



**American Orthotic &
Prosthetic Association**

AOPA in Advance

Breaking News for O&P Professionals

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Newsletter Feedback

We invite your comments and questions. Please contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0835.

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O&P NEWS

Nominating Committee Submits Nominations for AOPA Officers and Directors, Submit a Proxy Form for the Annual Business Meeting

The 2011 Annual Business Meeting agenda will include the nomination and election of officers and directors. Due to the departure of President-Elect Bert Harman, the Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of nominees for executive leadership in order to re-establish the chain of succession outlined in Article IV, Section 3 of the **AOPA** Bylaws. The Committee has also recommended nominees to succeed outgoing Directors.

[Click here to access the list of nominations.](#)

Additionally, AOPA has again streamlined the National Assembly program in Las Vegas and has scheduled the Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors for the following time: 7:35 AM - 8:05 AM on Wednesday, September 21. The meeting itself will be part of a larger general session program which begins at 7:15 AM.

Your proxy will help assure a timely meeting. Please help! [Click here to access a Proxy Form from the Board Member of your choice.](#)

By scheduling the meeting at this time, and in an attempt to ensure that quorum is reached so we can transact business, **AOPA's** Board of Directors has been asked by **AOPA** President Tom DiBello, CO, FAAOP to solicit proxies in order to be certain that we will meet the quorum. We hope you will complete a Proxy Form designating a member of the Board as the proxy holder. This will guarantee that we don't waste any valuable speaker or program time on this housekeeping task. Should there be a written ballot on any matter, your personal presence will automatically void your proxy so you can vote in person.

Please download, fill-out, sign, and fax a completed Proxy Form to **AOPA** at (571) 431-0899.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0835.

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2011 AOPA National Assembly: Exclusive Educational Opportunities Add up to 37.25 Continuing Education Credits

AOPA's 2011 National Assembly's educational program has been approved for up to 37.25 continuing education credits. Among the new educational programs **AOPA** has created this year are the "Healthcare Changes and Your Bottom Line" and "Accelerated Rehabilitation with Powered Knee Prostheses." The former program will sketch the changing healthcare landscape with an emphasis upon the essential health benefits packages, competitive bidding developments, and ACOs and the latter program will be a lecture by Paul F. Pasquina, MD of Walter Reed Medical Center. A preview of both lectures is now available:

Healthcare Changes and Your Bottom Line

Thursday, September 22

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Don't miss out on learning about current hot topic health care issues and how these issues may affect your O&P practice. Topics to be covered include Essential Health Benefits, the

Competitive Bidding Program and ACOs. You will learn why it is critical for O&P to be included as an "Essential Health Benefit," all about successful efforts by **AOPA** and others in the O&P field, to minimize the impact of competitive bidding on orthotics, and what to consider before joining an ACO.

Accelerated Rehabilitation with Powered Knee Prostheses: Impact on Outcomes

Wednesday, September 21

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Join **AOPA** for this special presentation by Colonel Paul F. Pasquina, MD of Walter Reed Medical Center to learn about early experiences in fitting new amputees with the "powered knee." This case study series shows the merits and potential impact for all patients based on the experiences at Walter Reed. Since the introduction of powered lower-limb prostheses to the field of amputee care, care providers have noted that many patients report improvements in gait, mobility, stability, as well as pain (particularly low back and contralateral limb pain). Care providers also observed however, that many individuals who were initially trained on a passive prosthesis, had difficulty "unlearning" unnatural gait patterns in order to master the use of a powered-knee prosthesis. Based on this, the study decided to engage in an informal, case series to determine the impact a powered prosthetic knee would have on the speed and quality of rehabilitation of recently-injured unilateral transfemoral amputees when fit as their first prosthesis.

The 2011 **AOPA** National Assembly is "The Place to Be" September 19-22 for an O&P meeting experience like no other. Win great prizes, attend interactive education programs, participate in roundtable discussions, network with peers, take part in fun events, earn CE credits and learn at hands-on workshops, and more.

[Click here to access the 2011 National Assembly Preliminary Program.](#)

[Click here to register for the 2011 National Assembly online.](#)

Due to the overwhelming response **AOPA** has received for National Assembly registration, the **AOPA** room block at the Mirage property has sold out entirely. **AOPA** has made sure, though, to secure additional hotel space for our members. **AOPA** has booked a new room block at Harrah's Las Vegas, across the street and within walking distance from the Mirage, for the low rate of \$124 per night. To take advantage of this offer, call (888) 458-8471 and provide group code SHAPA1.

Questions? Contact Stephen Custer at scuster@AOPAnet.org (571) 431-0876.

