

AMAOPS – 2017-2018 Presidents Report

On behalf of the Auxiliary I have presided at all Board meetings of AMAOPS. It has been my pleasure to travel and attend meetings, events, and speak on AMAOPS behalf.

Our first board meeting on May 31, 2017 at the MAOPS office in Jefferson City was well attended. We voted and passed to pay \$75.00 Registration fee for each OMED delegate and \$50.00 per day per delegate. Also, we voted and passed airfare up to \$500.00 per SAA Rep.; one room times 2 night to be shared. \$50.00 per day x 2 days, registration fee if needed, luncheon tickets if needed to be provided to our 2 SAA Reps for 2017 OMED. Motion for AMAOPS to provide \$4000.00 for KCU and \$2000.00 for Joplin for a social event to revitalize and organize an SAA at each campus, voted and passed.

It was decided that the AMAOPS 2017 Convention funds be disbursed as follows:

William Wetzel Foundation	\$1000.00
AMAOPS Convention.....	\$3000.00
AMAOPS General Fund.....	\$ 320.00
AAOA Special Projects.....	\$ 500.00
MAOPS Memorial Garden.....	\$1500.00
Total.....	\$6320.00

My first event that I attended & spoke was the SSM Family Practice Residents in St. Louis, MO. Under the planning of SIRA, Roxanne Hubbard Chair, worked with a Resident DO wife in St. Louis County Missouri to have an Social event to welcome the Residents to Missouri. I invited my husband Dr. MICHAEL J SPEZIA, DO, who spoke on behalf of MAOPS, encouraging the new Residents to join their professions physician organizations; of course he followed with the praises of AMAOPS for the Spouses/significant other. The Residents showed great interest in what was said and had many questions. To follow up, we plan to invite this group to the St. Louis Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons joint meeting this coming summer.

The SIRA Committee planned a Welcome Brunch for the new DO Students & families in Kansas City. I attended this event and briefly spoke along with four MAOPS physicians to the students and their families. The physicians had these students full attention Dr. Kevin Hubbard, Dr. Joe Yasso, Dr. G. Michael Johnston and President of KCU, Dr. Marc Hahn. All four physicians spoke on the importance of joining professional organizations, how they can help during med-school and after they are in practice. They gave personal experiences and praised AMAOPS for the spouses/significant others. With the enthusiasm of Sara Gill, (Mrs. Ben) student spouse, we had a list of potential new SAA members in KC. Also, I called a committee meeting at this event to see if the committee wanted to sponsor a pizza party that the group was planning, as we were under budget on the brunch event. Of course, it was unanimous. The SAA in Kansas City continues to be a work in progress.

Many thanks to Roxanne Hubbard, Cheryl Johnston, Chris Yasso, Robin Hahn and Sara Gill for all the wonderful work that was done on this event.

In September, I attended the KCUMB Homecoming in Kansas City participating with other DO spouses in the events that were planned. I briefly spoke to the well-attended affair on behalf of AMAOPS.

The Fall Board meeting on September 2, 2017 was also held at MAOPS office in Jefferson City, MO. It was decided that the Membership Committee would be mailing our newsletter in the spring. SIRA Committee gave an extensive report concerning our Kansas City SIRA event, and our SSM-Mercy event in St. Louis, MO.

As 1997-98 President of the NC Hospital Guild, I met with legal and accounting firm concerning the transfer of the Normandy Community Hospital Osteopathic Guild funds to AMAOPS. After approval, monies were transferred September 15, 2017. All bank records of the last 20 years were transferred to our Treasurer, Pat Molnar. My full report has been submitted to the January 18, 2018 AMAOPS minutes. At the same time Pat and I updated all of our AMAOPS accounts with signatures.

In October I attended the OMED Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Report attached. While we were rained in one afternoon, Chris Yasso, Julie Williams, Pat Molnar and myself worked on correcting the By Laws. We met again in December, in Columbia, Missouri. It became apparent that we wanted the Bylaws close to perfect, logging a total of 12 hours on this project.

I wrote a small article in the MAOPS Newsletter Prognosis concerning our membership.

Our Winter Board meeting in January was filled with convention plans. We will be having a Pre-convention Board Meeting on April 26th at 3:00 PM. Our annual meeting will be held the following day, April 27th, beginning at 9 AM providing a continental breakfast. We did have a motion to provide Wetzel Scholar Spouse/ Significant other to a \$100.00 stipend. Post-Convention Board meeting will follow the annual meeting. Past President Luncheon will be on Friday at 1PM. There will be no Friday Fun Night. It was decided that we would donate \$1000 toward the resident breakfast on Sunday morning. Regarding our fundraiser at the convention it was decided that we would offer two, \$500 Visa Gift cards for raffle paid for by donations from Board members and auxiliary funds. Also, concerning our SAA we would pay for 1 room for 2 nights for SAA Presidents or representatives, also a ticket to the Saturday luncheon and mileage at the IRS rate.

My trip to our AAOA meeting was very expensive. I traveled alone & didn't have my husband to help defer the cost. It was very much appreciated, and not expected that a motion was made that my expenses be reimbursed, it was voted and passed.

Also, much discussion occurred concerning having our AMAOPS history preserved. Motion was made that we would have Tyler Feikema (our Web Master) to preserve AMAOPS history to 1959 at a cost of \$1000 to come from general funds. Motion was also made to have Chris Yasso and Cheryl Johnston to look into the cost of a fireproof cabinet for our records.

Hours were spent going over our bylaws. The changes will be presented for approval at our Annual Meeting. These changes were mailed to the membership prior to our annual meeting. In the packet with the By Laws I included my AAOA report and a cover letter inviting each one of our members to our Annual Meeting here in Branson.

I completed the application and paper work to sponsor a SAA at the KCU campus and sent to Richard Winslow, Ph.D. Vice Provost for Student and Enrollment Services at KCUMB. We had a meeting in January. It was held on the KCUMB Campus with the SIRA Committee, our KC-SAA Advisor our new SAA President, Sara Gill was on teleconference and Dr. Winslow and Assistant Sarah Selkirk. I believe the meeting was very welcoming and productive for both KC and Joplin Campus.

Joplin KCU. We wanted the Joplin SAA to be further along than it is at this point but I don't consider that we have failed in anyway. We have a new medical DO school in the State of Missouri that is going through growing pains everyday. I believe our meeting with Dr. Rick Winslow in January also helped us make headway in Joplin. I had appointed a physician wife last year after I was elected and she was so excited but later had to decline as she had serious health issues. This left us back to square one. Our own Cheryl Johnston, did her own networking and gave us a name that is still at this report, considering helping to host an event around August. This would be an instructor at the medical school and spouse. I also, have further encouragement that a new AMAOPS member has asked to help with the Joplin Medical Students.

I continue to feel confident that Melissa Jennings has committed to help me again this year when needed, concerning the Joplin KCU-SAA. Once we have the new SAA set up in Joplin, then Melissa and I will pull back and let the new SAA Advisor and Students take over.

We are anticipating for when Joplin and Kansas City will have their Organization Fairs. This is to welcome new students and promote membership recruitment. At this writing no date has been confirmed.

Our immediate plan is to continue to work on planning a Welcome for the new students and families. At this welcome we will educate on Osteopathic Medicine, the importance of our Osteopathic Organizations, MAOPS, AMAOPS and also, see if we can't generate interest in organizing an SAA organization on campus.

I am also very confident that we have the backing of the KCUMB administration. Dr. Marc Hahn, President of KCUMB and I have spoken many times this past year and actually feel he is our friend along with his wife Robin. They are perfect for backing MAOPS and AMAOPS.

I would like to thank our Immediate Past President, Roxanne Hubbard for helping me through out the year. After being out of the loop for a bit, due to family illnesses, her help in the knowledge of AMAOPS and how it changed has been priceless.

I would also like to especially thank my long time friend, Chris Yasso who got me started in AMAOPS almost 40 years ago. The “Yasso Bed and Breakfast” for my trips to Kansas City, was delightful and so appreciated. Her advice and common sense about situations was also priceless.

I learned many years ago that a President is as good as her Treasurer, and I will say, that it’s still true today. We not only have one of the best Treasurer, (Missouri is blessed with very good Treasurers) but one of the best advisors of our organization. Now I am not saying that I am as good as Pat, no way, but I can say, she has made my job a lot easier. Her instant knowledge helped so much; Pat was the Lavender Oil for me this past year, so I am calm.

It seemed I had direct lines to Roxanne, Chris and Pat almost on a daily basis. But, when I took this office, again, people ask, why? Well, it was all about support and I knew it was there. I want to thank each and every Board member, for your help and taking on the offices to fill the slate, “again”. You not only filled the offices you actually did your jobs. Thank you so much.

Like I said in my report to the AAOA, we were in new territory here in Missouri. Leadership in an organization means you must have a plan for the future; our future must be focused on our medical DO students. Missouri is one of those rare states in the United States that has (3) DO Medical Schools. We have a lot of future ahead of us.

That being said, Ladies and Gentlemen our objective in our By Laws is far from being met. I learned this year that many of the new spouses/significant others, knows that their mate is in DO Medical School but do not really know ‘what is Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, and if they do know, they lack in knowledge of our History.

This year I have done my due diligence, in letting our membership and MAOPS know about our difficulties. That being done and said, from now on, we will only speak of our future. Our future will be longer than my term and it will be something we will need to address every year as new students comes to our state.

JOYCE SPEZIA, 2017-18 AMAOPS President

