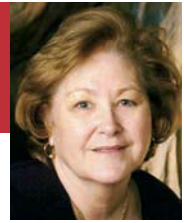


amoa president's news



by Nancy Granowicz, President, AMOA

When the staff at the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) contacted me to let me know that I had the responsibility of authoring the Advocates of the Michigan Osteopathic Association article for this issue of TRIAD they suggested that I highlight the goals and themes of the AMOA. I was given one page and five to six hundred words, which I thought would be an easy assignment. But in reality, it really does require some thought. (Egad, only five or six hundred words?)

As the 2009-10 AMOA President, my official theme for the year is "Honoring our Past, Working in our Present and Planning for the Future." When I think of the devotion that the spouses of D.O.s had to possess to form the auxiliary back in 1946, I am in awe. It is really hard to get a group of people to come together and to all be on the same page. In some ways, they were lucky, however, because they had hospitals that were exclusively osteopathic and I am sure that they started with hospital auxiliaries and then formed the state group. Now we have few hospitals that are exclusively osteopathic. We have lost a bit of our collegiality. And with that loss, we have lost members. (We are now more inclusive because anyone who supports osteopathic medicine can belong to our group.)

If you think about it, now it is more important to maintain the bond that an auxiliary-type organization brings to the osteopathic profession. We need to keep in mind that osteopathic medicine is the tie that binds us all in some way or another, and as advocates, we have an avenue to support D.O.s.

This year, the AMOA will continue to support our national Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association's Yellow Ribbon Teen Suicide Prevention Program and the American Heart Association's Red Dress Program. Depending on what we have in our coffers, sometimes we are only able to offer that support verbally. If we at the state level were able to increase our membership,

we would be able to do more. It has been suggested that we establish an endowment fund for a student at Michigan State University College of Medicine (MSUCOM). We will be researching ways to raise funds for such a project. What better way to plan for our future than to help one of the students up the ladder of the osteopathic profession?

We have been asked by the Michigan Osteopathic Political Action Committee (MOPAC) and the MOA Council on Government Affairs to recruit users for its legislative advocacy tool IMPACT during the 2010 MOA Annual Postgraduate Convention and Scientific Seminar. While this request may require the AMOA to restructure its meeting format somewhat, we are honored to be included in such a meaningful legislative project and recognize that communication with legislators does make a difference.

Another project that we support is the American Osteopathic Association's D.O. Day on the Hill. If you are interested in being part of the Michigan contingent that travels to Washington D.C. in April, please let us know so that we can include you. Our representation at the national level does make a difference for osteopathic medicine and the AMOA is always ready to show its support (as we will at the MOA's grass roots political program as well).

I hope that you will take the time to visit the AMOA homepage on the MOA website at www.mi-osteopathic.org. Simply click on the physician section, select the committees, groups and organizations link, and then chose AMOA from the list. Not only will you find more information about our organization, but you will also find an application for membership.

I feel very blessed to be part of the wonderful osteopathic profession. I want to show my support and my membership in the AMOA is the way to do just that. I hope you will join us in this goal. ■