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2011 AOPA National Assembly: Announcing the Otto and Lucille Becker Orthotic Presentation Research Award and the Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Prosthetic Research Award, Two New Awards for Students and Residents

AOPA is proud to unveil at the 2011 National Assembly two new awards available for students and residents. O&P Students and Residents are invited to present research findings or a particular case study via a poster presentation. The top orthotic and prosthetic presentations will be honored with the following awards:

- The Otto and Lucille Becker Award will be presented for the best orthotic abstract submitted for a poster presentation; and
- The Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award will be presented for the best prosthetic abstract

submitted for a poster presentation.

These awards, made possible by a special endowment by Becker Orthopedic and WillowWood, will honor two meritorious scientific papers submitted for presentation as a poster at the **AOPA** National Assembly. The purpose of these awards is to encourage students and residents to display outstanding posters at the **AOPA** National Assembly. The poster must be exhibited and presented at the AOPA National Assembly for the award recipient to receive the prize. The prizes include:

- A \$500 Cash Award
- Complimentary Registration to the Meeting
- Coach Class Airfare
- Three nights lodging
- Paper published in the O&P Almanac and the **AOPA** Website
- Recognition during the National Show

To qualify to present a poster in this category and be eligible for consideration for this award, the main author must be a student (baccalaureate or master level) or a resident at a qualified patient care facility. Abstracts will not be considered for either award if they have been previously presented, published, or are currently submitted with pending decision on acceptance elsewhere. The winners will be selected on the basis of abstracts submitted by an independent committee. Abstracts should relate to clinical or research oriented work in the field of orthotics and prosthetics.

[Click here to submit an abstract.](#)

Submissions are being accepted until September 12. The Awards will be presented on Wednesday, September 21 General Session during the 2011 **AOPA** National Assembly.

Questions? Contact Stephen Custer at scuster@AOPAnet.org (571) 431-0876.

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2011 National Assembly: The 2011 Fall Thranhardt Golf Classic

Missed your invitation to play in the British Open? Not to worry. On Monday, September 19 you can still play 18 of the best holes from 11 different British Open rotation courses, including two holes from this year's British Open. Better still, they are all on one golf course located less than 9 miles from the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. This is not your typical round of golf. You will play at the Royal Links Golf Club in Las Vegas, NV, and whether you are into the history of the game or just want a shot at Tiger Woods' course record of 67 (Feb., 2001), Royal Links and your O&P friends will provide you with some great golfing memories.

The tournament will be held in conjunction with the **AOPA** National Assembly and will benefit two Great Causes and one great course make it not just golf, but a golf experience. For the third year in a row **AOPA's** Capitol Connection and OPAF have joined forces to co-sponsor this great event to benefit the inspiring efforts of OPAF and the legislative, research and education efforts of the Capitol Connection to further the O&P policy agenda. [Click here to register for the 2011 Fall Thranhardt Golf Classic.](#)

For further information, contact Tina Moran at (571) 431-0808 or tmoran@AOPAnet.org.

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Expanded Medicaid Eligibility Rule Announced

CMS published the proposed rule entitled "Medicaid Program: Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act of 2010" on August 17, 2011. This rule proposes to implement certain provisions of title II of ACA. In particular, the proposed rule expands Medicaid eligibility, which is a perceived positive for the O&P Industry. However, most of us have already seen that the efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility via ACA will be accompanied by funding challenges, for example: (1) we already have seen efforts by some financially hard-pressed states to cut back on payments, eligibility for O&P care; (2) while CMS rules refer to increased federal matching funds support (FMAP) as the number of Medicaid

beneficiaries rises, it is hard to see that happening very easily in the present environment.

[Click here to read a full summary detailing the key points of the proposed rule.](#)

Questions? Contact Catherine Graf at cgraf@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0807.

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CMS Announces Request for Applications to Bundled Payments Initiative

On August 23, CMS announced that it is implementing the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative. **AOPA's** lobbying and policy consultant, Alston & Bird, has provided a summary of the conference at which the program was announced. In their summary, Alston & Bird explains that there are four models for bundled payments that are being tested.

[Click here to read the entire analysis of this initiative from Alston & Bird.](#)

[Click here to see the request for application notice for one of the four models.](#)

Questions? Contact Catherine Graf at cgraf@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0807.

