



OSMA News Now

*The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association*

April 25, 2008

Board Highlights:

The OSMA Board of Trustees met earlier this month in conjunction with the 102nd OSMA Annual meeting held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel. In addition to the Board highlights below, two new Board members joined the Board, District 1 Board Member, Lawrence Brotherton, MD from Claremore, and District 3 Board Member, James Rogers, MD from Enid. In addition, Richard Albertson, MD became the Trustee at Large and Jay Gregory, MD became the Alternate Trustee at Large.

A summary of the April 11, 2008 the OSMA Board of Trustees is presented below:

- Heard from The Honorable Kim Holland, Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner, regarding state efforts to develop a health care coverage plan for Oklahoma's uninsured.
- Heard from Tom Daxon, a Health Care Reform Consultant to the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, regarding an Oklahoma Comprehensive Health Independence Plan Concept Paper.
- **Approved the Minutes of the February 17, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting.**
- **Approved the Report of the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees, April 11, 2008 as presented by William Oehlert, MD, President.** Dr. Oehlert thanked the Board, Executive Committee and general membership for their support during his term as President of the OSMA.
- **Approved the Report of the Secretary/Treasurer as presented by K. A. Mehta, MD,** which accounted for the OSMA finances through February 29, 2008.
- **Approved the Report of the Audit and Finance Committee, including the results of the annual OSMA audit, as presented by John Robinson, MD, Chair.** Ron Connor, CPA, Cole and Reed, P.C., OSMA's auditing firm, reviewed the results of the audit, which issued an unqualified, clean opinion for the 2007 OSMA's finances. Received the annual report on OSMA's investments from Russ Ryle, Senior VP, Merrill Lynch.
- Reviewed previous motion to consider a transfer of funds from the OSMA to the OSMA Foundation. Motion tabled until next Board of Trustees meeting.
- Received an update from Dr. Oehlert and Ken King, CAE, Executive Director, OSMA, on the new OSMA Headquarters and members were shown a power point presentation with drawings and floor plans of the new building. Mr. King noted the ground breaking was held April 4th and estimated completion date is May 2009 (copy of slide presentation now available on OSMA web site: www.okmed.org).
- Received an update from W. Frank Phelps, MD, President, OSMA Health regarding the OSMA Health Plan. Dr. Phelps noted that while there has been a gradual decline in enrollment in recent months, the plan remains financially healthy and currently insures approximately 6,200 participants.
- Received a legislative update from Jack J. Beller, MD, Chair, Council on State Legislation and Jim Dunlap and Pat Hall, OSMA Lobbyists. They noted that SB 507 tort reform language that was vetoed by the Governor last session has been added to SB156, which is the same and the bill will be heard in the House of Representatives within the next two weeks. They then noted that every scope of practice expansion bill introduced this session has been killed.

Continued on page 2

- **Approved four Late Resolutions for submission to the OSMA House of Delegates:**
LATE Resolution 5: Substituting the Word “Medication” versus “Drug”
LATE Resolution 6: Supporting the Removal of Limiting Charges for Physicians’ Services under Medicare
LATE Resolution 7: The Oklahoma Medicare Manifesto
LATE Resolution 8: Fixing the Medicare SGR Formula

EMERGENCY Resolution 9: Aspirin Campaign for a Healthier Oklahoma and
EMERGENCY Resolution 10: Healthcare Reform in the U.S.
These emergency resolutions went to the House of Delegates for approval as emergency resolutions before they could be heard on the floor of the House.
- **Approved four applications for OSMA Life Membership and three requests for complete dues exemption as recommended by the members’ respective county medical societies. All life memberships approved by the Board during the past year were submitted to the House of Delegates for approval.**
- **Elected John Robinson, MD, Shawnee, and David Griffiths, MD, Tulsa, as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board respectively, for the 2008-2009 Association year.**

Legislative Update — — — — —

This week marked another deadline in the State Legislature. Yesterday was the last day for the third reading in the opposite house of origin.

SB 2007, the fact witness bill, by Senator Nichols and Representative Terrill, would provide fairness and transparency in the legal process for physicians that take time from their patients to testify at trial. Physicians who are called to testify as fact witnesses at trial but actually end up testifying as expert witnesses would be compensated appropriately. This bill, which is supported by the OSMA, moved off the House floor yesterday.

