



Washington State Orthopaedic Association

Newsletter

April 2009

WSOA Leadership

Walter Kregel MD
President

John Adkison MD
1st Vice President
& AAOS Councilor

Lyle Sorensen MD
2nd Vice President

Patrick Halpin MD
Secretary/Treasurer
& AAOS Councilor

Edward Farrar MD
Immediate Past
President

Robert Yancey MD
Director

Chris Kontogianis
MD
Director

Tom Deagan MD
Director

Michael Thorpe MD
Director

Doug Musgrave MD
Director

WSOA Board Meeting Minutes

[March 2009](#)

[January 2009](#)

[June 2008](#)

[April 2008](#)

WSOA-BFOA Legal

President's Message

Wally Kregel, MD, WSOA President

Welcome new Board Directors, Michael Thorpe, MD from Pacific Rim Orthopedic Surgeons in Bellingham, and Doug Musgrave, MD from Rebound Orthopedics in Vancouver, WA. Thank you for your involvement in the WSOA.

The WSOA Board of Directors met March 27-29 to discuss the strategic plans of the WSOA for the next five years. Below is a summary of current issues/projects for the next five years. WSOA appreciates your comments and suggestions and urges you to participate in WSOA.

Please contact Darla White, Association Executive, for more information.

Important Projects for 2009

- Membership Drive
- NOLC
- BFOA Lawsuit
- Utilization / Ownership of Advanced Imaging
- HTA Decisions and Input
- Assistance with Legislative Fundraisers
- AAOS Playground Build
- DSHS / Uninsured Care Report
- WSOA Annual Meeting

Membership Drive

To be able to act as an effective state organization, we strive to have 90% of practicing orthopaedic surgeons become members. We realize that membership dues are a burden, and that you have many competing requests for your hard-earned dollars. However, we are most effective at advocating, communicating, and educating when all viewpoints are incorporated. Many issues that affect your practice will only be effectively dealt with by a strong and representative state organization. AAOS strongly advocates state membership, as they are unable to provide adequate resources for advocacy and action at the state level. Please visit our website at wsoa.org and download a membership application. Admission to the annual meeting and WOA social event are included in the membership fee this year. We hope to be able to decrease membership dues again soon, after the BFOA lawsuit is concluded. Approximately 50% of 2009 dues are being allocated to the BFOA defense fund and the WSOA Reserve Advocacy Fund. Separate donations to the BFOA defense fund are appreciated, as our legal fees have exceeded \$300,000 in this endeavor already. We request that practices that employ physical therapists donate an additional \$5000 per employed therapist.

NOLC

Three representatives from WSOA will be at the NOLC meeting in Washington DC this year. If you have any suggestions, please forward

Defense Fund

Thank you to all who have so generously donated to the cause!

Please make your contribution today!

Ten percent of your contribution will go towards a newly created WSOA Advocacy Fund to help with future advocacy and defense funds efforts. Send your check or credit card information to WSOA-BFOA Legal Defense Fund, c/o WSMA, 2033 Sixth Ave., Suite 1100, Seattle WA 98121. Or call the WSOA office at 206-956-3642 or [email](#) Association Executive Darla White.

them to ddw@wsma.org. We look forward to their report upon returning.

BFOA Lawsuit Update

WSOA's defense of in-house PT continues. However, much more than PT is threatened. The statutes being tested would have an effect on our ability to bill for the services of other allied health care practitioners in our offices. This could affect our ability to bill for the services of PAs, nurse practitioners as well as PTs, OTs and massage therapists.

We have seen support from urology, ophthalmology and many other specialties because these statutes are so broad and have many implications.

Much is at stake, not just for orthopedics, but the house of medicine in general, as the autonomy of physicians continues to be challenged on multiple fronts in America today. This defense of our right to employ other professionals in our practice has been very expensive. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on this defense, including nearly \$200,000 by BFOA, \$50,000 by the AAOS, \$30,000 by the WSMA and AMA, and over \$150,000 by the WSOA, as well as numerous contributions from county medical societies and state subspecialty societies.

Columbia Physical Therapy has filed a motion with the Supreme Court requesting an additional 35 days in which to file its reply brief. The extension of time is not likely to have a practical effect on when the case is decided. Oral argument will likely be during the fall session (September - November). This extension should do nothing to change that timing.

Residents

Did you know your WSOA membership is complimentary?

[Join today!](#)

You'll receive complimentary registration to all WSOA CME/Annual meetings.

Call our office for more information 206-956-3642

Utilization / Ownership of Advanced Imaging

The WSMA has been leading an effort to address the overutilization issues that are the basis of HB2691. WSOA board members have been working with the WSMA inter-specialty council to draft a proposal to avoid introduction of this bill to our state legislature in the coming session. Len Eddinger (WSMA's Director of Legislative Affairs) has been busy designing a plan to avoid adoption of this bill, which was introduced by Representative Cody, and is a mirror image of a bill that passed the state legislature in Maryland and made ownership of advanced imaging only legal by hospitals and radiologists. Please go to the WSOA website's [Legislative Action Center](#) where you can obtain contact information and send a letter voicing your concerns on this issue.

HTA Decisions and Input

The Washington State Health Technology Assessment Committee accepts public comments and makes insurance coverage and non-coverage determinations on new and controversial technology. You can access their website and information about current HTA assessments and rulings through the WSOA website at www.wsoa.org. HTA is currently accepting public comment on hip resurfacing, Bone Growth Stimulators, and Electrical Nerve Stimulators. Coverage determinations on Disc Replacement, Upright MRI scanning, and Lumbar Fusion have already been published and are available on this site.

