

CPMA Newsletter March 2010

A publication of the Colorado Podiatric Medical Association

This issue sponsored by Total Pain Solutions

President's Message

Podiatry Practice Act. If attitude is the reflection of leadership, then I am extremely proud to speak to all members of the Colorado Podiatric Medical Association. As February 2010 came to a close, I am happy to report that our sunset review process is proceeding extremely well. On Feb. 22 our practice bill HR 10-1224 was heard by the Human Health and Services Committee of the Colorado legislature and passed by unanimous vote of 11-0. Our bill was then sent to the Colorado House of Representatives, where it passed by a 64-1 vote on Feb. 26. The bill is now going to the Senate.

The preparation for this process has been going on for the past 18 months. CPMA has had a large amount of input into this bill starting with several meetings and numerous phone calls with the Department of Regulatory Agencies in 2009. I want to thank fellow CPMA members Drs. Joseph Mechanik, Matthew Paden, Daniel Macfarlane, Jeffrey Jensen and Gordon Rheaume who testified on behalf of all Colorado podiatrists on Feb. 22. Thanks to Drs. Thomas Atwood, Jeffrey Mechanik and Kenneth Morgan for being supportive in their attendance at the hearing. Also, Drs. William Hineser and Joseph Mechanik took time out of their busy schedules to meet with current members of the House committee prior to the presentation of our bill.

2009 Conference Summary. It is hard for me to believe that I am already into the fifth month as President of CPMA. When I assumed the role back in October, I knew there was a tremendous amount of work to be done and a good amount of frustration among our current and previous members. Here's an update on events that have taken place.

I am happy to report that the 2009 CPMA annual conference was successful both in attendance and finances. Nearly 90 DPMs and residents participated, as well as 40 staff and nearly 50 exhibitors and sponsors. A Past Presidents meeting convened to discuss how experienced leaders could become more involved in CPMA and how we could assist our new practitioners.

2010 Conference. The CPMA annual conference has been scheduled for Oct. 8-9 at the Inverness Hotel and Resort in Englewood, CO. Dr. Clinton Holland is the Chairman of the 2010 conference and education committee. Should you have any suggestions for potential speakers, topics or exhibitors, please contact him. This year CPMA will be honoring our life members, as well as a special friend, Dr. John Buckholz, who was so instrumental in bringing podiatric medical education to the forefront in Colorado. He has graciously accepted our invitation to serve as honorary conference chairman.

Membership and APMA/PAC. CPMA was founded in 1964 to represent podiatrists on a professional level. A significant number of our colleagues have not joined or have not renewed membership. We all need to take time to reach out to them and promote the importance of our work (i.e. the Podiatry

Practice Act). We welcome our newest CPMA members, Jonathan Scott of Highlands Ranch, Eric Gessner of Colorado Springs and Jared Overman of Fort Collins.

I am very happy to report the appointment of Dr. Karolina Varnay, a second-year resident at the PSL/Highlands program, as the residents' representative to the CPMA Board. It is important that we encourage residents to join CPMA, so that they may learn the importance of belonging to their state association wherever they choose to practice.

I want to thank Dr. Tom Atwood for his many years of service as our APMA /PAC Chairman. This is not an easy job, and I commend Tom for his efforts. Please see our new APMA/Pac rep, Dr. Bill Hineser's, article in this newsletter. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Frederick S. Mechanik, DPM, FACFAS

APMA Awards \$10,000 Grant to CPMA

APMA Board of Trustees awarded us a legal and legislative assistance grant in late February. To be eligible we needed to "demonstrate financial commitment and definitive steps taken in pursuit of a legislative initiative"—namely, the Podiatry Practice Act. I completed a grant application in late October, detailing the meetings and phone conversations with the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and CPMA Board and members-at-large in the spring and summer of 2009. Also noted was the plan to meet with Colorado Medical Society (CMS) to determine if there was opposition to any recommendations. These meetings began in November and went through February. Those who attended were Daniel Macfarlane (twice), Matthew Paden, Joseph Mechanik, Frederick Mechanik and attorney June Baker Laird, myself and our lobbyists.

The two major areas of discussion were: 1. Podiatrists be permitted to treat soft tissues below the mid calf and 2. DPMs who completed a three-year residency program would not have a requirement to be board certified in order to perform ankle surgery

The strategy for meeting with CMS was a direct result of Vision 2015 which encourages podiatrists to work more closely with medical doctors. APMA provided much support in the discussions with DORA in position papers and summaries of scope of practice throughout the USA. In addition, Chad Appel, legal counsel for the APMA State Advocacy Program assisted with the grant application as well as reviewing and commenting on the proposed Practice Act. If you would like a copy of the proposed act or the final bill (which will be posted on our web site, www.colopma.org) please contact me. —**Anne-marie Zuccarelli, Executive Director**

APMA PAC Report

First of all I would like to thank all of you who donated to the PAC last year and those that have donated already this year. We will be in Washington, DC March 22-24 to visit with our state representatives and present the APMA/Podiatry viewpoint. Our Executive Director is setting up the appointments for us so that we can visit with as many of the members of the House and Senate as possible. Funding the APMA PAC is critical to our voice in Congress and the maintenance of favorable laws and relationships with the Colorado Senate and House members.

