

NCOMA e-News

September 2011

NCOMA Working Hard for You

Do You Know Your 2011-12 NCOMA Officers?

President: Donald Maharty, DO

Past President: Slade Suchecki, DO

President Elect: Sheila Marshall, DO

Secretary/Treasurer: Donald Morando, DO (new)

AOA Opposes North Carolina Bill

AOA President Karen J. Nichols, DO, and Donald C. Maharty, DO, President of the North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association (NCOMA), sent a joint letter on June 10 to Stan Bingham, Co-Chair of the Senate Health Committee opposing SB 467, a bill to expand the scope of practice of naturopaths beyond their education and training. The AOA and NCOMA expressed support for the “team” approach to medical care, with the physician as the leader of that team. However, the bill would allow naturopaths to use the title “doctor,” which misleads the public. The legislation creates an Advisory Council to foster collaboration amongst health professionals; however, it fails to include representation from NCOMA. Drs. Nichols and Maharty urged Chairman Bingham to oppose the bill. [Read the letter.](#)

2011 House of Delegates Meeting in Chicago

In mid-July, five NC DOs participated in the House of Delegates meeting in Chicago, IL: Donald Maharty, DO, Chair Anthony Elkins, DO, John Kauffman, DO, Slade Suchecki, DO and Barbara Walker, DO. If you are interested in house bills that were addressed during the HOD meeting, check the AOA web page at: osteopathic.org.

Barbara Walker, DO Speaks at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Carolinas Campus, Spartanburg, SC

On August 10, 2011, Dr. Barbara Walker represented both NCOMA and the AOA during a visit to the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)-Carolinas Campus, Spartanburg, SC where the newly opened college showcased statewide osteopathic organizations to students. VCOM funded for 162 students to become members of one of three state medical associations.

Campbell University Medical School Founders Board Update Meeting

Donald Maharty, DO, NCOMA President, attended the August 24, 2011 Campbell University Medical School Founders Board Update Meeting for a status report on the proposed school of osteopathic medicine. Updates were provided by Oscar Harris Chairman of the Medical School Founders Board, Dr. Jerry Wallace, Campbell President, Dr. John Kauffman, Dean of the proposed Campbell School of Osteopathic Medicine, and other representatives and friends of the school.

Donald Maharty, DO Attends NC State Society of ACOFP

Donald Maharty, DO, NCOMA President, represented NCOMA at the CME meeting of the NC State Society of American College of Osteopathic of Family Physicians (NCS ACOFP) in Durham on August 20-21, 2011. Shannon Jimenez, DO, FACOFP, is president of the NC State Society of the ACOFP. Dr. Jimenez is also NCOMA Member-at Large.

New VCOM-Carolinas Campus Students Welcomed By AOA President, Board of Trustees Member, and NCOMA President

September 7, 2011 -- The inaugural class at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus (VCOM-CC) held its orientation program at the new Spartanburg, South Carolina campus.

A highlight of the orientation program included a personal welcome by AOA President Martin Levine. Dr. Levine discussed his theme of “Thinking Osteopathically: Practice It, Prove It, Publish It, and Promote It.

Additionally, AOA Board of Trustees member, Barbara Walker, D.O., and NCOMA President Donald Maharty D.O., were present from North Carolina to welcome the new medical

students to the Osteopathic Family and encourage the students to become active members in their state society.

One hundred sixty-two (162) students started at the new medical school branch campus. Almost forty percent (40%) of the new students are from the Carolinas (North or South Carolina) with 10 coming from Clemson; 7 from University of South Carolina; 5 from College of Charleston and multiple students from UNC campuses, Western Carolina University, Anderson University, North Greenville State University, Coastal Carolina University, and Francis Marion University. Top states where other students are from include Florida, Virginia, Texas, Alabama and Pennsylvania.

The new VCOM-CC has a collaborative partnership with Wofford College located just blocks from the new medical school. VCOM students can use the Wofford campus resources such as the study areas, the library, work-out facilities, and dining halls, in addition to all of the resources on the new medical school campus.