Assistance with Legislative Fundraisers

WSOA is working with WSMA on arranging fundraising events and meetings with our state legislators. Darla White (ddw@wsma.org) will be able to give you information on these opportunities. Fundraising events for your local legislators provides the best opportunity for your voice to be heard and recognized in our state legislature. You will be

Past WSOA Newsletters

[February 2009](#)
[October 2008](#)
[September 2008](#)
[August 2008](#)

Update Your Contact

Information

The WSOA feels it is critical to be able to keep its members up to date on important issues affecting your practice and patient care. Please be sure your contact information is current with our office. You may email contact information updates to Darla White, WSOA Association Executive at ddw@WSMA.org.

WSOA Offices

2033 6th Ave
Suite 1100
Seattle, WA 98121
(206) 956-3642
Fax: (206) 441-5863
www.wsoa.org

Association
Executive,
Darla White
Email:
ddw@wsma.org

remembered and may become an important source of input when legislators need to make decisions on issues with which they have little knowledge. Remember, donations need to be personal and are not tax deductible.

AAOS Playground Build

We would like to host an AAOS Playground Build Project in Washington this year. If you are interested in participating, and/or have a needy playground in mind, please contact Darla White at ddw@wsma.org.

DSHS / Uninsured Care Report

With the current economic situation in Washington, our already stressed DSHS and uninsured orthopaedic care access problem seems to be getting worse. This is placing a large burden on orthopaedic providers in our state, particularly the University of Washington, Harborview Medical Center and Seattle Children's. These institutions are not capable of being the sole safety net for these patients in our state. It is difficult to address this issue without objective and accurate information about the amount of care and its financial impact to your practice. Please take the time to have your practice administrator fill out the form, which is available from Darla White (ddw@WSMA.org), documenting the RVU's your practice has provided for DSHS and Uninsured patients in 2006, 2007, and 2008. Your practice identity will be held confidentially if you desire. We would like to have accurate and impressive numbers to present to our state authorities. We hope this will be part of a practical and ethical solution to the problem that is unlikely to be effectively addressed without your input.

Please review the [AAOS Policy Statement](#) on Orthopedic ER Call, which is a thoughtful and inclusive discussion on the topic, written through an exhaustive consensus process.

WSOA Annual Meeting

After intense deliberation, and the consideration of other locations, the WSOA has decided to hold the WSOA Annual Meeting at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Seattle, November 13-15. There will be a Friday evening reception, possibly combined with a UW Grand Rounds event in the late afternoon. The Scientific and Socioeconomic meeting will be held on Saturday, followed by a reception and dinner, accompanied by available UW and Madigan Residents. The Resident Research Paper Awards will be presented during the meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet, talk, and share your problems and ideas with fellow state orthopedists, residents, and faculty. An open WSOA board meeting and breakfast will be held on Sunday morning. We encourage everyone to attend. Unfortunately, it also presents a great opportunity for some early Holiday Season Shopping in Seattle. We are hoping for stimulus funding from the Obama administration, but have not heard back yet.

If you would like to present a talk on any clinical or socioeconomic topic of interest to you, please contact Darla White at ddw@wsma.org. There are many orthopedists in our state who should be sharing their experience and expertise with others. WSOA is also seeking exhibitors for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Please have potential exhibitors contact our office at 206-956-3642.

Dinner reservation opportunities will be forthcoming.

Save The Date!

Washington State Orthopaedic Association Reception

Complimentary to all WSOA Members

Western Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting

WHEN: Friday, July 31, 2009

WHERE: The Westin Hotel, Seattle

TIME: 5:30-8:00PM

Come see old friends and make some new ones!

Plenty to eat and drink!

Please RSVP to Darla White at ddw@wsma.org or call 206-956.3642

Website Improvements: Your Ideas Wanted!

Please visit the WSOA website at www.wsoa.org. WSOA, Darla White, our Association Executive, and the web team are continually updating and improving the information on this site.

The site offers a wealth of information, from membership applications to Washington State HTA/HTC agendas.

If you have suggestions or wish to present information to be posted, please contact Darla at 206-956-3642.

UW Grand Rounds CME Meetings

The UW Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Department is arranging for CME credit for Grand Rounds in the near future. For more information on UW Grand Rounds CME Meetings [click here](#).

Resident Research Day

UW Resident Research Days will be held on June 26th at the Harborview medical Center Research and Training Auditorium, 300 9th Ave. from 8am-5pm. For more information contact Angela Weiss at amweiss@u.washington.edu. This is a great opportunity to learn, and meet the residents!

Resident Graduation

The UW Resident Graduation will be held June 26th at the Columbia Tower Club. All graduating residents and their families are welcome. This is an invite only affair. For more information on attending please contact Angela Weiss at amweiss@u.washington.edu.

Ed Farrar Resident Paper Award

WSOA 2009 Annual Meeting Resident Paper Awards will now be referred to as the Ed Farrar Resident Paper Award in honor of all the time and commitment Ed Farrar has given to WSOA.

Physician Assistants - Join WSOA Today!

The WSOA Board of Directors has approved the membership of physician assistants in the WSOA. Please encourage your PA staff members to join. [Click here](#) for a WSOA physician assistant membership application. Once completed, fax it to 206-441-5863, or mail with your check or credit card information to 2033 Sixth Ave. Suite 1100, Seattle, WA 98121.

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to bjw@wsma.org by bjw@wsma.org.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Washington State Orthopaedic Association | 2033 6th Ave Ste 1100 | Seattle | WA | 98121