



Volume 13 • Issue 1 • 2024

No Bones About it

I Look Forward to Seeing YOU at Stonewall Resort on April 19-20!



**Shafic Sraj, MD,
President**

Dear Esteemed WIVOS
Members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the President of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society, I am writing to personally invite you to our upcoming annual Spring Break Meeting. This year's event promises to be an enriching experience, bringing together orthopaedic surgeons from across our great state. During our planning sessions, we were intentional about focusing on how our members bring in the latest advances in musculoskeletal to serve our patients across West Virginia and paying attention to what is

going on around us and what is coming down the pike (or may have already arrived- we'll see!). We will delve outside core orthopedics and look at how developments in allied fields affect what we do and how we do it. Will weight loss medicines lower the need for joint replacements or will it increase the number of patients who could benefit from arthroplasty but did not qualify before?

In preparation, I invite you to be ready with some cases that 'made you think' and share them with us during the Fright Night Friday that allows us to learn from your experiences and how you handled some of your tough cases. This collegial event is meant to build our collective wisdom and educate each other in a two-way fashion as we use what is available to us locally to tackle the challenges we face, whether we are ready for them or not.

For Saturday, I would like to highlight a few high-value sessions. We will learn **Seeing YOU** More on page 9

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The Art of Orthopaedics in 2024

Have you
registered yet
for the WVOS
2024 Spring
Break Meeting?



Have you registered yet for the 2024 WVOS Spring Break Meeting on April 19 and 20 at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia?

The theme of this year's meeting is "The Art of Orthopaedic Practice in 2024" and its advancement to benefit our patients. Dr. John Taras, as Director of Education for the Society, put together several wide-ranging talks that cover orthopaedics and other specialties that can impact our practices.

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. Please take advantage of their time and review their presentations. The "Fright Night Friday" will focus on your cases that posed unexpected circumstances and opportunities once the case started. There will be a bourbon tasting during the reception, including a special offering from the Hatfield Distillery.

The lineup is as follows:

- **Hip preservation and periacetabular osteotomy** with Dr. Andrew Parsons of WVU
- **Augmented rotator cuff repair** with Dr. Alexander Bitzer of WVU East
- **New meds affecting Ortho patients** featuring Marshall's Dr. Skyler Smith on weight reduction

and Marshall's Dr. William Wallace on rheumatology

- **AI in orthopaedics** with Grant Mueller of Gale AI
- The morning will conclude with six resident presentations (and a vote for the Dr. Frank Shuler Memorial Resident Prizes)

Following lunch, we will be joined by participants from the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives.

The afternoon lineup is as follows:

- **Starting with Why, but Stuck on How: Opportunities and Challenges in Orthopaedics** with the new chair of WVU Orthopaedics Dr. Matthew Dietz
 - **Orthopaedic Education Panel with Q&A** featuring Dietz and Marshall's Orthopaedics chair Dr. Ali Oliashirazi
 - **Medicare Coding and Billing Bootcamp** with Marshall's own Dr. Felix Cheung and Lanie Christman
 - **Security in the office and the hospital: Keeping doctors, staff and patients safe** with two of Stonewall Resort's best, Joe Corcoglioniti and Bill Talbert
 - **Legislative update** with Joe Prud'homme, MD, of WVU and Richard Topping, MD, of Davis Hospital
- The afternoon will also include several award presentations and the annual business meeting before adjourning at 5:00 p.m.

The Art of Orthopaedic Practice

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 your senses at one of the multiple restaurants. This year, the pool has had its repairs and it's now open! How about a reservation at the spa or the nighttime fireside relaxation with friends and a drink or two?

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

Exhibitors will be available to the membership on Friday afternoon. There will be a bourbon tasting during the reception, including a special offering from the Hatfield Distillery. Then, lastly, there will be the fireside chats with a drink or two.

The Saturday morning lineup includes:

- **The Wheels of Change: Integrating organizational culture** featuring Chuck Stump of The Performance Group, Hurricane
- **Patient termination: Options and procedures** will be presented by Brienne Marco and David Croft, lawyers with the firm of Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC.