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AOPA Member Receives Award Presented by Rep. Wally Herger

On August 26, [Ray Tegerstrand's Orthopedic Appliance](#) was presented the Bridge Award from The Redding Chamber of Commerce. On-hand to receive the award were Ray Tegerstrand CPO, Justin Tegerstrand CPO, and Becky Tegerstrand CFm. The award, along with resolutions praising the company for its contributions to the Redding, CA community, was presented by Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA). Rep. Herger also addressed attendees of the 2011 **AOPA** Policy Forum.

[Click here to see Rep. Herger with Ray, Justin, and Becky Tegerstrand.](#)

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0835.

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O&P PAC Corner

The O&P PAC Corner provides updates on the activities of the O&P PAC, including the names of individuals who have made recent donations to the O&P PAC and the names of candidates the O&P PAC has supported. The O&P PAC recently received donations from the following **AOPA** members (Due to publishing deadlines this list was created on 8/30/2011 and includes only donations received between 8/04/2011 and 8/30/2011. Any donations received on or after 8/30/2011 will be published in the next issue of the *AIA*):

- Catherine Graf
- Tom Kirk, PhD.
- Al Kritter Jr., CPO, FAAOP
- Ellen Leimkuehler
- Jon Leimkuehler, CPO, FAAOP
- Connie Withers

The purpose of the O&P PAC is to advocate for legislative or political interests at the federal level, which have an impact on the orthotic and prosthetic community. The O&P PAC achieves this goal by working closely with members of the House and Senate to educate them about the issues, and help elect those individuals who support the orthotic and prosthetic community.

In order to participate in and receive information about the O&P PAC, federal law mandates that you

must first sign an authorization form.

[Click here to view and sign an O&P PAC authorization form.](#)

Questions? Contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0854, or Catherine Graf at cgraf@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0807.

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2011 National Assembly News: Time is Running Out to Pre-Register for the AOPA Wine Tasting and Auction

For the fourth year, **AOPA** is hosting a Wine Tasting and Auction to benefit **AOPA's** Government Relations outreach. Quickly becoming one of the most anticipated Assembly events, the auction offers a chance to learn about and taste a variety of wines, including some made by your fellow members. We have received some outstanding donations and this year's event is shaping up to be the best yet!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to win one or more of the 60 lots up for auction. Not a wine aficionado? Not to worry there will also be cigars and jewelry up for auction, too!

If you are attending the 2011 **AOPA** Assembly in Las Vegas, don't miss out on this fabulous event, it is the place to be on Tuesday September 20th, from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM.

[Click here to pre-register for the Wine Tasting and Auction.](#)

[Click here for more information on the Wine Tasting and Auction.](#)

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0835.

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Register for AOPA's September 14 Audio Conference, "Don't Run Afoul of the KO Rules"

Obtaining Medicare reimbursement for knee orthoses can be a challenging and often frustrating experience. With the publication of the knee orthosis LCD and Policy Article in 2008, Medicare drastically changed the rules that govern their coverage. Join **AOPA** for an AOPAversity Mastering Medicare Audio Conference that will focus on the nuances of the knee orthosis LCD and Policy Article and help you to better understand the rules. Attendees will learn:

- What documentation must exist in order to use the KX modifier on your claim
- How to interpret the specific diagnosis codes that are required for coverage
- When addition codes are appropriate
- What codes require PDAC approval
- Useful lifetime restrictions for knee orthoses

The cost of participating is \$99 per line for **AOPA** members (\$199 for non-members) and any number of employees may listen on a given line. Listeners can earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80 percent. Contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0854 with content questions.

[Click here to register online.](#)

Questions? Contact Stephen Custer at scuster@AOPAnet.org (571) 431-0876.

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Register Today for AOPA's Final Coding & Billing Seminar of 2011: October 24-25 in Baltimore

Don't miss out on the third and final Coding & Billing seminar of 2011 on October 24-25 at the [Sheraton Inner Harbor](#) in Baltimore, Maryland. Be sure to register early and take advantage of the early bird registration savings and the special low room rate of \$159 per night.

At this seminar, **AOPA** experts will provide the most up-to-date information to help O&P practitioners and office billing staff learn how to code complex devices, including repairs and adjustments, through interactive discussions with **AOPA** experts and your colleagues and much more. This two day event will feature break-out sessions for both practitioners and office staff.

In the breakout session Practitioners will cover:

- General Coding Principles
- "Hands on" coding of specific devices
- Proper coding for repairs and adjustments
- Reimbursement for unlisted codes
- Codes that are mutually exclusive and should not be billed together

In the breakout session Administrators will cover:

- Updated Quality and Supplier Standards
- Strategies for handling appeals and denials
- How to handle unique billing situations
- Documentation Requirements
- Medicare as Secondary Payer

[Click here to register for the Baltimore Coding & Billing Seminar.](#)

[Click here to reserve your room at the Sheraton Inner Harbor and take advantage of the low Coding & Billing Seminar rate of \\$159 per night or call \(410\) 962-8300. Be sure to mention the AOPA Seminar to receive the \\$159 per night rate.](#)

Questions? Contact Stephen Custer at scuster@AOPAnet.org (571) 431-0876.

