



Volume 5 • Issue 2 • Spring 2015

## No Bones About it

# Who's Making Decisions?

**by Brett Whitfield, MD  
President, WVOS**

As the new President of the West Virginia Orthopedic Society, I am excited about the future of Orthopedics in our state. The past year has seen the election of medical advocates to the United States House and Senate. This was instrumental in the repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula for physician reimbursement under Medicare. A delegation comprised of myself, Greg Krivchenia II, Joe Prud'homme and Diane Slaughter attended the National Orthopedic Leadership conference in Washington, DC where we discussed with our Congressional delegation the issues Orthopedic Surgeons are facing in West Virginia.

Although many positive accomplishments have been achieved, there are still many changes orthopedists face in the coming year. At our recent Spring Break Meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort, experts on ICD-10 coding lead

a course for physicians and office staff. As president, I want to continue to organize meetings that address the issues that face Orthopedists in our state. To accomplish that goal it is paramount that we get input from you regarding issues that are important in your practice.

My second goal is to expand the membership in our state society. As our numbers grow, so does our voice. There is a modern proverb that states, "If you are not at the table, you may be on the menu." This has never been more applicable than now with the changing medical climate. As a larger united society, we are better able to combat these changes with one united voice.

The past year has seen an expansion in our web site and our journal "No Bones About It." I encourage you to visit our web page at [wvos.org](http://wvos.org). As my third goal, I would like to expand the resources available on our web site, to include **Decisions** Continued on page 8

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By Greg Krivchenia, MD

# The View From K2...

**“Everybody has  
a strategy until  
you get punched  
in the face.”  
- Mike Tyson**

Healthcare as we know it is undergoing a major overhaul. Whether in private practice, an academic environment or an employed model, this paradigm shift will probably not be in the best interest of our patients. I have no crystal ball into how quickly these changes may happen, but it is of the utmost importance to be prepared (The Boy Scout's Marching song). With the transformation from ICD-9 to ICD-10, we as orthopaedists need to be at the top of our game. At the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference, there was a groundswell of support to see if the houses of medicine could hopefully mollify the upcoming changes. What needs to occur is for ALL of us to contact our congressional representatives regarding the ability to submit our charges using both ICD-9 and ICD-10 together after October 1, 2015. Recently, a trial using ICD-10 caused a 30% error rate. This is obviously totally unacceptable. One fact about orthopaedists in the past is that we have been able to beat the government at their own game. This really pisses them off.

What does K2 see in the tea leaves about the upcoming changes??? With no engagement of our peers with the alphabet soup of government agencies (CMS, CAC, MAC, DEA, FDA, etc.), decisions on how we practice orthopaedics will be determined by bureaucrats. These people

have no clinical acuity of how we practice. For example, look at the useless rules we have dealt with regarding meaningless use and the SCIP measures. The government continues to increase our burden for trite documentation that does nothing to improve our patients' outcomes. This cost shifting to generate useless data is causing a significant waste of resources that takes us away from our most important mission, caring for the patient. Today, there are over 100 online organizations (YELP, Angie's List, Healthgrades, etc.) that are assessing our care using clinically insignificant information. This same insignificant information is available on the Internet and could be a major detriment to one's practice.

Moving forward what must orthopaedists do??? First, all of us need to engage our representatives on both the state and national level. This is done with face to face interaction, letter writing and

**Be Prepared** Cont. on page 8



# WVOS Membership Open to Allies

Under the new West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) bylaws, approved by the membership in 2013, allied health professionals can now become associate members of the Society.


We are asking all WVOS members to request a copy of the new membership brochure at [wvos@frontier.com](mailto:wvos@frontier.com), print it and share it with licensed health professionals in your office, your referral circle and your community, then offer to sponsor them for WVOS membership.

This opportunity is available to all health professionals who treat musculoskeletal diseases and are duly licensed by their profession's licensing board in West Virginia. Associate members may include chiropractors, nurses, orthopaedic technicians, physical therapists, physician assistants and podiatrists.

Associate members are entitled to all rights and privileges of the society, including discounts at the annual "Spring Break" conference, but can't hold office or vote. Non-orthopaedic associate members will pay dues at half the WVOS active member rate. Associate members must be sponsored for membership by an active member of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society.

To join the WVOS, allied health professionals should do the following:

Not an  
Orthopaedic  
Surgeon?



No problem!

The West Virginia  
Orthopaedic Society  
is now offering  
**associate membership to  
all licensed licensed  
health professionals  
treating musculoskeletal  
disease in West Virginia.**

- identify an active WVOS member to sponsor you;
- visit [www.wvos.org](http://www.wvos.org) and click the join button;
- select associate member status;
- pay dues through PayPal online or by check; and
- **become active in WVOS.**

We feel that these additional professionals will provide a win-win situation for WVOS members by introducing new voices and sharing our best practices with others treating musculoskeletal disease.

