



Volume 12 • Issue 1 • 2023

No Bones About it Friends, Colleagues, Guests



**Manuel Molina, MD,
President**

Welcome...to the first issue of our 2023 newsletter!

I'm looking forward to the upcoming yearly WVOS medical education event, the Spring Break Meeting. Once again, we celebrate our meeting at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia.

This beautiful location has so much to offer our members and families. A hotel surrounded by one of West Virginia's largest lakes, with so many incredible amenities... it's nature at its best for hiking, fishing and exploring. Indulge at one of the multiple restaurants. Although the pool will be closed for repairs, how about a reservation at the Spa? Or perhaps, my favorite activity,

the nighttime fireside relaxation with friends and a drink or two?

At this year's meeting on Saturday, April 22, we are privileged to honor our colleague Dr. Sandy Emery who, prior to his retirement in May, will give us some of his views on orthopaedics in 2023 and beyond. Dr. Joe Prud'homme, who has worked alongside Dr. Emery for many years (as well as built a personal relationship with him), will offer his introduction.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Orthopaedics in 2023: What's New?" and its advancement to benefit our patients. Dr. John Taras as Director of Education for the Society put together several wide-ranging didactic talks that we feel can benefit most of our practices and patient care. Topics include treatment advances involving shoulder, foot and ankle, sports medicine, fracture care and pediatrics. The lineup is as follows:

- Return to sports after ACL reconstruction by Dr. Paul Legg will discuss whether acceleration or delay is
- Friends and CME** More on page 6

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- **Dr. Prud'homme on BOC Service**
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- **Get Your Tuck Scholarship Tickets Now**

Dr. Prud'homme on BOC Service

**"If you want
to be in the
presidential line,
start from day
one...you need to
get known...."**

- Dr. Prud'homme

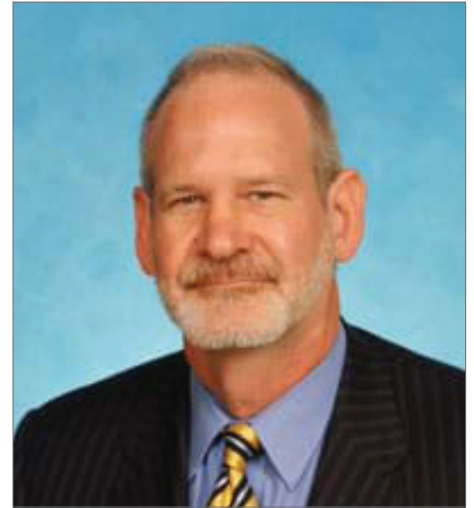
Deadlines are approaching for preparations to elect a new member of the Board of Councilors (BOC) from West Virginia.

"Involvement in the community is essential to elevate your potential chances of election," said fifth-year Councilor Joe Prud'homme, MD. "It is required that you be board certified and an AAOS fellow; prior practice experience will also better your chances of elections but is not required."

BOC members serve a three-year term, with the possibility of a second term. BOC members in the presidential line may extend their tenure further.

Members are required to attend two in-person meetings annually and participate in two to six conference calls yearly. Attendance at the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) is paid by the AAOS, but the Academy annual meeting must be paid by the BOC member. There are required events and committee meetings during both events.

BOC members are required to sit on one committee for their term of service. Prud'homme mentioned that new members of the Research Committee should be focused on their goal to bring research under the AAOS umbrella, rather than under sub-specialty fields, citing a need to reduce duplication of research and enhance funding for better implementation for the future.



He called BOC members "the wise old man" arm of the AAOS, also emphasizing the need for members to act as "a conduit between the AAOS and their state society." Dr. Prud'homme said that the BOC is meant to represent the "common man," a voice for practitioners, and to represent the needs and wants of private practice. While other leadership groups are focused on academic interests, it is important that the BOC seeks to avoid allowing this to be the focus of its existence as well.

There are considerations beyond the basic requirements to be aware of before considering election to the BOC. Prud'homme said, "If you want to be in the presidential line, start from day one...you need to get known, get involved, raise PAC money, etc."

"BOC membership allows you to leave a lasting legacy on the field, as much as time in the chair can have a profound effect on the person in it," he concluded.

Politics About Local Relationships

Dr. Joe Prud'homme knows politics. He has politicians at all levels in his cell phone... and they take his calls, if they haven't called him first.

When WVOs takes residents to the AAOS National Orthopaedic Conference each year, getting to meet with Members of Congress has sparked a passion for advocacy in a number of them.