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O&P RESOURCES FROM AOPA

Check Out the AOPA Job Board for New Opportunities in O&P

If you need a position filled at your business or are interested in looking at other job possibilities within the O&P field, check out the [AOPA Online Job Board](#). The online job board sports a freshly updated look and an easy-to-navigate profile creation system.

In the past month the Job Board has been viewed over 8,000 times by more than 1,500 unique users. If you want people to find out about a job opening at your facility or are interested in posting your resume for employers to view for potential openings, visit the [AOPA Online Job Board](#) today.

And remember: if you advertise on the Online Job Board and decide to also advertise in the *O&P Almanac*, then you'll receive a 5 percent discount on the cost of advertising in the *Almanac* and on the Job Board.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org or (571) 431-0835.

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The 2011 Audio Conference Series from AOPA

Numerous offices have benefited from their participation in **AOPA's** Medicare Audio Conferences. These one hour sessions come to you in the comfort of your office on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM Eastern. This series provides an outstanding opportunity for you and your staff to stay abreast of the latest hot topics in O&P, as well as gain clarification and ask questions on topics that you may not understand as fully as you would like to.

Seminars are still priced at just \$99 per line for members (\$199 for non-members). Buy the series and get two free; members pay just \$990 and non-members pay \$1990. If you purchase all the conferences, all conferences from months prior to your purchase of the set will be sent to you as CDs.

These convenient one-hour telephone seminars are designed to fit easily into your busy schedule. Any practitioners needing credit can get 1.5 per audio conference by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80%. Billing staff and others who don't need credit can nonetheless gain information they will use right away. The topics for 2011 are:

- January 12: How to Meet the New Medicare Supplier Standards (Available on CD)
- Feb. 9: Using the Lower Limb Medical Policy to Your Advantage (Available on CD)
- March 9: Enhance Your Claims Success, Two Letters at a Time (Available on CD)
- April 13: Improving Clinical Documentation (Available on CD)
- May 11: Which Box to Check? The Negative Effect of the 855S on Reimbursement (Available on CD)
- June 8: Preventing Audit Disasters (Available on CD)
- July 13: Don't Rile the OSHA Police (Available on CD)
- August 10: How to Get Paid for Miscellaneous and Repair Codes (Available on CD)
- September 14: Don't Run Afoul of the KO Rules
- October 12: Developing Your Medicare Billing Compliance Plan
- November 9: Happy Holidays: Kickbacks and Gifts in O&P
- December 14: Are You Ready for the New Year? 2012 New Codes and Policies

[Click here to register for any 2011 Audio Conference.](#)

If you miss an audio conference, it will be available on CD after the fact. Cost is the same as if you participate live (\$99/\$199). We hope you'll be able to join us for this year's series.

Questions? Contact Stephen Custer at scuster@AOPAnet.org (571) 431-0876.

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O&P INSIDER'S TRACK

The Only Up-to-the Minute O&P Newsline

People in the News

[Hanger Orthopedic Group](#) announced the hiring of the following employees:

- **Warren Nelson, CO** joins Hanger's patient care facility in Joliet, Illinois
- **Nathan Watt, CO** joins its Thornton, Colorado patient care facility
- **Andrew Domb, CPO** joins Hanger's Cincinnati, Ohio patient care facility
- **Doug Siggins, CO** joins the Tahlequah, Oklahoma patient care facility

The [University of Michigan Orthotics and Prosthetics Center](#) Residency Program announced the addition of four residents to their program: **Megan Krause, Kevin Hickey, Adrienne O'Day** and **Cameron Lehrer**.

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Businesses in the News

[Comprehensive Prosthetic and Orthotics](#) announced the acquisition of [DJ Peters Orthopedics](#).

[Clark & Associates Prosthetics and Orthotics, OPAF](#), and the First Clinics hosted a First Swing Learn to Golf Clinic at the All Golf Shop in Waterloo, Iowa.

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Send Us Your News!

The next **AOPA** *in Advance* will arrive in your inbox on September 20. So if you have a new employee or a new office, tell us! Share your news with the over 15,000 readers of the *O&P Almanac* and **AOPA** *In Advance* newsletter. Contact Steven Rybicki at srybicki@AOPAnet.org

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