

2016 President's Report

April 19, 2016

Greetings! This President is pleased to have returned to leadership of the AMAOPS organization on February 1, 2016 for the remainder of her term.

Our June Board meeting canceled for lack of quorum. The illness of Dr. Phillip Accardo, spouse of this president advanced rapidly in July, requiring she take temporary and undetermined leave. This president would take this opportunity to graciously thank all Board members, and especially Vice President Bobbi Jo Tucker, for the courage and leadership provided during the leave. This special recognition in no way diminishes all the supporting members' efforts.

Phillip's death on August 27, 2015 brought to a close a nearly 40 year marriage and a friendship of over 47 years. Our blended family remains intact, injured deeply, but struggling into complete recovery if that is a possible goal.

Since January 18, this President met and talked with multiple Board members in an attempt to grasp the activities surrounding the last 6 months. A big thank you to all those persons as well.

On March 1, 2016, representatives of the AMAOPS Board and the ATSU-SAA were pleased to host AAOA President-elect and AAOA-SAA Advisor, Linda Kazen Garza to Missouri. President Pam Kolinski was stranded in Michigan due to inclement weather. Since many of our Osteopathic campuses house colleges of medicine and bioscience, it becomes confusing to our SAA's how their membership dues and funds are to be used. Our endeavor was to clarify the roles of the AMAOPS and the AAOA and their relationship and sponsorship of the SAA. Although initially well received, much discourse and fallout has followed. This serves as a reminder that we all need to clarify our position in the Osteopathic profession as servants to those who follow. Title and power seekers spawn likeminded leaders. Servant leaders lead servants.

This officer found it extremely disconcerting to learn that Board leaders and liaisons failed to follow through with positions for which they volunteered or were elected. This President nor any

other should babysit officers and Board members. If charged with a duty, in most instances a job description appears in the bylaws of the organization, and those Bylaws are posted on our website prominently. If a new position has been created, this President laid the groundwork and description for that member. To ask that your President provide names or lists is tantamount to asking the President to do your job. To accept a position and not follow through sets YOUR entire organization up for failure, not just your President or whomever you might be bearing a grudge. We have to remember who we are, to whom we belong, and stay focused on the goal to which we are charged.

We have made great strides in the last three years in bringing the Auxiliary forward. We have recaptured our 501C3 status. We have streamlined and pared down committees and duties. We have invested our money into moderate growth funds. We have converted our business to an electronic format. We have updated our website and logo. We have created a Facebook page. We have updated bylaws and standing rules. We have helped create a new face of Osteopathic Medicine by funding and creating chatter on the information highway. Much remains to be done and we must begin by changing our thinking in regard to the role of this Auxiliary.

This President is gravely concerned not only for the future of this organization, but the future of the profession as a whole. As a whole we have become apathetic and too comfortable with the status quo. We have allowed our goals to be influenced and guided by being politically correct and all inclusive. And while these MUST influence our MISSION, it cannot be the sole influence of our goals.

For the remainder of this President's term, her focus was to determine the goals of this organization, how to make them known and how to achieve them. Let's make that more concrete. If our mission is to support public health through the advancement of knowledge of Osteopathic Medicine, what is our goal to achieve and sustain that?

This President believes sustaining the future belongs to those entering the profession and their families. Nurturing and supporting these will produce a strong, viable and sustainable Osteopathic family. This President has moved toward that goal by establishing

a new category of membership with a leader/liaison Board member, and a stronger focus on sponsoring student leadership activities alongside MAOPS. In order to recruit and sustain membership, we must be able to provide a concept of goals that dues dollars will attain. It means little to say they support Osteopathic medicine endeavors. We have to be able to discuss what's in it for them and their future. In many instances, people choosing health care plans no longer have the luxury of choosing their physician, let alone an Osteopathic physician!

This Auxiliary has the opportunity to become the voice of healthcare in their community, city and the state of Missouri, and possibly lead the way for the nation. Do we also bear a responsibility for that? I believe so. Can this be our goal? Absolutely! What will it take? Are you willing to commit?

Glenda Accardo, President, AMAOPS, 2013-2016