With that in mind, Joe and I talked about how to get involved in political advocacy. The following pointers are his advice for anyone wanting to become more involved in the political process.

Developing the first relationship

- Relationships are developed over time and must be reciprocal.
- The most effective time to become a go-to person is during their first campaign.
- Help them get information they may need.
- Offer to put signs in your yard.
- Make campaign calls for them.
- Host a fund raiser for them.

Find ways to connect

- If a legislator wanted to set up a medical panel, that's a way to help on a personal level without big donor dollars.
- Be a resource for them.
- When asked for a favor, try to do it.

- Invite them to your office for a day.
- Legislators and their families are getting medical treatment somewhere. After treatment is concluded, consider reaching out.
- Look around your neighborhood or activity sites: do your kids go to school together; do they play baseball or soccer together; do you attend the same church; do you belong to the same country club, tennis club, golf course; do you shop at the same grocery or pharmacy. The possibilities are unlimited.

Things to remember

- Your newly elected friend will be lobbied by pharma, labor, teachers and more.
- Most will start drinking the party kool-aid.

Do's and don't's

- Don't try to change their minds.
- Money doesn't buy votes, but it can get your voice heard.
- Thank them for their service or votes on issues beyond medicine.
- **NEVER** talk donations or contributions at the Capitol or Congress.
- Be specific in your requests and thank you's. It sounds like your grandmother's reminder to say please and

Advocacy intro More on page 4

The adage is
that all
politics are
local. They're
also based on
relationships!

Whatever you
choose to do,
just do
something!

Advocacy intro From page 3
thank you, but legislators
are impressed when you
follow the specifics of a bill
or their votes.

Donor dollars

- Donate to PACs at all levels, like WESPAC or OrthoPAC, or contribute directly to a candidate's campaign.
- Host a fundraiser for your candidate.
- The state level is less expensive than the federal level, but it's more important to your practice.
- Congress is a sexier donation, but it's tougher to break through the noise.
- At the state level, focus on the Senate then the House.
- The Chair of the Senate Health Committee is the most important person for West Virginia doctors.
- Committee leadership controls the agenda of what goes to the full body for a vote.

- Tom Takubo and Mike Maroney are your best friends.
- Support two to three physicians for Senate seats in the state. Think of it like a buy-in to a poker game. You need to ante up and your dollars show you have skin in the game.
- State-level contributions can be \$200-\$500 each year or election cycle; federal level can add a zero to that total.

Other options

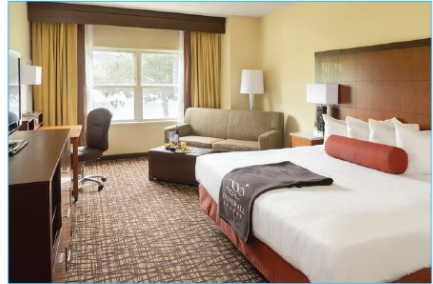
- The rule-making process is critical to outcomes. If legislation labels the sky blue, the regulatory process can change it to green if you're not watching.
- Consider making friends with the State Health Office, the Immunology Director, leaders in DHHR, legislative staff and regulators.



Get your tickets now... Support education for the future!



How would you like to win
an overnight trip to
Stonewall Resort?
Could we interest you in four
rounds of golf?
Would you like a basket of
Stonewall "goodies"?



Have we got the chance for you!!!

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	Address: _____
	City, State, Zip: _____
	Phone: _____
	#001



The West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives is hosting a raffle now through lunch on April 22 at the Spring Break Meeting (at Stonewall Resort) to support the Josh Tuck Memorial Scholarship.

Tickets are available for just \$20 each and can be purchased by cash or check at the Spring Break Meeting or from any [WVAOE Board member](#) or the [WVAOE office](#).

The drawing will take place on April 22 and you need not be present to win!

Your donation will support the Josh Tuck Memorial Scholarship.

Josh Tuck was vice president of the WV Association of Orthopaedic Executives at the time of his tragic death at age 30 in 2016. The WVAOE Board of Directors awarded the first Josh Tuck Memorial Scholarship in 2018; the \$2500 one-time scholarship is awarded to a West Virginia student who wants to major in healthcare administration at one of four West Virginia colleges and universities offering that degree.



**We once again
bring our state
orthopaedic
residents-
in-training to
compete for the
Dr. Frank
Shuler Award
and prizes.**

Friends and CME From page 1
warranted and techniques to
produce the best outcomes.

