs and SAA

By-Laws Committee – Linda Raub, Chair

The AAOA introduced proposed by-law changes at the national conference in Orlando, Florida in 2011. The changes were approved and we, as Advocates for the Ohio Osteopathic Association, will be reviewing the changes during 2012.

The Ohio Advocates will present our proposed changes by publication to our membership in 2012, and bring forward the changes to be voted by our members at the AOOA meeting in May of 2013. If possible these by-law changes from AAOA will be available for our membership at the April 2012 meeting.

Convention Committee – Barb Wills, Chair

We are celebrating spring as the 2012 Ohio Osteopathic Association Symposium draws near! Spring bulbs are blooming, trees are flowering and Easton is bustling with shoppers and fun seekers. We look forward to a bright weekend!

The *Bulletin* contained a newsletter along with a ticket form for the raffle. And, this year, the OOA registration packets will have tickets forms and information as well. As always, we will be selling tickets at Symposium - just find one of the Board members to purchase them!

Our raffle this year has three different items - a Coach purse, a black pearl necklace with bling, and an Arbonne anti-aging skin care set.

At our General Meeting, Dr. David Goldberg will give a presentation about the Ohio Physicians Health Program. This is a confidential resource that assists with substance disorders.

We also hope to have a small silent auction that will also benefit the scholarship at OU-HCOM. Tickets will be \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.

Membership Committee – Amber Norman, Chair

As membership chair, I attended the fall 2011 and spring 2012 AOOA Board Meeting in Columbus. At the fall meeting, I was given three lists to compile into one AOOA members list on an Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet denotes lifetime membership. I have asked the OOA about adding a space on the application/renewal dues form for spouse's name but have not heard back at this time.

Osteopathic Spirit Award – Jane Routh, Chair

The nomination form was sent to Cheryl Markino, Director of Communications of *Buckeye Osteopathic Physician*, to place on the Ohio Osteopathic Association webpage. E-mail was subsequently sent to all OOA members with a deadline of March 28. One written nomination was received from Merry Beth Vargo. The 2011-2012 Osteopathic Spirit Award recipient is Rebecca (Becky) Marx. Currently, Becky serves as the secretary to the Advocates to the Ohio Osteopathic Association. She has served the osteopathic profession both in local and state positions for over twenty years.

Student Associate Advocates - Nicole Kuroiwa, President

We started out this year with a change in the name of our school! After an exciting new grant for the school, we became Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. With the name change, we received a new school logo and set to work ordering new sportswear and gear with the new logo and name.

This year's activities began with a pizza party during orientation week for all incoming first year students and their spouses/significant others. Returning second year students along with their families attended as well, and we had 7 or 8 total families meet. The students were able to discuss any questions about the upcoming year, while the spouses talked about the transition to Athens and into medical school....and the kids just played in the pool. We had six little ones attend!

A few weeks later, we celebrated a birth-- the first baby for second year SAA Jess Williman and her husband, Tom. Some smaller activities continued through the fall such as sportswear sale at White Coat Ceremony, weekly walking group during nice weather, and another pizza party for Football Homecoming. We also had a lunch time Brownie treat for the students between lectures, which was much appreciated, and a few play groups at the park. In December, we had two holiday sportswear sales with our new designs as well as sale items with the old logo.

In February, second year SAA member Kate Ferris and her husband, Tyler, welcomed their 3rd baby, so our SAA group continues to grow! Two baby boys this year! Since Winter Break, we have had a movie night and held two sales at Pre-COM events. During Pre-COM, the turn-out of future SAA members was good, with 8 spouses/significant others attending the most recent information session! It should be an exciting transition year next year, as there are only two members staying in Athens next year.

This year, we have also been able to invite more female students with spouses to our events, which has been nice for them to see our support. As SAA has been female members in the past, it has been nice to welcome the female students and their spouses to our events as well. We are currently planning another picnic pitch-in for students and spouses. In addition, we plan to continue the walking groups once or twice a week and hold another treat day for students.

Webmaster – Becky Marx

As AOOA Webmaster for 2011 – 2012, I sent updated contact information to Laura Whitt and Cheryl Markino at the OOA office to be placed on our webpage.

I wish to extend many thanks to the AOOA board members who have made and continue to make invaluable contributions both to the Advocates and in support of the osteopathic profession.

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program – Mary Schreck, Chair

We have had another great year of spreading the word that “It’s OK to ask for Help.” Many have learned how to help themselves and others.

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Present</u>
Athens High School	12	165
Hocking Valley Community Residential Center	1	12
Mount Vernon High School	5	105
Alexander High School	6	110
Logan High School	12	296
Ohio University (Education and Counseling classes)	7	194
<u>OTHER GROUPS</u> given short information talks		
Crisis Intervention Training Athens County	1	22
Group of students who were to be Confirmed	1	6 youth & 5 adults
Kiwanis Club	1	18

A total of 7,000 Yellow Ribbon cards and 1,800 “What is a DO?” pamphlets were passed out at these presentations.

I continue to be involved with two Suicide Prevention Coalitions. I co-facilitate two Suicide Bereavement Support groups in Athens and Logan.

Thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement.