

OSTEOFAX

A Membership Publication of the Ohio Osteopathic Association

- **Deaths in the Family** The OOA extends sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of these outstanding leaders who both made invaluable contributions to the osteopathic profession.
 - **John P. Sevastos, DO**, of Cleveland, a past president of the AOA and OOA, died November 26 at his home. Services were held this week. Memorial contributions may be sent to Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral Memorial Fund (3352 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights 44118); Brentwood Foundation (6000 Lombardo Center, Suite 110, Seven Hills 441310); or AOA Greatness Fund (142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611). Online condolences may be sent via www.legacy.com. A memorial tribute page is also available at www.DO-Online.org.
 - **Frank W. George, DO**, of Kettering, died November 24. George received the OOA Trustees Award in 2003. Services will be held today and tomorrow. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grandview Foundation-Family Practice Residency Program (405 W. Grand Avenue, Dayton, 45405).
- The **OOA Board** met in Dayton, November 11-12. Among the agenda items:
 - Voted to join **the Coalition for Affordable Healthcare in Ohio**. The group believes healthcare coverage should be available to all, continuous, affordable to individuals and families, affordable and sustainable for society and enhance health and wellbeing.
 - Heard a presentation from **Cleanne Cass, DO**, on recommendations from the **Ohio DNR Task Force**, the POLST Form (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) and the Five Wishes Form, which is recognized as a living will document in many other states.
 - Discussed the **Health Policy Institute of Ohio's Strategic Roadmap and Policy Options for Effective Adoption of Health Information Technology and Exchange in Ohio** and accepted the recommendations by consensus.
 - Voted to join the American Medical Association's **Scope of Practice Partnership** as an AOA divisional society. The Partnership was formed to oppose expansions for scope of practice by allied health professionals that threaten the health and safety of patients through research and legislative, regulatory and judicial advocacy.
 - Voted to join a state alliance supporting the adoption of **National Association of Sports and Physical Education standards** for all Ohio students; Ohio is the only state in the nation that has not adopted any physical education standards.
 - Discussed pending **Medicare physician fee cuts** and voted to fax and e-mail OOA members additional advocacy information urging them to take action.
 - Approved holding the **2008 Ohio Osteopathic Convention** at the Columbus Hilton at Easton.

The Board also held a reception in honor of **Alison A. Clarey, DO**, the first woman to serve as president of the American College of Osteopathic Surgery and presented her with a resolution from the Ohio General Assembly. The next OOA Board meeting will be held in March in the Youngstown-Warren area.
- The OOA has partnered with the American Lung Association, GlaxoSmithKline, and others to develop and distribute the **Ohio Asthma Control Test**. The ACT is a five-item, self-administered survey designed with a clinical working group to provide a broader assessment of asthma control at the patient level. It is fast to complete and easily scored, and can be completed in a clinical practice setting, at home, or other locations. OOA members can expect to receive an ACT tear-off pad (printed front and back) in the mail next month.
- The **District IX/Athens-Marietta** meeting scheduled for December 2 has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for January.
- **Brian Kessler, DO**, of Cleveland, represented the profession at a November 10 meeting hosted by the Ohio Department of Health. The day-long Altered Standards of Care meeting focused on medical surge during an influenza pandemic, ethical principles, and a discussion of draft medical guidelines.

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- **James G. Laws, DO**, of Dayton, is one of the stars of a new documentary, *Beyond the Call*, which opened in Chicago and San Francisco last month. The film has been described as “an Indiana Jones meets Mother Teresa adventure, [where] three middle-aged men—former soldiers and modern-day knights—travel the world delivering life-saving humanitarian aid directly into the hands of civilians and doctors, in some of the most dangerous yet beautiful places on Earth, the front lines of war.”
- Two Ohioans were elected as **AOA Bureau of Hospitals** officers for 2006-2007: Vice Chair **Kathleen Rice**, president and COO of Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital; and Secretary-Treasurer **Janie Sinacore-Jaberg**, CEO of Affinity Medical Center/Doctors Hospital of Stark County.
- AOA Trustee **Robert S. Juhasz, DO**, of Cleveland, attended the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) meeting at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on November 13-14 in Maryland, to continue to advocate for a DO appointment to the USPSTF. He also participated on a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services conference call November 14 regarding the Physician Voluntary Reporting Program.
- **Almost 80 percent of the medical malpractice claims resolved in the state last year resulted in no payment to a claimant**, a first-of-its-kind report from the Ohio Department of Insurance shows. The report pegged the average payout to successful claimants at \$269,374. Data collected from companies providing medical malpractice coverage to health care providers in Ohio showed 5,051 claims were closed in 2005. A total of 4,005 claims had no indemnity payments, while 1,046 closed with a payment. The total amount paid was \$281.7 million, an average of \$269,374 for those claims with an indemnity payment. Providers of medical malpractice insurance are required to report closed claims information to ODI per state law (HB 215).
- **Celebrate a smoke-free Ohio by enjoying a night on the town at a newly smoke-free restaurant, bar or bowling alley on December 7—the day Ohio’s SmokeFree Workplace Act becomes law!** Be sure to tell the wait staff and management that you appreciate the smoke-free environment. Ohio voters overwhelmingly passed Issue 5, the SmokeFree Workplace Act, by 58 percent and resoundingly defeated Issue 4, the pro-smoking constitutional amendment, by 64 percent. The Ohio Department of Health is working on rules for enforcement and outreach to local businesses. They have set up a toll-free number for residents to call to get more information about the smoke-free law (1-866-ODH-7654). There is also a separate toll-free number to report violations (1-866-559-OHIO). Ohio is the 15th state to pass a comprehensive smoke-free law. Voters in Arizona and Nevada also passed smoke-free laws on Election Night 2006. To read the text of Ohio’s new smoke-free law, go to www.SmokeFreeOhio.org.
- The annual **Part D open enrollment period for Medicare beneficiaries is November 15 to December 31**. The period provides beneficiaries with the opportunity to enroll in a Part D plan or, if they have already enrolled, to switch to another Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. Coverage will begin January 1, 2007. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that 61 Part D plans are available in Ohio for 2007 coverage A listing of Part D and Medicare Advantage plans and locations of statewide Medicare and Part D Check-up events is available at www.ohioinsurance.gov/prescriptiondrugs.
- The deadline for the **Cleveland Academy of Osteopathic Medicine Poster Contest** is 2:00 PM, December 4. The competition is for a single case study. CAOM will have all winning posters printed for the 42nd Annual Post-Graduate Seminar on January 19-20, 2007. For details, call 216-595-0655.
- To increase the visual quality of life for Ohio’s children, Prevent Blindness Ohio is offering **free, four-hour training sessions** throughout the state beginning in January. The training, open to physicians, residents, interns, and office staff, will provide instruction on how to perform Stereopsis and distance visual acuity screening, as well as information on childhood eye diseases and disorders; vision screening billing codes for private insurer reimbursement; and how to set up a screening area in a primary care office. Upon successful completion of the training and a two-hour homework component participants are eligible to receive free vision screening equipment (\$300 value). For additional information and a training schedule, call the OOA Central Office at 800-234-4848.

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