- Dr. Luis Bolano follows with the ever increasing indication for use of Reverse Total Shoulder replacement and its advancements.
- The ever-present supra-condylar femur fracture, including periprosthetic, that has had problematic treatment outcomes in terms of weight bearing and motion will be reviewed by Dr. Amit Singla, a new addition to Marshall Orthopaedics. He will present new insight that will help us reach better outcomes.
- Dr. Naji Madi from WVU will discuss progression of the care in the all too common Achilles Tendon Rupture. Focus will be on new treatment and rehabilitation for accelerated return to activities.
- And, finally, Dr. Daniel Grant will discuss the diagnosis and treatment of Lymes disease in the pediatric population as it relates to our state.

Whether in general practice or in specialty application, the treatment of patients undergoing primary or complex joint reconstruction has been greatly improved by post-op treatment and recovery. A panel discussion was designed to review current pain management strategies for these patients with the intent of accelerated ambulation and decreasing hospital length of stay. Options beginning with pre-and intra-op care of the

patient by our anesthesiology service will be proposed by Dr. Matthew MacCallum, a new member of the West Virginia University staff, and shares his progressive patient management protocols for better patient recovery. He will be joined by joint surgeons Dr. Ryan Murphy and Dr. Alex Caughran, who will share their strategies for peripheral tissue anesthesia and postoperative pain control and rehab modalities. The panel will field questions from the audience as part of the discussion.

We once again bring our state orthopaedic residents-in-training to compete for the Dr. Frank Shuler Award. These presentations exemplify the outstanding research being done by our university orthopaedic programs. The broad selection of topics will create an interesting decision making process by our membership as to a winner. "Good Luck." Again, the audience will be encouraged to ask questions after the residents are finished if time permits.

Later in the afternoon the presentations switch into a discussion that will help us better understand the complex changes in Medicare coding and billing applied to 2023. We are fortunate to have the expertise of Ms. Lanie Christman and Dr. Felix Cheung in reviewing these policy applications. This will be followed by a remote presentation by Dr. David Teuscher (past president of the AAOS among numerous other office holdings) who will enlighten us on the ever

Friends and CME More on page 7

Friends and CME From page 6 problematic dealings with the prior authorization process that plagues us all. We will hear from an expert as to who is at fault for these time-consuming reviews and what we can do to improve.

We will conclude our program with updates from the Academy by Dr. Joe Prud'homme, our elected WVOS representative with the Board of Councilors. Dr. Ret Topping, our advocacy rep, will fill us in on legislation of importance to our profession.

Don't forget that Friday's events also are included in this meeting. The golf tournament with prizes in a scramble format starts early and is open to all attendees who wish to play, with awards given at the evening's reception. Exhibitors will be available to the membership on Friday afternoon. Please take advantage of their time and review their presentations. The reception on Friday night will be casual and include some interesting case presentations with entertaining talking points. Then, lastly, there will be the fireside chats with a drink or two.

In addition to the meeting of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society, the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives will be meeting simultaneously (and with us Saturday afternoon).

They, too, have an outstanding program.

"Creating Accessible Websites and Social Media" will address how your staff can adapt your digital media

for use by your patients who may have challenges with sight, hearing and more. Tina Cobb of Associated Systems Professionals in South Charleston will be sharing her expertise.

John Finlayson, EMBA, a faculty member at University of Charleston, will be discussing a topic of the minds of everyone in healthcare these days. His presentation will focus on "Surviving in a World of Mergers and Acquisitions."

"Better Dashboards, Better Decisions: Revenue Cycle Management for Medical Practices," will be shared by Nate Moore, CPA, MBA, FACMPE of Moore Solutions in Utah.

In addition, attendees will be selecting the recipient of the 2023 Josh Tuck Memorial Scholarship.

You can help extend the life of this worthy scholarship honoring a fine young man who, at the time of his death, was Vice President of the WVAOE. Raffle tickets will be available at the conference, with the drawing Saturday afternoon! Tickets are just \$20, so bring cash or your checkbook!

Wow, that's a program! I can't wait to see our membership reunite once again as Friends, Colleagues, and Guests at the Spring Break Meeting, the premier event of both the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society and the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives.

See You There,
Dr. Manny Molina
President WVOS

Great golf!
Great speakers!
Great
gatherings at
the firepit!
See you at
Stonewall
Resort

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 your patients!**

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