



ADVOCATES FOR THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

The People Behind the Profession

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Advocate family!

The board has been busy working already this year. We had our mid-year in January where we were able to discuss upcoming events and initiatives and focused on updated our strategic plan. Review the final strategic plan and see the pictures of the Advocates Board in action. We have some really exciting things coming up as an organization, so be on the lookout for events and ways to collaborate!

I was able to attend the AOA Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting in February and gave a report on what the AAOA has accomplished over the last year. I was able to connect with other affiliate leaders, deans of COMs and representatives of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). I am looking forward to being able to collaborate, expand our reach, and further our impact. It's always fun to be able to connect with others who have a passion for the osteopathic profession and be able to encourage each other and brainstorm for ways to advocate more.

In January, the Advocates for the AOA transferred back under Affiliate Relations at the AOA and we now have a new Executive Director, Hope Hurley. Hope is wonderful and has taken off running. She has been a

great addition to our Advocates team. We are so thankful to our former Executive Director, Tamara Collum, for all of her hard work last year. We will miss working with her, but know we are in great hands with Hope.

Last but not least, remember that our membership year has changed to a calendar year to match the AOA (January 1 - December 31). If you have not yet had a chance to [renew your membership for 2024](#), please do so before June 1 when your membership will lapse.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. We are thankful for your role as an advocate.

Respectfully,

Megan Maples, AAOA President, 2023-2024

Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA)

2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA) promotes and supports the osteopathic profession.

Our Advocate network is vast, ranging from physicians to friends to office staff. We cover the globe, creating a strong, close network of people who understand that osteopathic medicine isn't a trend or a passing fad, but the best type of medical care possible.

Vision Statement

To be the recognized leader in worldwide efforts for the promotion and support of the osteopathic profession through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

Strategic Plan

Pillar 1: Education and Visibility

Priority: Increase AAOA name recognition

Objectives:

Raise awareness of AAOA mission, leadership, and initiatives within the Advocate network and AOA.

Promote the value of AAOA signature programs to the osteopathic community and profession.

Establish networking partnerships with state osteopathic organizations to identify opportunities to support the osteopathic profession and engage with state SAAs. Increase social media engagement and education.

Pillar 2: Advocacy and Community

Priority: Build Advocate Network

Objectives:

Evolve and strengthen AAOA relationships with osteopathic Colleges of Medicine.

Expand the number of Student Advocate Associations to further AAOA's mission and grow membership.

Build Advocate network through increased organizational capacity and infrastructure.

Pillar 3: Collaboration and Partnership

Priority: Evolve AAOA Relationships with AOA and Osteopathic Affiliates

Objectives:

Engage AOA Board Liaison to AAOA in ongoing collaboration for consultation and guidance. Enhance AAOA partnerships with AOA and osteopathic affiliates to further mutually beneficial goals and priorities.

Nominations are Open!

AOF/AAOA Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award

Submit by May 16



The award honors the spouses of graduating osteopathic medical students who exemplify the immeasurable support and personal sacrifice crucial to their partner's success. In partnership with the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Foundation extends this prestigious award to spouses officially nominated by the Osteopathic Colleges/Schools of Osteopathic Medicine nationwide. Visit the [American Osteopathic Foundation Website](#) for more information and a link to the nomination portal. Nominations will be accepted through Thursday, May 16.



Coming Soon: AAOA Membership Approval of FY24-25 Budget

Advocates in Action

AAOA Midyear Retreat - January 2024



Donate

2024 AOA Meetings



- July 15-17, 2024 - AOA Board of Trustees (in-person and virtual)
- July 19-21, 2024 - AOA House of Delegates (in-person)
- Sept. 20-22, 2024 - OMED24 and AAOA House of Delegates, San Antonio, TX (in-person)
- Sept. 22, 2024 - AAOA Fun Run

2023-2024 AAOA Board of Directors

Megan Maples, President
Krissy Eisenhardt, President-elect
Lori Hildebrand, Immediate Past President
Aimee Thompson, Vice President
Caryn Tabby, Secretary Treasurer
Kelly Feng, Director
Brittany Lutz, Director
Rachel Klahs, Director
Stephanie Johnson, Director
Hailey Lott, SAA/IRAA Liaison
Jennifer Hauler, DO, AOA Advisor
Hope Hurley, Executive Director

Connect with other members of the osteopathic family through the AAOA! You will gain opportunities to support the osteopathic profession and share in common interests and activities with other members. #DO PROUD.

Thank you for being a valued AAOA member and for all you do to support the osteopathic profession!

Contact us at: advocates@advocates4dos.org



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