I know funds are tight in this economy. However, even a \$50.00 donation is very helpful, especially if we can get the majority of our members to contribute. This all adds up to a sizable amount. When only a few contribute then they bear the full cost of supporting our efforts for all members, even those who do not contribute, and the burden is tougher and more costly per individual.

Please make out your check to APMA PAC and send to
APMA PAC, Lockbox #4672, PO Box 758943, Baltimore, MD 21275-8933

Or to my office and I will forward it. I am at 7375 W 52nd Ave, Ste 350, Arvada, CO 80002

Call me if you have any questions. Office-303 421-3668, Cell 303 883-6110 or home at 303 425-5826.
Thanks for your help and support--**Bill Hineser, PAC Representative**

Annual Conference 2010

Scheduled on October 8-9, we are pleased the conference will be at the prestigious Inverness Hotel in Englewood. As we are trying to build on the success of our last two conferences, the location is one that will appeal not only to our brothers and sisters from Colorado, but also those from outlying states who need to fulfill their CME credits as well. The Inverness is well situated along the I-25 corridor. The golf course, as well as its proximity to the Park Meadows Mall and downtown Denver, makes this venue particularly appealing.

As usual, our slate of speakers will be concentrated in the most useful and pertinent areas of our practices, including all aspects of surgery and trauma, dermatology, medicine, infectious disease, biomechanics, and wound care. The Conference Committee, replete itself with accomplished surgeons and experts, is drawing from a deep well of talented and well-known speakers. Returning will be Dr. James Wang and Dr. Kenny Morgan, and new this year will be Dr. Benjamin Overley of the Sports Medicine Institute and John Vanore. This year we will continue with a speaker schedule which allows for three, twenty minute lectures on differing subjects each hour. This format was very well received at our last conference.

The conference will also be organized to allow maximum exposure to some of our most trusted vendors and suppliers, many of which have supported the organization through thick and thin. We have been in contact with new vendors who have expressed interest in getting to know us as well. Building even further upon a firm foundation, the board is honoring Dr. John Buckholz for all of his tireless years of advancing the profession. The board has also approached our colleagues at ACFAS to participate in the conference as they did this past year in sponsoring our resident presentations. As ever, the goal of the CPMA is to enhance the educational experience at our yearly conference, to make it an event from which we can all benefit. --**Clinton Holland, DPM, Conference Chairman**

The Process Before the Final Vote

"My podiatrist made me taller, straighter and prettier." Such were the words of Representative Cheri Gerou, the Podiatry Sunset Review House Co-Prime Sponsor from Evergreen. She was referring to Ronald Edelman, DPM.

After many months of work, the CPMA crossed the first hurdle in the renewal of the profession's oversight regulatory board, the Colorado Podiatry Board. CPMA testified in strong support of House Bill 10-1224 on Feb. 22. Following other DPMs at the House Health and Human Services Committee, CPMA President Fred Mechanik closed the hearing conveying CPMA's appreciation for the work of the Podiatry Board and for the Department of Regulatory Agencies in assuring the health and safety of

Colorado's patients while maintaining the economic integrity of the profession. (See the President's article on other key podiatrists present.) The committee passed the bill on a unanimous 13 – 0 vote.

The ease of the committee was not without considerable work ahead of the sunset's first legislative hearing. Since the October release of DORA's Sunset Review Recommendations, several board members and Drs. Macfarlane and Paden, attorney June Baker Laird, CPMA's Executive Director Anne-marie Zuccarelli and CPMA's lobbying team of Capitol Solutions met with the Colorado Medical Society to address their concerns to mitigate any influential opposition they might have brought to the sunset process. It was Ms. Zuccarelli who initiated the series of meetings with the Colorado Medical Society to improve medical doctors' knowledge of training and skills of podiatrists in order to counter any possible objections to the proposed changes in the Practice Act.

After hours of negotiations, CMS ultimately stood shoulder to shoulder with CPMA and Robert Sawyer, MD, testified in support of the Podiatry Board's continuation and proposed practice act modifications.

The Health and Human Services Committee hearing is only the first step in the 7-step legislative process. Next, the bill proceeds to the full Colorado House of Representatives for 2nd and 3rd Reading Debate and action. Once the bill passes the House, the bill heads to the Colorado Senate to undergo the same steps as the House starting with the final committee hearing in Senate Health and Human Services. Upon passage from committee, it will be passed by the full Senate on 2nd and 3rd Readings. And, then, on to the Governor for his signature. And you are in business.

Sandra Hagen Solin, Capitol Solutions, CPMA Lobbyist

CPMA Newsletter is published for the members of the Colorado Podiatric Medical Association. Web Site: www.colopma.org

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For assistance and additional information contact our officers, directors or Executive Director, Anne-marie Zuccarelli at 303-881-8837 or maxamz@aol.com

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