Following lunch, we will be joining members of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society and you can see their schedule on page 2.

In addition, attendees will be selecting the recipient of the 2024 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!

We can't wait to see our membership gather once again at the Spring Break Meeting, the premier event of both the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society and the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives.

- **Using AI for your practice and your patients** featuring Tina Cobb of Associated Systems Professionals, South Charleston.

Have you
[registered](#) yet
for the WVAOE
2024 Spring
Break Meeting?



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!!!

	Tuck Scholarship Raffle Ticket
	Name: _____
	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.



Josh Tuck Scholarship Deadline

The West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE) is reminding all members that the deadline for the 2024 Josh Tuck Scholarship submission is March 31.

[Please click here](#) for the application letter, form and required documentation. You are free to make as many copies of these documents as needed.

When Joshua Tuck died in May 2017 at the age of 30 from a car wreck, he was the Vice President of the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives at the time of his death.

The Joshua Tuck Scholarship was created by the WVAOE Board of Directors to help support a student studying healthcare management.

Applicants (1) must be West Virginia high school seniors; (2) must enroll in Bluefield State College, Fairmont State University, Marshall University or WVU Tech; (3) major in a healthcare management program; and (4) submit a 450-500 word essay answering the question: "Describe your community's issues with opioids and explain how you would reduce the problem."

As part of our efforts to help bring awareness to the opioid issue and ways orthopaedic surgeons can help reduce the problem, we will be sharing student essays in an upcoming issue of "No Bones About It" and share that issue of the

newsletter with members of our congressional delegation during meetings later this year.

The Josh Tuck Scholarship is a one-time-only \$1500.00 scholarship. We would welcome your contributions to keep this scholarship viable for years to come. Contact the WVAOE/WVOS office to donate.

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!



**WVAOE is
honoring
Joshua Tuck's
legacy with a
scholarship.
You can
contribute to
keep it going.**

Politics About Local Relationships

The adage is
that all
politics are
local. They're
also based on
relationships!
It's a good
lesson to
remember as
the political
season is upon
us once again.

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

Politics Local More on page 8

Remembering Friend Clark Adkins

Clark D. Adkins, MD, 60, of Charleston, W. Va., passed away on March 10 at CAMC Memorial Hospital, after an unexpected cardiac event on February 21, 2024.

Clark was born on August 5, 1963, while his family was visiting our ancestral home of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Thanks to this stroke of good timing, Clark would be delivered by Dr. Hand like his father, brother, and sister before him.

This obituary was nearly written 58 years ago when, at the age of two, Clark found himself at the bottom of a pond, only to be rescued and revived by his quick-thinking father, Howard. The family would later move to Huntington, where Clark would spend the majority of his "formative" years. Baseball was an early passion of Clark's. He played for Huntington High School.

He attended Marshall University, where he not only pursued a career in medicine but also his future wife, Robin. After several months, Robin told Clark that she "wanted to be friends," to which Clark infamously replied, "I have enough friends" and that she should get out of his car. Clark was persistent and Robin never lost interest. Thanks to fate and a simple mix up from Clark's mother, Dorothy, Robin and Clark would find each other once again. They were married at Cross Lanes Bible Church on June 16, 1990.

Clark graduated magna cum laude from Marshall University in 1985 with a BS in Chemistry before earning his medical degree there in 1989 as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn.

In 1994, Clark returned home to West Virginia, where he served the people faithfully as an orthopedic surgeon.

Clark's dedication to his patients was second only to his family, which he and Robin began building in 1993 with their eldest son, David. This was followed by Johnathan in 1995, and Benjamin in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Robin Adkins; three sons, David (Alyssa), Johnathan (Janie), and Benjamin (girlfriend, Elaine Lo); grandchild, Jordan Adkins; parents, Howard and Dorothy Adkins, and siblings, Gail Boone and Steve (Annie) Adkins.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, beginning at 11 a.m., in the sanctuary at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts to WV Health Right or the Marshall University Foundation for the Dr. Clark Adkins Scholarship to Linda Holmes, MUMC, 1600 Medical Center Drive, Huntington, WV 25701 or on-line at https://give.marshall.edu/project/26398/donate?des_id=225480.