HB 2276, the general appropriations bill worth \$7.068 billion, passed out of the Senate this week. The budget includes additional funds for the Department of Education, the Department of Corrections, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. This bill is now headed to the Governor.

SB 156, the lawsuit reform bill by Representative Sullivan, was “laid over” on the House floor yesterday to be reconsidered at a later date. This piece of legislation is very similar to last year’s lawsuit reform bill, SB 507. OSMA is in support of this bill.

Please continue to look for weekly legislative updates.

Things That Make You Wonder

Oklahoma County Medical Society Membership Meeting

Former Governor George Nigh presented “Things That Make You Wonder” when he joined the Oklahoma County Medical Society on April 21 to honor members who celebrated 50 years in medicine. A former history teacher, Nigh has contributed much for future generations to study. He has served as legislator, lieutenant governor and governor, setting several records along the way: youngest house member (age 22), youngest lieutenant governor and, at the time, the youngest serving in the nation (age 31), and the first governor to be elected to a second term in Oklahoma. Upon leaving office in 1987, he returned to education as a Distinguished Statesman in Residence at the University of Central Oklahoma, became its President in 1992 and served in that position through July 1997.

The honorees were Doctors William G. Bernhardt, Richard H. Bottomley, Sylvia S. Bottomley, Jerry L. Bressie, William R. Bullock, Jr., William R. Cleaver, John L. Davis, III, David W. Foerster, Joseph E. Gregory, Daniel F. Keller, Donald W. Marsh, Joseph F. Messenbaugh, III, Wesley R. Mote, John R. Owen, Orville L. Rickey, Jr., R. Dayton Royse, and Jerry V. Shepherd.

Payout To Doctors Pending In BCBS Settlement

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Several provisions in the national Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) settlement took effect April 21, after a final order was filed by the federal court in Miami. The development brings a \$128 million payout to eligible physicians one step closer and allows the AMA to commence enforcement of the national BCBS settlement as an additional signatory medical society. The AMA joins 27 other participating medical societies that are able to provide direct assistance to physicians when a BCBS plan or subsidiary has failed to honor its commitments under the settlement.

The final order comes almost a year after 23 BCBS plans settled a class action lawsuit brought by 90,000 physicians against the BCBS Association and more than 30 affiliated plans and subsidiaries. The settlements are designed to curb contentious business practices that have long frustrated physicians and jeopardized the delivery of quality patient care. If a BCBS plan fails to hold up its end of the bargain, physicians have a free, simple enforcement process that can resolve the matter.

There are special provisions in the settlements that are specific to particular states. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/settlements> to access the AMA's online interactive map that lists which BCBS plans and subsidiaries that have settled, the state-specific provisions of the agreement along with a flyer containing the key provisions of the BCBS settlement.

Thank you to the following companies who exhibited during the 2008 OSMA/OSMAA Annual Meeting on April 11th and 12th!

Thank you to the following companies who sponsored the 2008 OSMA/OSMAA Annual Meeting on April 11th and 12th!

- A+ Computer Solutions
- AutoFlex Leasing
- Availity, LLC
- Baker Asset Management
- C.L. Frates and Company
- Commercial Resources
- CoreVault
- Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma
- Fifth Avenue Agency
- Health Choice
- John Hancock Financial Network
- Liberty Mutual Group
- Misys Healthcare Systems LLC
- eClinicalWorks
- Oklahoma Beef Council
- Oklahoma Blood Institute
- Oklahoma Health Care Authority
- Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
- OSMA Health
- Physician Manpower Training
- Physicians Liability Insurance Company
- Sage Software Healthcare Inc
- SMRTNET
- Tinker Federal Credit Union

- C.L. Frates and Company
OSMA Delegates Breakfast
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- Commercial Resources
Refreshment Break
-
- Fifth Avenue Agency
General Sponsorship
-
- Harrison and Associates
Refreshment Break
-
- Integrus Health
Inaugural Table
-
- OSMA Health
Inaugural Dinner
Refreshment Break
-
- Physicians Liability Insurance Company
General
-
- St. Francis Health Systems
Inaugural Table
-
- Tinker Federal Credit Union
General