



Special points of interest:

- Medicaid Committee
- Licensure Committee—Proposed Bill
- Parity Committee—Proposed Bill
- Upcoming Events
- Sponsors

Message From President

Greetings WSOPP members,

Happy New Year! It seems big changes are afoot in the world of Wisconsin O&P.

As it turns out the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finally decided that pedorthists and pedorthic facilities are *not* exempt from the mandatory accreditation requirements for suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies. This means that all pedorthic facilities need to have already applied for accreditation and must achieve accreditation by September 30, 2009 in order to be compliant with CMS regulations and maintain their status as Medicare providers.

Another major change involves the minimum education and training requirements for anyone desiring to provide O&P care. Five of the major national organizations representing the O&P profession have reached a consensus on these requirements. The document, mandating a bachelor's degree, as well as specific formalized instruction from accredited O&P schools,

was signed by the heads of AAOP, ABC, AOPA, BOC and NAAOP. This comes as CMS is working on proposed regulations to prohibit payment to suppliers or providers who are not qualified through specific education and training. The five organizations feel that this new agreement will aid CMS in implementing appropriate education and training standards for O&P providers.

Finally, I would like to take a minute to congratulate Brian Gustin, CP. I'm sure all of the WSOPP members are as proud as I am to have a Wisconsinite as the new President of AOPA. Congratulations, Brian!

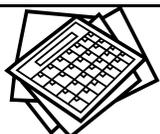
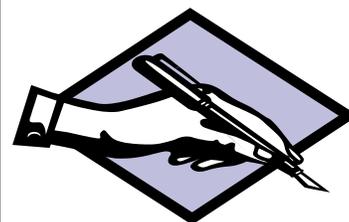
Best wishes for and much success for 2009.

Dennis Janisse, C.Ped.

janisse@execpc.com

**ACA announces 2nd Annual Lobby Day-
March 10, 2009**

The Amputee Coalition of America (ACA) is committed to ensuring the availability of assistive devices to enable amputees to reach their full potentials. The ACA is holding a lobby day on Capitol Hill on March 10th. They need your help to urge members of Congress to address the many important issues facing people with limb loss. For more information or to register, contact ACA at 202/742-1886 or federal@amputee-coalition.org!



Calendar of Events

Topics of Discussion:

**Semi-Annual
Membership
Meeting**

**April 24, 2009
8:00 to 5:00**

Rock Garden Banquet Center
Green Bay, WI

- Movement Disorders/ Gait Analysis
- UpperEx
- Medicaid Brainstorming
- Member Meeting
- PLUS Supplier Expo

CEU'S applied for from ABC

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Minuets: September 26, 2008 Membership Meeting



“Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.”

-Benjamin Franklin

The following minutes are a condensed summation of the actual recorded minutes. For a copy of the full minutes, please contact Andrea Pavlik, CO at (920)-803-9610.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Vice President Dennis Farrell.

Minutes

The minute’s form the April 25, 2008 meeting were distributed and accepted by a unanimous vote.

Treasury Report

Jim Sadjak, treasurer, announced that the balance in the WSOPP account is at \$27,562. Expenditures this year have been made for postage, printing, CEU applications and Membership Meeting costs.

Jim also announced the Board of Directors request to change the corporate status of WSOPP from a non-stock corporation to a 501(c)6 Tax-exempt Trade Group. The reason for this change is to eliminate the need to pay taxes on fund-raising/membership monies. A vote was taken and all membership approved unanimously. It is noted that the change will be done by October 31, 2008 and that the by-laws of WSOPP will need to be amended to reflect the new corporate status.

Election Results

Dennis Farrell announced the results of the 2009 elections. One position is open: 3 year term Director.

Results were:

21 for David Castellanos

1 for Glen Goranson

Dennis and the WSOPP Board of Directors welcomes David Castellanos to the Board of Directors

Committee Reports

Medicaid Committee

Greg Gruman, chair of the Medicaid Committee, reported that there has been little activity within the Medicaid Committee due to the updates that Medicaid is currently preparing to undergo. Medicaid representatives provided a good introduction to their new system capabilities and how to access their new and improved system which will be implemented in mid-November.

Greg also reported that Medicaid has written of formal request to ad a new position to hire an O&P consultant (they are requesting 1-3 positions). The committee is hopeful that this will help to improve O&P PA submission requests. The request for a new position has been unanswered at this point.

Greg updated the membership on the fee schedule changes that Medicaid has stated they would implement. These changes have been in a Medicaid review committee for the past 6 months. WSOPP continues to work on this issue.

