

# 2018-19 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## CATHERINE M. KIMBALL, DO

It is been my honor to serve as the president the American Academy of Osteopathy this last year. As is often the case, things have unfolded quite differently than could have been anticipated. It has been fun and meaningful to represent all of you in this year of change. Our mission - to teach, advocate and research the science, art and philosophy of osteopathic medicine, emphasizing the integration of osteopathic principles, practice and manipulative treatment in patient care - has never been more important.



It was my privilege to represent the AAO at the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM) in Chicago in April, at The Osteopathic Cranial Academy in June, at the House of Delegates in July, and a number of meetings this fall with the AOA around changes being put forward for certification examinations. It was my privilege to accept a STAR award from the AOA for our collaboration with National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) to develop the Core Osteopathic Recognition Readiness Examination (CORRE) at the Annual Business meeting of the House of Delegates. This important examination went live this last fall and is proving to be helpful to residency directors as they assess the readiness of especially MD residents interested in osteopathic content. Our founder, AT Still MD's intent was for Osteopathic Medicine to become *THE* way for doctors to view medicine. Now more than ever we can "be the change we want to see", to participate in teaching physicians what we have that enhances our patients lives in such meaningful ways.

I attended a Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) meeting in December to speak to our on-going commitment to support OMM department chairs at COMs to be NMM certified. As of this writing, the standard put forward by COCA did not recommend changes. We reached out to the membership to encourage you all to comment, and you've responded! Thank you.

During this last year, the Board of Trustees met in July, October and at Convocation earlier this week. We also had two teleconference meetings as well. As always there was plenty of work for us to do. Due to a variety of circumstances outside of our control, we started the year in the position where we passed the first deficit budget in many years. The AOA's decoupling of membership from certification, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) merger, and simply generational changes have all led to decreased membership. The AOA at its annual business meeting in July voted to unlink specialty specific CME from as a requirement for certification. This has resulted in a decrease in attendance at some of our courses.

The Board of Trustees and leadership embraced the challenge and took a hard look at our current and future offerings and re-imagined them. Stay tuned soon for some future offerings that will mix online delivery of content with in person hands-on experiences. We have heard from membership that long trips away from the office for CME are more problematic. We are working to develop local teams of content experts to offer the same course in several different settings. We need your help – please let us know if you are interested in teaching.

Everywhere in our profession, groups and organizations are finding themselves challenged. Everywhere we went this past year we heard the same thing over and over. We are in a time of change. Changes in leadership at the AOA. Changes in the expectations of our members. Changes in the medical environment as a whole. Changes in the expectations for certification. State and specialty societies all

through the profession are feeling the change. To remain viable and relevant to the next generation of doctors, we need to be ready to change.

We have started this process and it will be the work of Kendi L. Hensel, DO, PhD, FAAO, and the Board of Trustees to continue to be innovative in our approach to teaching, to continue to advocate for our profession and to support the research needed to remain relevant in a data driven world. And, we need to do this all while being present with our patients and our students, offering them an experience of healing second to none, reaching out and touching them in so many ways. Our patients, our physicians, our students deserve nothing less.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine M Kimball D.O." The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

**Catherine M. Kimball, DO**  
**2018-19 AAO President**