

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2018-19 REPORT

**Sherri L. Quarles**



As was noted in the reports of the Academy's president, president-elect and secretary-treasurer, they have shared that the Academy and profession overall have met with a few challenges. We ended the year with a deficit, however, our pride and determination are stronger than ever and we are going to look for positive ways to improve our current situation. We are going to face these challenges as the mission has been laid out before us.

In Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise," the poet reveals how she will overcome anything with her self-esteem. She shows how nothing can get her down. She will rise to any occasion and nothing will stop her.

That is where your leadership with the Academy stands, and leading that charge has been 2018-19 AAO President Catherine M. Kimball, DO, with the assistance of the AAO executive committee, which consists of 2018-19 President-elect Kendi L. Hensel, DO, PhD, FAAO; 2018-19 Secretary-treasurer Judith A. O'Connell, DO, MHA, FAAO; and 2018-19 AAO Immediate Past President Michael P. Rowane, DO, MS, FAAFP, FAAO. As a result, the AAO's Board of Trustees have had a few additional meetings and looked for more cost-effective ways to have meetings while maintaining the integrity of process and still meeting the needs of the organization. The Academy has a fantastic Board of Governors that ensures that the policies are being followed and reviewed on a timely basis. Every year, our leaders volunteer their time and talents to the Academy, while serving on other committees from our partnering like-minded organizations. For that, we say thank you and look forward to the years ahead.

I also have had to make a few shifts in the office as well with our Academy staff with each taking on a few more tasks, and this is all accomplished with a staff of six full-time employees in addition to myself. The AAO team each have that same passion and continue to work toward the goals that have been determined for the purpose of reaching our mission.

Just a reminder of who our team members are:

- Taylor Bridgeforth, communications and administration assistant
- Debbie Cole, assistant to the executive director and board and committee liaison
- Lauren Good, communications specialist
- Amber Rausch, postdoctoral education liaison and CME coordinator
- Bev Searcy, finance and membership assistant
- Gennie Watts, event planner

## **Some of our professional challenges:**

### **Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation**

As you may have read in our January newsletter, the Academy leadership has been participating in discussions with the American Osteopathic Association regarding proposed changes to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation's requirements for department chairs at colleges of osteopathic medicine. Currently, OMM department chairs must be board certified in NMM/OMM, and we believe this requirement best serves the students and our profession. However, there has been a proposal to remove that requirement, thus opening the OMM chair position to physicians who aren't board certified in NMM/OMM.

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When the AOA subsequently released their proposed revision to COCA's Continuing Accreditation Standards, we were pleased to note that the revision had not been included, but some members of the profession are continuing their campaign to open up the chair positions. We encourage all of you to review the proposed standards, taking particular note of [Element 7.5 on Page 17](#) and submit your comments via email to [predoc@osteopathic.org](mailto:predoc@osteopathic.org). Use the subject line "Comment – Proposed Revisions to Accreditation Standards" to ensure your comments are routed correctly.

The comment period will close on March 22, 2019

## **Academy Challenges**

Then we have our own financial challenges that were shared with you by 2018-19 AAO Secretary-treasurer Judith A. O'Connell, DO, MHA, FAAO. One of those challenges was an event that brought the largest gathering of our AAO members, and that was the 2018 AAO Convocation, which was a wonderful event led by **David R. Boesler, DO**. Titled "Osteopathic Legends, Their Legacies Live On," the program ran March 21-25, 2018. It was a wonderful program and it was great to be able to hear from some of our osteopathic historians that we have not heard from in a while all together in one area. Thank you, Dr. Boesler, for overseeing such greatness.

The challenge was that a storm on the east coast decided it was time to strike as well. We had over 200 attendees that could not make it to Dallas due to flights being cancelled and roads being closed. Mother Nature was a force that could not be reckoned with as most attendees were able to attend and enjoy the sessions.

Like so many other specialty and state societies, the AAO is struggling with membership. We need your help to recruit new members. Talk to your colleagues and friends about the benefits of membership and let us know how we can serve you better.

## **Accomplishments**

**Robert N. Agnello, DO, FACOFP**, chaired a wonderful program for the AAO at the OMED in October 2018. Partnering with the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists, the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, the Bureau of Scientific Affairs & Public Health and the Academy of Sports Medicine, we were able to offer a wide variety of topics and speakers.

While we were in San Diego for OMED, AAO President **Catherine M. Kimball, DO**, AAO event planner Gennie Watts and I had the opportunity to visit the facility at Osteopathy's Promise for Children nearby. It was a great tour, and the hospitality was wonderful while learning more about the services being offered. Thank you, **Michael Kurisu, DO**, for reaching out and offering the invitation to visit while in San Diego. The other hosts were: **Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, FAAO, FCA**; **Raymond J. Hruby, DO, MS, FAAODist**; Beth A. Levendoski, executive director; May Bloemer, administrative support; Marina Marsh, catering; and Frank Cyr

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who made the visit a wonderful experience. I would also like to note that **Theresa A. Cyr, DO**, took some time out before patients to offer a heartfelt welcome as well.

In addition, we met our goal to have the 2019 AAO Convocation open before we went to OMED, and we were proud to share the program with all the members that stopped by our didactic area. This means our members were able to get a jump start on registering before the end-of-year madness.

We continue to make updates to the AAO's Find a Physician search at [www.FindOMM.org](http://www.FindOMM.org). Visit the site to make sure your information is included and up-to-date. If your name isn't included, check the FAQ for instructions.

The AAO's office has a great team and I look forward to working with each of them every day.

Thank you for the continued support of the AAO leadership, members and staff.



Sherri L. Quarles