



MSOA Resource

Missouri State Orthopaedic Association

January 15, 2007

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Happy New Year brings many new challenges

Happy New Year!
With the holidays behind us, 2007 is roaring in like a lion.

Along with the New Year come new challenges, exciting opportunities and our collective resolve to advance the practice of orthopaedics in the state of Missouri.

The November elections brought political shifts in Washington, D.C. with uncertain and unpredictable results.

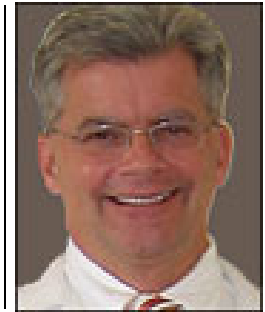
Several states, including Missouri, are examining ways to reform Medicaid by extending health insurance coverage statewide.

Indeed, the challenges facing our profession remain. But before we can address them, we have to know and educate the decision-makers on the challenges we face.

But with these challenges come exciting opportunities. MSOA is well-represented on state and federal committees. And, our full-time presence in Jefferson City is paying great dividends.

Let us all make—and keep—at least one New Year's resolution to help MSOA promote the betterment of orthopaedics in Missouri.

Jason Calhoun, M.D.
is the President of the Missouri State Orthopaedic Association and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at MU's School of Medicine.



Here are some suggestions:

1. Become an active member of the Missouri State Orthopaedic Association.
2. Plan today to attend MSOA's 38th Annual Meeting on June 1-2, 2007 in St. Louis.
3. Recruit other members of your practice who may not know the benefits of MSOA membership.
4. Volunteer to serve as an MSOA political captain in your area and get to know your federal and state elected officials.
5. Post your framed MSOA membership certificate proudly in your office.
6. Come to Jefferson City for a grassroots lobby day.
7. Write a check to the MSOA Political Action Committee and support elected officials who support orthopaedic physicians.
8. Attend an MSOA Regional Meeting in your area.
9. Check out the MSOA website at www.MSOA.org.
10. Thank your MSOA Board of Directors for their time and volunteer service on behalf of all orthopaedic physicians and surgeons in Missouri.

Our collective resolve in 2007 is essential for continued success. Your small part can make a big difference.

—**Jason Calhoun, M.D.**
MSOA President

Annual Meeting scheduled for June 1-2 in St. Louis

The Missouri State Orthopaedic Association will return to the Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis for its 38th Annual Meeting on June 1-2, 2007.

This year's meeting will feature scientific presentations dealing with advances in hand surgery, pediatric trauma, musculoskeletal tumors, and sports medicine.

Last year's popular program will be continued with a commander's view of trauma management in Iraq.

MSOA's Fourth Annual Legislative Reception will be held on Friday, June 1 honoring



Chase Park Plaza

members of the Missouri General Assembly.

In 2007, MSOA anticipates record attendance so please make your hotel reservations early.

The Chase Park Plaza features several restaurants and live entertainment. Families can enjoy the hotel's five-screen cinema, and the nearby Science Center, a fabulous Zoo and shopping in the trendy Central West End.

MSOA members will receive a deluxe guest room for a special room rate of \$179.

Reservations can be made by calling the Chase Park Plaza at 314.633.3000 or toll-free at 877.587.2427. Please mention the MSOA meeting to qualify for the MSOA rate.

Look for more information and a conference registration form in your mailbox or online at www.MSOA.org.

State Societies Update

By Steve Morton, D.O.; MSOA Immediate Past President

As your immediate past president I sit on the State Societies Committee of the AAOS Board of Councilors. Following is a brief update from our meeting in New Mexico.

Grant progress reports were heard from state societies. Louisiana is still trying to reignite its society after the devastation of Katrina. Florida continues to find ways that data mining might help influence the legislative decisions on ambulatory surgery centers. The data mining is from data already collected and available to the public.

The Academy is striving to find ways to communicate better and

help support the State Societies. If there was ever a time that your voice could be heard, now is it. We have an opportunity to really advance MSOA and have our voices heard and even amplified with the support of the Academy. Please become involved. If we are not part of the solution, someone else will and we may not like the results.

The Academy has worked with both the Hip and Knee Societies to avert the estimated 18% rate cut on total hips, knees, and hip fracture repair work.

Sports Medicine has a Certificate of Added Quality. These are

available now and applications have been handed out. There will be a short grandfathering period, after which only Sports Medicine Fellows will be able to sit for the exam.

