



May 13, 2010

Presidential Update

Dear Academy Members:

We had an excellent convocation program that was successful in many ways; professionally, fraternally, and economically. The Academy has continued to improve in its educational courses as demonstrated by the high attendance at our pre-convo courses and our convocation. John Hohner, DO, FAAO, education committee chair and Doris Newman, DO, convocation program chair, put together a very successful program. Many DO's were enlightened and walked away with new techniques to add to their osteopathic armamentarium. If you were there, you know what I'm talking about, if not, join us next year.

In April, it was my pleasure to represent you as President of the Academy for the AOA at the RUC (Relative Value Update Committee). The RUC periodically reevaluates the work values for all CPT codes. Dr. Judith O'Connell, DO, FAAO and I testified in front of a 30 member, (overwhelmingly MD) board regarding the use of OMT codes and the methodology of determining the RVUs. It was determined that the survey that AOA performed eight years ago was too old. The RUC internal guidelines recommend surveys to be no older than five years old. Therefore, the RUC recommended that the AOA re-survey the profession regarding the use of their OMT codes. This will happen within the next twelve months. Dr. Judith O'Connell and I are actively involved with Academy member Boyd Buser, DO, who represents the AOA leadership regarding this activity.

On May 1st, it was my pleasure to address the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association House of Delegates in Austin, TX. It was a good time for me to connect as your representative of the Academy to the Texas DO's. As you might be aware, the administration of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine has a plan to offer an MD program at the Ft. Worth site. The AOA has testified vigorously against expanding, converting, or adding an MD program to the existing osteopathic program at University of North Texas.

We at the American Academy of Osteopathy stand in support of all osteopathic physicians in the utilization of distinctive osteopathic procedures in their practices and as such, many of the DO's in Texas gave your representative a huge welcome.

My luncheon speech continued the Academy's theme for this year, The year of the osteopathic spirit, to know, to love, and to serve our patients and one another.

The following week, I was a special guest at the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association in Oklahoma City where some three to four hundred DO's were present for the convention. Many of the DO's in Oklahoma are active family practitioners, several of them utilizing OMT in their everyday practice. It is very important that we, as the specialists in osteopathic manipulative medicine continue to encourage DO's of all specialties to utilize OMT and osteopathic principles in their practice daily.

To that end, many of you have received emails from me a few weeks ago regarding presidential notes, the year of the osteopathic spirit. In these presidential notes, you will find unique osteopathic information, philosophical background and approach to the distinctive osteopathic healthcare that you and I practice everyday.



It is very important that we encourage, enlighten, and support each other in a professional manner through our words, actions, and deeds. I encourage you to have fun and spread the osteopathic spirit this year, amongst your colleagues and your patients.

May God continue to bless you, our Academy and all our patients.

Richard A. Feely, DO, FAAO
AAO President