

Hello from the Montana Osteopathic Medical Association (MOMA- for those of you new to Montana). This newsletter is an update of activities since our last CME in August 2015.



- 1) **Our next year's primary care roundup CME is Aug 4-7, at Buck's T4 Lodge in Big Sky, MT.** Our CME continues to be a great collaboration between MOMA and the Billings Clinic CME department who has co-sponsored our meeting the last 6 years or so. We continue to provide about 25 CME credits, and continue to apply for AOA 1-A credits, as well as AAFP prescribed credits and mid-level organizational credits, which have always been approved in the past. There were 50+ attendees at our last CME. *Look for info starting early spring next year for updates on this 2016 CME!*
- 2) The Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation (NWOMF) continues to support MOMA and the 4 other NW states financially and otherwise. A major mission of NWOMF is to provide scholarships for DO medical students, in 2015 \$100,000 plus. MOMA has always contributed as an organization to the NWOMF, mostly in the form of the Shirley Carpenter Endowment fund, established to honor Shirley and her efforts to help MOMA and other states as the AOA support representative to states with lower DO populations. Preference for this scholarship is given to DO students from Montana, because of the significant financial contributions coming from MOMA and Montana DO's. With the changes in Pharma and CME support, MOMA's ability to continue donations at the same level has decreased. **Our board is requesting that Montana's DO's consider individually contributing to this scholarship.** Anyone that was around Shirley in the 90', early 2000's understands how much she helped MOMA and the Osteopathic profession. We all believe this is a great way to give back to the profession. *You can donate by going to the NWOMF website (<http://www.nwosteo.org/donate/foundation-endowment-scholarships/carpenter-scholarship-fund>).*
- 3) If you have received this email and it did not include your dues card, please consider joining the state association before year-end. **Besides supporting our CME and other initiatives, being a dues paying member will get you a discount at the 2016 CME conference!** Visit our website (<http://www.mtoma.org>) and use the "Membership Information" link on the left. Dues paid now are good through June 30, the end of our dues year.
- 4) As most of you know, there has been considerable efforts to start an Osteopathic medical school in Montana over the last year by multiple groups. The most recent being the proposed school in Bozeman. I have received numerous calls from DO's and other involved groups concerning this. It was part of MOMA's board agenda and discussion at our August 2015 meeting. **The board's consensus and statement then was that we could neither support nor discourage efforts to establish a new school, but had significant concerns about 3-4th year clinical rotations and GME (residency) availability so needed for a new school to be**

viable. My point is that this will continue to be a topic of discussion, and would ask that if anyone wants to be involved and have their voice heard, becoming a dues paying member of MOMA is the best way to have thoughtful, structured discussions about this and other issues. No one argues with the fact that being a good physician is the best way to represent the Osteopathic profession, but issues like this one remind us we should also be involved organizationally to address topics effecting all of us. We have always understood that most issues are not just ours, but all physician issues, and have interacted with, and sometimes supported financially, the Montana Medical Association over the years, and realize how their efforts have helped us. But, there continues to be issues that the MMA would not be involved with, and need to be addressed. In addition, we believe our CME has become a quality event over the last 25+ years, providing good education to DO's, and well as, MD's and mid-level providers. This CME has also been an excellent time to do much of the organizational activities that MOMA needs to do to provide a thoughtful voice about our profession. If you wish to help, please visit our website (<http://www.mtoma.org> - use the membership information link on the left) and become a dues paying member. Of course, we welcome your input with or without a membership. Please address your comments to me at d3jsgrewell@gmail.com. All input will be used as part of MOMA's review and the AOA (COCA) pre-accreditation process does consider the input of the state association. Your input would be greatly appreciated, as there has been a core group of us that has done this for many years, and would welcome more input and ideas from all of you, including students and residents (-who have been more involved with us the last few years). So, happy holidays to all of you, please contact us with any comments/questions thru our website, and looking forward to a productive/happy 2016.

Don Grewell, DO;
Executive Director, MOMA

PS – If you didn't get this as an email, please consider sharing you email with me at d3jsgrewell@gmail.com. This will allow us to communicate more frequently.