Several states are fighting to maintain their ability to own physical therapy services and some have lost this ability. Missouri still cannot own PT services and the likelihood does not look promising.

As a reminder, the MSOA annual meeting is at the Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis on June 1-2, 2007. I hope to see you there.

—Steve Morton, D.O.
MSOA Past President

Medicaid fraud and reform top list of legislative priorities for Missouri

The Missouri General Assembly convened Wednesday, January 3, for its 5½-month legislative session.

Republicans will be fully in charge for the third straight year, with Gov. Matt Blunt leading the executive branch and Republicans holding a 21-13 Senate majority over Democrats and a 92-71 majority in the House.

The annual legislative session will be the longest possible, running from Jan. 3 to May 18, because of the way the calendar meshes with the constitution's starting and ending dates.

Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, and House Speaker Rod Jetton, R-Marble Hill, were re-elected by their colleagues to their leadership posts.

Here is an overview of legislative issues MSOA is monitoring for its members:

Medicaid Reform

Medicaid reform—especially new laws to crack down on Medicaid fraud—will likely be on the front-burner for state lawmakers.

Two years ago, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation to sunset Missouri's Medicaid program in July 2008. With the clock ticking down on Missouri's multi-billion dollar program, lawmakers are scrambling to re-create Medicaid into a model healthcare system.

Several reforms mentioned include

increases in physician reimbursement rates and a state-based pay-for-performance model.

However, such plans are also intertwined with Medicaid fraud provisions that allow private citizens to sue healthcare providers suspected of fraud. If the civil tort is successful, the person bringing the lawsuit could keep up to 35% of the state's recovery. The federal government is currently offering incentives for state's to adopt this type of fraud prevention legislation.

Similar legislation failed during the final weeks of last year's legislative session. Look for this topic to receive lots of debate and discussion during the next six months.

Radiology Licensure

House Bill 208, sponsored by Rep. Rob Schaaf, M.D., creates the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance Act of 2007.

The bill requires all persons administering medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures to be licensed by a board. Physicians and other qualified persons currently practicing medical imaging are exempt from licensure.

The bill also requires board to certify programs for medical imaging

and radiation therapy in medical facilities to be certified.

Office-based imaging allows orthopaedic surgeons to deliver quicker diagnoses, more effective treatment, better outcomes and faster recovery.

Office-based imaging also further enhances the team approach, which translates to accessible, high-quality care centered around the needs of the patient. MSOA will be closing watching for any policy to prohibit orthopaedic surgeons and other non-radiologist specialists from performing and interpreting in-office diagnostic imaging studies.

The Business of Medicine

MSOA also anticipates legislation to be introduced that affects economic credentialing and provider health plans.

Any willing provider legislation to prohibit a health plan from discriminating against any health care provider who is willing to abide by the plan's provider contract will be introduced again this year. Similar legislation was approved in a House Committee last year, but did not receive debate by the full House.

Similarly, legislation to prohibit economic credentialing died before the end of session last year and will likely be re-introduced.

Look for up-to-date legislative information on the MSOA website at www.MSOA.org.

**Missouri State
Orthopaedic
Association**

631 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 2124
Jefferson City, MO
65102

PHONE:
(573) 556-MSOA

FAX:
(573) 761-0449

BRIAN TREECE
MARY PHILLIPS
Executive Directors

www.MSOA.org

*Barry Gainor, M.D.
and MSOA Executive
Mary Phillips at the
Gainor & Friends' gig at
Columbia's Cherry Street
Artisan. Gainor is a
professor of orthopaedic
surgery at the University
of Missouri-Columbia.*



Update: Gainor & Friends help MU Children's Hospital

In the September 2006 issue of MSOA Resource, we told you about Dr. Barry Gainor's plans to release a bluegrass CD to raise money for MU's Children's Hospital. Gainor is a professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Gainor's professional specialty is hand surgery, and his musical specialty is humorous songs about medical training and orthopaedic conditions.

Copy's of Gainor's bluegrass CD have sold out and helped raise over \$7,200 for Children's Hospital. Some, including Dr. Gainor, say the CD makes an excellent coaster, ice scraper and is useful for skeet-shooting practice. We believe its just good music and another example of MSOA physicians making a contribution to the communities we serve.

**MISSOURI STATE
ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 2124
Jefferson City, MO 65102

