



Michigan Osteopathic Association

Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association

Angela M. Kalcec, President, 2019-2020

In my role as AAOA President this year, I am working with the incredible AAOA board members to implement our theme of “Advocate with Action” to highlight the importance of advocating for the Osteopathic Profession through each step of the professional journey. The theme supports our continued growth, while still reflecting our rich history. As in past years, we are building upon the AAOA’s history and foundation, while adapting to the ever-changing landscape of a national organization and continuing the progress we have made.

We have several steps to advocate with action this year. We have made a commitment to our strategic plan and vision to provide resources and programs remotely for our membership and beyond. We have continued partnerships with the AOF and the AOA Physician Wellness taskforce. We also committed as an organization to update our website, increase our social media presence, and continue supporting SOMA and special projects, with our annual Fun Run at OMED.

This year, in conjunction with the AAOA Educational Endowment Fund we have offered a series of 6 webinars to our DO family all over the country. Our webinars revolve around wellness from relationship to financial. We will bring in subject-matter experts, including Guy Golan who works with physicians and their spouses through life coaching, Tiffany Sweeney who works with mental health and suicide prevention in the state of Montana, and the White Coat Investor who has authored many books on the very specific finances of physicians.

Already this year we have strengthened our relationship with the AOF as we partner on the Donna Jones Moritsugu Award. This award recognizes the partners of graduating osteopathic medical students who have supported and been involved with their loved one’s career throughout medical school. We are so grateful to have a more involved role in this award and are looking forward to our growing partnership through other important initiatives with the AOF.

Another highlight of Advocate work is our involvement with the AOA Physician Wellness Taskforce. Our Director, Jamie Hentges and I have worked on many taskforce initiatives and continue to help with various presentations and behind-the-scenes contributions. The Physician Wellness Taskforce has provided us an opportunity to continue and grow one of our oldest initiatives: the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program. The Yellow Ribbon program has been around since 1994, and the Advocates have been committed to this work for over 15 years. This year we plan to send one of our board members to Colorado to receive instruction as a Yellow Ribbon Program trainer.

As an organization we also identified a need to modernize our internet presence. This year we will be launching an entirely new website, including an online store where you can buy our ties and brooches, as

well as pay for membership exclusively on the web. We are hoping that this virtual overhaul will help increase traffic to and usability of our website for everyone. Please visit our new website at Advocates4dos.org.

The AAOA continues to invest time and energy into the development of our SAA (Student Advocate Association) and IRAA (Intern Resident Advocate Association) chapters around the country. Starting last year and continuing this year, we have had a greater presence on social media, sending out surveys and holding virtual gatherings so that we can connect with the groups throughout the year, not just annually at our SAA/IRAA event during OMED. We have received positive feedback about these virtual meetings, and through them we are able to address common struggles such as “medical marriage”, finances, and raising kids through med-school/residency. It is important to realize that we are not alone during this challenging time, and others have been there and can offer support and encouragement or advice. Our SAA/IRAA committee this year has begun a push to identify the resident groups that we may have overlooked. We have a couple of strong and active IRAA groups, but we are working to find those that are in the gap period between SAA membership and when they join a state organization.

Our SAA/IRAA event continues to be well-attended during OMED and would not be possible without the support of the AACOFP. In Austin, you can once again look forward to this phenomenal event, in addition to our other annual activities. These include a family fun activity which spouses/children of OMED attendees are invited to attend. We will also be hosting our annual Still Fit for Life Fun Run, and we are honored to have Dr. Mark Baker serve as our Honorary Chair. We hope that each of you will help support our Fun Run this year. All of the money raised goes directly back to SOMA, SAAs, as well as a variety of other organizations supporting osteopathic medicine. We are celebrating our 80th year as an organization, we would love if each of you would make a \$80.00 donation to our Fun Run as a celebration of our 80th year supporting osteopathic medicine.

Our board this year is comprised of many young board members, several student and resident spouses, and two members that are not spouses but rather family members, friends, and colleagues of Osteopathic Physicians. I think this speaks volumes to the commitment and passion our board has for the AAOA, and for Osteopathic advocacy in general, and it will be very exciting to watch this board grow and develop further. We couldn't do it without the amazing support of Dr. Thacker and all of you. Thank you for ALWAYS supporting what we DO.

The AAOA has continued to evolve over the past several years. We are grounded in our roots and continue our basic mission: supporting and promoting the Osteopathic Profession and creating a strong, close network of people who are passionate, like us, about osteopathic medicine and advocating with action. We thank the AOA for their continued partnership and opportunities to collaborate and look forward to future collaboration.