**WVOS is now  
open to allied  
health  
professionals,  
so please  
request our  
brochure and  
share it with  
others.**

# WVOS Takes Capitol Hill in April

WVOS leaders  
heard from  
industry experts  
and met with  
Congress  
during the AAOS  
National  
Orthopaedic  
Leadership  
Conference.



West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) President Dr. Brett Whitfield (left) was joined by former WVOS President Joe Prud'homme, AAOS Councilor Dr. Greg Krivchenia and Executive Director Diane Slaughter (not pictured) in taking Capitol Hill by storm during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, in April.

While the WVOS delegation was unable to meet with



Sen. Capito, we were able to sit down for conversation with Sen. Joe Manchin. During a wide-ranging discussion, we thanked him for his vote to repeal the SGR formula, as well as discussing the need to repeal IPAB and develop EHR systems that can communicate across facilities.

First District Congressman David McKinley



understood our focus on the value of orthopaedics to society, as well as emerging issues such as telehealth.

Second District Congressman Alex Mooney considered our concerns over liability for physicians traveling with athletic teams to states in which they are not licensed, and our desire to eliminate that liability as much as possible. Dr. Whitfield provided examples from his own work with WVU-Tech athletic teams.



Third District Congressman Evan Jenkins (center, above) shared his experiences as a new House member and shared some of his priorities for healthcare issues.

In addition to the visits to Capitol Hill, the WVOS delegation participated in three days of symposia and meetings with peers from across the country.

This meeting was an outstanding event for WVOS.

# Donating to OREF Was Easy, Fun

You made my dubious, but important, responsibility of soliciting financial support for the Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) easy this spring.

This is the Academy's Foundation that provides support for important advances in our specialty. The money goes for both research and education with a minimal amount used for administrative purposes.

This year, in addition to the traditional donation envelopes, we gave you an opportunity to contribute to OREF and have a great evening of fun doing it!

The brainchild of Immediate Past President David Ede and President Brett Whitfield, we hosted a charity Texas Hold 'em tournament at the Spring Break Meeting. For a mere \$50, participants has an evening of fun, knowing your money was going to the OREF.

You didn't have to be a great player. Some participants didn't even know how to play! Everyone was just ready to have fun and contribute to a worthy cause.



While we won't be playing for money, there will be prizes available for the lucky and the not so lucky! Everyone is a winner when you support OREF and play in our tournament.



West Virginia has primarily been represented over the years by no more than three regular donors. Let's change that this year! Donations are tax deductible and donors are recognized in annual OREF reports and at the Academy Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Steel'.

Jack Steel, MD

You played  
poker,  
won prizes and  
donated \$1300  
to the  
Orthopedic  
Research and  
Education  
Foundation  
at the Spring  
Break Meeting!

# Spring Break Meeting Successful

**2015 Spring  
Break Meeting  
was very  
successful;  
planning is  
underway for  
April 14-16,  
2016!**

Our program coordinators from Beckley and Charleston, respectively, Drs. Brett Whitfield and Aaron Sop, prepared a great program for the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) 2015 Spring Break Meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort, co-hosted with the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE).

The meeting opened Friday with a full-day session on ICD-10. Led by Sarah Wiskerchen, MBA, CPC, with Karen Zupko Associates, gave physicians, practice managers and practice staff a better idea of preparing for and implementing the new system later this year.

Following Friday's class, attendees and their guests toured Stonewall Jackson Lake on the Little Sorrel excursion boat. Then, following dinner, a number of members, exhibitors and guests gathered to raise funds for the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation at the charity Texas Hold 'em Tournament (see story on page 5).

Saturday morning, AAOS President Dr. David Teuscher was our keynote speaker. This is the first time in WVOS history that an Academy officer attended our annual meeting.

In addition to Dr. Teuscher, our own members and guests presented a variety of talks on taking the drama out of your trauma.



Throughout the weekend, members of the WVAOE and WVOS were able to visit with a wide range of exhibitors and see what's new in a variety of markets.

The speakers and the overall meetings were well rated by those in attendance. For a complete review of the meeting, visit the [2015 Spring Break Meeting Photo Gallery](#).

Planning is already underway for our April 14-16, 2016, meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort under the leadership of physicians from Morgantown and the Northern and Eastern Panhandles.

We're planning a half day of the AAOS Communications Skills Mentoring Program for physicians, residents and extenders. This fast-paced workshop will help you master the four elements of effective, persuasive patient-physician communications: engage, empathize, educate and enlist. We will have social functions Friday night, followed by clinical education on Saturday. WVAOE will offer an educational session Friday. Mark your calendar and watch for coming details.