**Clark Adkins
was involved in
WVOS and his
community for
decades. He
will be missed.**



Explore the many options available for making local relationships with public servants and political candidates.

Politics Local From page 6

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.



Seeing YOU From page 1

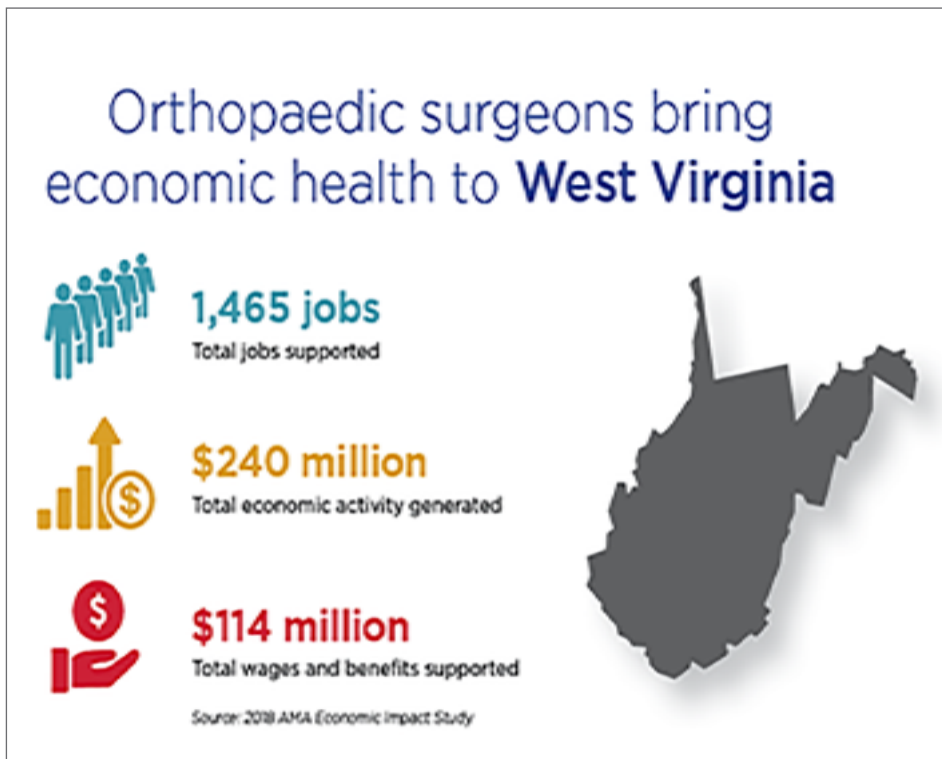
about what is happening in the world of AI and how we navigate through the upcoming uncharted waters. We will learn about the future of orthopaedic care from West Virginia University's chair, Dr. Matthew Dietz, as he shares his vision, his why and how, and discuss ways that can help us educate the new generations of orthopaedic surgeons. And we will learn about how to practice our passion while keeping everyone safe- doctors, staff, and patients.

I look forward to seeing you on April 19 and 20 at Stonewall Jackson Resort, in Roanoke, WV, and learn from

our speakers about The Art of Orthopaedic Practice in 2024. Your presence and active participation will contribute to, and is critical for, the success of this event. Let us come together to enhance patient care, share knowledge and strengthen our orthopaedic community. Please mark your calendars, [complete your registration](#), and join us for another worthwhile event. I appreciate you and look forward to your valuable participation.

Sincerely,
Shafic Sraj, MD, MBA
President, West Virginia
Orthopaedic Society

**Your presence
and active
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2024 Spring
Break Meeting!**



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**It's more important than
ever to consider contributing
to
Ortho PAC
to help make your voice
heard on issues of
importance to
orthopaedic medicine and
your patients!**

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visit the webpage...**

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