Bob Agard stated that he is having issues in his region with physical therapists billing L-Codes to Medicaid in Wisconsin. This is a new issue brought to the committee and will be researched. Once researched, the committee will address the issue with Medicaid.

Licensure Committee

Tom Current, CPO spoke on behalf of Mick Batton, CO regarding the progress the Licensure Committee has been making. The Committee has a final draft composed and has presented it to the Board of Directors for approval. Once the Board approves, the draft will be mailed to the Membership for a 45 day review period prior to the April 24, 2009 meeting at which point the draft bill will be voted on.

Parity Committee

Jake Wood made note that the ACA has been active on a federal level, with Congress passing a

prosthetic parity bill. The senate has been developing a sub-committee, but no action has been completed. Morgan Sheets, of the ACA, has requested WSOPP’s assistance in meeting with Senator Kohl to discuss the federal bill. The goal of the meeting was to create a relationship at the state level; however, contacts were made, but WSOPP was unable to secure a meeting with Senator Kohl.

Jake also reported that WSOPP’s Wisconsin Parity Bill was not assigned a bill number as planned in 9/2008 due to a lack of support from the state committee. We can re-attempt to have a bill number issued after the November 2008 elections. If everything goes well, a bill number could be issued as early as 1/2009. Until a bill number is issued, all facility parity packets will be held and Town Hall meetings will also take place after the bill number is issued. The Town Hall meetings will be held at non- O&P facilities and will be open to the public and media to help gain support for the Parity Bill.

Jake also commented that the ACA has been very helpful in generating form letters and contact information, however, we need to isolate who is on the state review committee that may take a personal backing to this issue.

Communication Committee

Andrea Pavlik reported that the committee is currently negotiating a contract with a web developer to design and implement a new, more interactive webpage. The new Web developer will allow WSOPP to make update changes as needed to keep the site as up-to-date and useful as possible.



AOPA strongly supports all efforts for parity legislation and will be working to support parity efforts—because this is a policy that could really benefit your practice. -Daniel Gurley is manager of regulatory affairs of AOPA's Government Affairs department

UPDATE: Parity Committee

Prior to the Holidays, the WSOPP Parity was reviewed by the first committee level in the Wisconsin Legislature. For the second time, the first level committee has returned our proposed bill with recommendations for some slight changes. Morgan Sheets, from ACA, has been contacted for her input regarding the recommended changes to our parity bill. Once the changes have been made and approved by the board of directors we can submit the final bill.

Since the opening of the legislative session in the beginning of January, we have been able to seek out who

appropriate carriers may be. Legislator John Townsend (R-52nd Assembly District) has agreed to introduce the Parity bill once we have a bill number assigned to the WSOPP Parity Bill.

The Parity committee is anxiously awaiting the designation of a bill number to move forward in preparing hand out packets for all Wisconsin orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic facilities. The packets will contain posters, sample letters, and petitions to help gain momentum for the Wisconsin Parity Bill. Please watch for these packets to arrive at your facility soon.

The Parity committee is chaired by:

Jake Wood, CP
414-257-2727

KWWODK@aol.com

Please contact Jake should you have any questions regarding the committees work to date.



Parity Committee Members

Following are WSOPP members that are active on the Medicaid committee:

Chairman:

Jake Wood, CP

Committee Members:

Tom Flatley, Jr

Glen Goranson

Jerry Henderson

Jack Schultz

If you would like to join the Parity committee, or have questions, comments or concerns regarding this committee, please contact the chairman:

Jake Wood, CP

414- 257-2727

KWOODK@aol.com

Looking for a Web Developer?



Allmar Technologies, a Milwaukee based webpage design company, has provided the design and support for the new www.wsopp.org webpage and is now offering that same support/ service for full/ voting WSOPP members at a great discount.

Full Voting Members can receive a **10% discount** on the development of a webpage for their company (a small perk of WSOPP membership!)

For each completed and signed contract that Allmar receives from a WSOPP member, Allmar will contribute \$250 to WSOPP to be used to assist in implementing our Parity/ licensure bills.

Contact

Scott Solomko

Allmar Technologies
(414) 431-4240

or ssol-
omko@allmartech.com to
begin your site today!!
(simply tell Scott that you are a
member of WSOPP)

UPDATE: Licensure Committee

The Licensure Committee has completed hundreds of hours drafting a Preliminary Wisconsin Licensure Bill. The preliminary Bill was submitted to the Board of Directors for review in December 2008. After reviewing the Bill, the Board of Directors has unanimously voted for the Licensure Committee to complete a full cost analysis and a draft of a regulatory bill prior to the Board approving the Licensure bill for submission to the Membership. The Board of Directors and members of the Licensure Committee will meet on March 13, 2009 to review the 26-page preliminary Licensure bill section-by-section for poten-

tial revisions and alterations. At that time, both the Board of Directors and members of the Licensure committee will work on a draft of the regulatory bill. It has become evident that WSOPP would be responsible for regulating any Licensure obtained in the state of Wisconsin. The Board of Directors strongly feels that all information regarding potential costs to facilities and practitioners along with WSOPP's financial responsibility must be made clear prior to their approving the bill for progression to the membership. Initial discussions have revealed that a Licensure bill will not be ready for submission to the state legislature until 2010.

