



TPMA E-NEWS

September
2009

in this issue

President's Message

Martin Sloan, DPM

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Colleagues, this past month we at TPMA have seen a flurry of activity on many fronts. Of course at the forefront was the scope mediation meeting that took place in Austin on August 18th and the preceding mediation prep meeting. As President of TPMA I was thankful for the participation and commitment of members from across this wide state. Their dedication and unity of purpose was readily evident throughout the process. And they indeed represented the views of all TPMA members as they participated in the process.

In witnessing all their efforts and participating in the process I was struck by the urgency and the importance of unity of our entire profession in this state. Without that unity we may not succeed. As Abraham Lincoln once said "A house divided against itself is destined to fall". But with that unity the sky is the limit. Never has it been more important than today to encourage each and every podiatrist in the state of Texas to become an active member of the Texas Podiatric Medical Association and participate in the process. There is a substantial group of non-members out there for whom a few guys and gals have been sweating and sacrificing. We need to get the word out that TPMA is fighting for the podiatrists of Texas to ensure we keep pace with the 44 states that have the opportunity to provide comprehensive foot and ankle services to their populace. The battle is not over and can only ultimately be won on the legislative front. We need the same power and the same level of intensity that we had in the mid 80's to achieve passage of the hospital access law for podiatry. We will be discussing this in the coming weeks as I outline my plan for reaching out to all the podiatrists of Texas.

In addition, we have met with the Vollmer Group, the PR firm with whom we have contracted to help us meet our goals both in the immediate future and into the next legislative session. We have had committee meetings where messaging has been developed and we intend to use the PR Committee to begin to paint a picture of what a podiatrist is and what you do as we ramp up for the 2011 Legislative Session. This will be discussed further at our upcoming meeting at the Southwest Foot and Ankle Conference.

Our concept of integrating those practitioners who are in their first five years of practice has come to fruition. The Young Members Committee has been appointed and will be chaired by Dr. Maureen Caldwell. With the young practitioners' entire future before them we anticipate these dedicated and committed foot and ankle specialists will bring a passion and a vision to the table that will energize the profession and better prepare them to face the issues of tomorrow.

I and my colleagues on the Board of Directors are committed to the betterment of podiatry in Texas. And we humbly ask you to join us in that commitment.

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Southwest Foot & Ankle Conference September 11-13, 2009

So far, this promises to be one of our largest turnouts ever for a TPMA sponsored meeting! Hopefully you are one of the almost 250 doctors already registered, but if not here are some reasons to reconsider:

1. What does your malpractice insurance cost? If you are covered by PICA you could get up to an additional 15% off your annual premiums by attending the PICA risk management presentation: "Identifying and Dealing with the Noncompliant Patient – Who's at Risk?"
2. Sports Medicine of the Foot and Ankle in conjunction with The American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine – this is an all day affair on various issues pertaining to podiatric sports medicine and not to be missed!
3. There is still room in two of the workshops! "Basic and Advanced Techniques in Foot and Ankle Fracture Management" and "X-Fix, biologics and inter hardware implementation techniques" both on Friday 8 am – noon!
4. Assistant's program co-sponsored by the TPMA Foundation has over 100 registered for informative sessions on coding, DME, insurance reimbursement issues, medical Spanish and a conflict resolution workshop!
5. Radiology training for podiatric medical assistant – over 60 pre-registered and the last day to register will be September 3rd since a study program must be completed before the meeting.
6. Over 80 exhibitors will be showing the latest in products and services for the podiatric practice!

Go to <http://txpma.org/conferences.html> and click on "Register" or call us at (800) TEX-FOOT to register on the phone.

Mediation Meeting August 18, 2009

We met in the Mediation meeting with TOA/TMA all day on Tuesday, August 18th and although substantial progress was made toward an agreement, we are not done yet. Based on the confidentiality agreement that all in attendance signed, we cannot disclose the details of the mediation effort until the agreement is reached, but please be assured you were represented very well. Both sides have agreed to continue this negotiation and will strive to have a final agreement that both sides can sign by September 8th. That is all we can say for now, but we will keep you informed as progress is made.

Young Members Committee Maureen Caldwell, D.P.M.

The first meeting of the Young Members Committee will be held Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Southwest Foot & Ankle Conference in Frisco, Texas. I am happy to announce the following who will serve on this committee to help us work on issues that affect the practitioners in their first five years of practice: Drs. Jason Hancock, James Kutchback, Scott MacTavish, David Pytowski, Linnie Rabjon, Nealand Willingham, and Jessica St. Louis. Drs. Kary Ann Shebetka and Jonathan Hosch will continue to serve as Co-Chairs, Emerging Leaders Program.

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APMA Board Committee Nominations Requested

APMA President-elect Kathleen M. Stone, DPM, is requesting nominations for APMA Board committee assignments. Assignments will become effective at the close of the 2010 House of Delegates on March 22, 2010.

Requests for assignments should include a list of specific committees and a list of general areas of interest and expertise. **If you want to be considered for an APMA committee appointment, you need to indicate your interest** by sending a cover letter indicating preferences and current curriculum vitae to: Stephanie Simmons, APMA Governance Administrator, srsimmons@apma.org and Kathleen M. Stone, DPM, APMA President-elect, kmstone@apma.org.

Questions should be directed to the governance administrator. The deadline to submit nominations is November 1, 2009.

TSBPME Proposed Rules

The proposed changes that were approved on July 6th at the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners have not showed up yet in the Texas Register. They did, however adopt on an emergency basis, amendments to §371.3, concerning fees:

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/sos/EMERGENCY/22.EXAMINING%20BOARDS.html#2>

PEERS

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What we always will be.**

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We give podiatrists a voice by staffing our Risk Management, Claims, and Underwriting committees with practicing podiatrists.

We utilize only podiatric physicians in our claim review process.

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