

# Washington State Orthopaedic Association Newsletter

January 2010

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## **Happy New Year!**

### **Message from the Board**

I would like to take a moment at this time to highlight the incredible times we live in and how great our profession is! Despite the daily bad news of politicians and others dragging our profession down to greater and greater depths, calling us "Providers", "service lines", and considering legislation that does not value medicine as a whole (not discarding the SGR and forming Independent Payment Advisory Boards/IPAB), there is much to be thankful for. My point is that we have incredible tools and technology, combined with knowledge that is unsurpassed in the history of mankind. We should all be very proud and hold our heads up high for having gone through all the sacrifices in our life to educate ourselves when others were playing and taking an easier route. Not many people could make it through medical school, say nothing of an orthopaedic residency! The great majority of you continue to sacrifice for your patients, regardless of the ability to pay, and provide them with the best care in the world. I want to share with you a personal story of how I benefited from our orthopaedic profession.

On October 6, 2008 and December 21, 2009, I received a right and left total hip respectively. I am only 52, but the years of playing basketball in high school, college, and beyond (beyond my prime for sure!) caught up with me. Having performed thousands of total joints myself, I knew what I was facing, and that statistically I should anticipate excellent pain relief and better function. That said, knowing where my leg was going to be in space during the operation was a little unsettling as was being aware of all the possible complications that can occur! And having my former chief resident, Dr. Bill Barrett, do the procedures made me think back to residency days to assure myself that I had done all his H&Ps and discharge summaries, had been a good "scout boy", and had run as much interference as needed to protect him from attendings, patients, and the nurses (at least the ones he wanted held at bay)! The surgeries were both highly successful and I was back to work in 2 weeks both times. That fact alone was so gratifying since being self-employed, even if I don't work, the overhead machine keeps running, adding to the stresses. I can honestly tell you that despite thinking I knew everything about total hip replacement, I can now advise patients even better about the procedure and what to expect afterwards, as well as little tricks I learned to perform ADLs better and safely. I've just finished my first week of work since my 2nd THA and am so very thankful for the experience. To think I was taken from fairly decrepit and dysfunctional to walking independently and off pain meds in 2 weeks is mind-boggling, and is in stark contrast to 50 years ago when patients didn't even have this option. It is as though we can now "change a patient's tire" so to speak!

I tell this story to remind all of us how incredible our profession is and how we make such wonderful differences in our patients lives. We are truly blessed to benefit from those who have gone before us, and some who still work amongst us, who helped develop and promote the many

### **WSOA Leadership**

**John Adkison MD**  
President

**Lyle Sorensen MD**  
First Vice President &  
AAOS Councilor

**Patrick J. Halpin MD**  
Second Vice President,  
AAOS Councilor

**Brian Wicks MD**  
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**Chris Kontogianis MD**  
Director

**Tom Degan MD**  
Director

**Michael Thorpe, MD**  
Director

**Doug Musgrave, MD**  
Director

**Ash Patel, MD**  
Director

**Robert Winqvist, MD**  
Director

**WSOA Board Meeting Minutes**  
[June 2009](#)  
[May 2009](#)  
[April 2009](#)  
[March 2009](#)

### 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

### Past WSOA Newsletters

[April 2009](#)  
[June 2009](#)  
[July 2009](#)  
[August 2009](#)  
[September 2009](#)  
[October 2009](#)  
[November 2009](#)  
[December 2009](#)

### WSOA Offices

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modern treatments and techniques we all have in our armamentarium today. I hope this "pat on the back" is uplifting to all of you as you go about your daily calling that many refer to as work. You are all important to society. No one else can do what you do. Do it with pride, professionalism, and gratitude, not taking your role lightly, as you only have to ask someone who has lost the ability to be an orthopaedic surgeon how badly they miss it! Thanks again for all that you do!

Michael A. Thorpe, MD

## WSOA Opposes HB 2779 and SB 6400

### Concerning emergency services provided by nonparticipating providers in hospitals

The Washington State Orthopaedic Association, along with the WSMA and the Washington Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians, has pledged their support and joined the fight to oppose the balance billing legislation. Currently, HB 2779, introduced by Representative Cody and SB 6400, introduced by Senator Keiser are being heard in committee next week. We invite you to support your specialty and your patients by attending these hearings, scheduled for Thursday, January 21st @ 0800.

In short the proposed legislation will:

- Jeopardize the safety net which is currently the Emergency Department by decreasing On-Call Coverage by specialists
- Restrict your ability to negotiate fair and equitable contracts with insurance providers by price fixing reimbursement

Legislators make decisions that reflect the views of their constituency. Therefore, we request that all WSOA members contact their legislators now to encourage them to oppose this legislation. You can identify your legislators at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder-gis>.

Thank you for your help on this issue. Please contact Len Eddinger ([len@wsma.org](mailto:len@wsma.org)), Director of Legislative Affairs at the WSMA with any questions.

## Legislative News

HOUSE bill 2401 legalizes MJ...  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2401&year=2009>

HOUSE bill 2046 exempts health care professionals from liability when Rxing MMJ...  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2046&year=2009>

SENATE bill 5798 is the companion bill to HOUSE bill 2046; there is already a SUBSTITUTE senate bill  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5798&year=2009>

Here is the bill that we sent you earlier regarding mandatory pain management education for prescribers of Schedule II controlled substances  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2391&year=2009>

## Renew Your 2010 Membership Dues Online

Simply login to [www.wsoa.org](http://www.wsoa.org) and pay your 2010 Membership dues conveniently and securely.

## AAOS News

### Orthopaedic PAC: Advocacy in action

Thank you to all of our Orthopaedic PAC contributors. In the month of December, the Orthopaedic PAC was represented at 15 in-district and DC events. The Orthopaedic PAC encourages members to develop relationships with their members of Congress by attending events in their area. If there are events that AAOS PAC contributors would like to attend locally, please send any information or requests to Cheka Gage at [gage@aaos.org](mailto:gage@aaos.org).

If you are interested in becoming more active in the Orthopaedic PAC, please contact Cheka Gage at [gage@aaos.org](mailto:gage@aaos.org) or call our toll-free number, 1-877-389-AAOS.

## Supplier Sponsorships

As an ongoing effort to offer our members value added benefits, the WSOA is in the process of creating an on-line directory of medical suppliers. We will also be offering sponsorship opportunities in our monthly newsletter. Each monthly sponsor will receive article space to draw attention to their goods or services. Please feel free to pass this information on to suppliers you think might have an interest in this opportunity. For information contact Darla White at 206-956-3642 or email at [ddw@wsma.org](mailto:ddw@wsma.org)

## Physicians 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. Go to [www.wsoa.org](http://www.wsoa.org) and download the application. Fax completed applications to 206-441-5863 or mail to WSOA, 2033 6th Ave. Suite 1100, Seattle, WA 98121

## 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](mailto:ddw@WSMA.org).

## In Memoriam

Please forward information regarding the passing of any WSOA members to Darla White at [ddw@wsma.org](mailto:ddw@wsma.org) so that we may share the information with your fellow colleagues.

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