# Resident Research Tops Meeting

Resident research from both Marshall and West Virginia Universities (MU and WVU) was showcased at the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) 2015 Spring Break Meeting. Six residents, three each from MU and WVU, gave presentations.

The presentations and presenters included:

- *Timing of Airflow Activation Impacts Contamination from Filtered-Exhaust Helmets for Arthroplasty Surgery*  
Andrew Hanselman, MD  
WVU
- *Texting While Driving: A Danger to the Rural Teenager*  
Zain Qazi, MD, Marshall
- *Can Fracture Pattern Predict Nerve Injury and Need For Open Reduction in Pediatric Supracondylar Humerus Injuries*  
Jonathan Karnes, MD, WVU
- *Acute Prosthetic Joint Infection with Normal Lab Values at Presentation*  
Dana Lycans, MD, Marshall
- *The Value of MRI Ordered by Providers Prior to Referral to a Hand Surgeon*  
Michael Montague, MD, WVU
- *Percutaneous SI Screw Insertion: A resident teaching tool*  
Jerry Ambrosia, MD, Marshall

Presentations were given to faculty from both academic centers in the state, employed physicians and numerous

private practice orthopaedists. Following each presentation was an in-depth discussion about the application of the project to practice.

Following all presentations, audience members voted to determine 2015 resident prizes, sponsored by Stryker Three Rivers and presented by WVOS President Dr. David Ede as his last official act.



- First prize went to WVU resident Andrew Hanselman, MD.
- Second prize was awarded to WVU resident Dr. Michael Montague.
- Third place went to MU resident Jerry Ambrosia, MD.

We would like to thank our residents and their academic programs for making these presentations possible. We would also like to thank the representatives from Styker Three Rivers for making these resident prizes possible.

This has become an outstanding conclusion to our conference, one anticipated by residents and physicians alike.

Residents from  
Marshall and  
West Virginia  
Universities  
gave great talks  
to outstanding  
reviews.

**President**

David Ede, MD  
Charleston, WV  
304.343.4691

**Vice President**

Brett Whitfield, MD  
Beckley, WV  
304.253.1077

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Stanley Tao, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.525.6905

**Immediate Past President**

Joe Prud'homme, MD  
Morgantown, WV  
304.293.1317

**At-large Members**

Felix Cheung, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.691.1262  
Vivek Neginhal, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.525.6905  
Robert Santrock, MD  
Morgantown, WV  
304.293.1317

**AAOS Councilor**

Greg B. Krivchenia, MD  
New Martinsville, WV  
740.373.8756

**Membership Chairman**

William G. Sale, III, MD  
Charleston, WV  
304.343.4583

**Legislative Chairman**

David L. Waxman, MD  
Clarksburg, WV  
304.623.5000

**Program Chairman**

Jack Steel, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.525.6905

**Ex Officio Members**

Sanford Emery, MD, MBA  
Morgantown, WV  
304.293.1170  
Ali Oliashirazi, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.697.7114  
Alvin Jones, MD  
Morgantown, WV  
304.293.1168  
Thomas Riley, MD  
Huntington, WV  
304.631.1262

**Executive Director**

Diane Slaughter, APR, CAE  
PO Box 13604  
Charleston, WV 25360  
304.984.0308  
wvos@frontier.com

**Public Relations Intern**

Candice Holliday  
West Virginia State University

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interesting cases and a forum for our members to submit questions or discuss problems they face in their practices.

I am encouraged by the progress that we have made as a society, but we can't stop pushing forward. It seems now, more than ever, hospitals and insurance companies are dictating the future of our field. This is, in part, due to the rising number of employed orthopedic surgeons and the

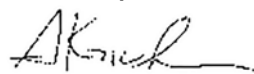
subsequent decrease in private practice groups. Now, more than ever, it is important for all orthopaedists, both employed an private practice, to come together to guide the future direction of orthopaedic surgery in our state. The question we must ask ourselves is, who do we want making our decisions?

Sincerely,  
Brett Whitfield, MD  
President

# Be Prepared Continued from page 2

by contributing to our PACs (Orthopac and WesPac). Next, you need to stay informed. I know that we have a lot of information thrown at us on a daily basis, but we MUST pay particular attention to any information from CMS. Finally, urge your peers, hospital administrators and your professional organizations to be proactive in this upcoming paradigm sh--(?). Failure to do so, more than likely, will be detrimental to patient care and

the health of your practice. In conclusion, today we are in the world of big data and in order to fully understand and be educated one needs to visit AAOS.org. Other websites for you to view include orthoinfo.org and NationinMotion.org. These all are invaluable to inform oneself on the upcoming sh--(?).

Sincerely,  


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Diane Slaughter CAE, APR, Executive Director  
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