The Licensure committee is chaired by:

Mick Batton, CO

920-725-6200

Mick.Batton@physiocorp.com

Please contact Mick should you have any questions regarding the committees work to date



Academy has joined with AOPA, NAAOP, ABC, and BOC and approved an historic agreement to jointly recommend to CMS that there be specific minimum education and training requirements, consistent with those now in place at ABC, for those who will be allowed to bill for providing custom orthotics and prosthetics to Medicare beneficiaries

Licensure Committee Members

Following are WSOPP members that are active on the Medicaid committee:

Chairman:

Mick Batton, CO

Committee Members:

Ken Crooker

Tom Current

Mark Gilles

Jeremy Janisse

James Lewallen

If you would like to join the Licensure committee, or have questions, comments or concerns regarding this committee, please contact the chairman:

Mick Batton, CO

920-725-6200

Mick.batton@physiocorp.com

wsopp.org: A whole new look

Communication- the process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system. That common system, for WSOPP, has historically been via paper mailings and an occasional email.

WSOPP now has a means for faster communication- a new and improved

WSOPP has maintained a webpage for the past 2 years; a webpage that was not user friendly. Member, you brought it to our attention and we have done something about it!!

Andrea Pavlik, CO, communications Chair, completed the task of updating our webpage with the help of Scott Solomko at Allmar Technology.

The new webpage is designed to be more interactive and will allow members to register their email addressed for electronic mailings. It will allow the communications committee to rapidly disseminate information to members and to make monthly updates to the webpage as needed.

Allmar Technologies is also offering a great discount to any WSOPP member- see the article on page 2.

Check the new site out today!!!

www.wsopp.org



Good Morning America Gets Coverage for Amputee

On January 14, 2009, ABC's *Good Morning America* featured the story of 23 year-old Susan, the mother of two boys and a recent amputee. This is one of the more positive stories featured in the media about the challenges O&P providers and patients face when attempting to receive fair and adequate coverage for orthotic and prosthetic treatment and devices necessary for the return to a normal, active life.

At the end of the report *GMA* reporter Chris Cuomo advised that if there are others suffering from issues similar to Susan, to let *Good Morning America* know about it.

So let's take him

up on that offer!

This is an opportunity to thank ABC for highlighting the daunting task O&P providers and patients sometimes have when fighting for proper coverage. And this is also an opportunity to let ABC know that there are many other patients out there like Susan who are being denied fair and adequate coverage for O&P services. If you are currently treating a patient who faces similar problems with their insurance company, let ABC know and also encourage that patient to alert ABC of this problem.

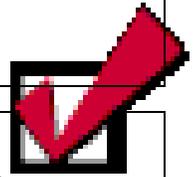
Please make very sure that the facts of any patient story are checked and really do underscore unfair insurer restraints to rein-

force the need for parity. If patient claims referred to *GMA* prove to be questionable or inappropriate it might serve to harm rather than advance the critical argument for parity.

With enough responses we may be able to see more stories like this from ABC and gain more traction in our ongoing fight for state and federal parity laws for O&P!

For more info log on to:

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/ChrisCuomo>



Update: Medicaid Committee

The Medicaid Committee has been inactive due to Medicaid's rollout of the new Forward Health Portal. Following are WSOPP members that are active on the Medicaid committee:

Chairman:

Greg Gruman, CP

Committee Members:

David Castellanos

Kathy Kannenburg

Lisa Rubrich

David Sisson

Xenon Wojcik

If you would like to join the Medicaid committee, or have

questions, comments or concerns regarding this committee, please contact the chairman:

Greg Gruman

763-546-1177

ggruman@winkley.com

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."
-Winston Churchill

Treasury Report

The books for Fiscal Year 2008 have been maintained by current Treasurer Jim Sadjak, C.Ped.

Current Treasury statement:

As of December 31, 2008 WSOPP is in a sound financial position. We currently have a cash balance of \$19,590. All expenditures have been paid in full and include web development fees and lawyer fees involved in changing the business

status of WSOPP.

WSOPP has now implemented a change in corporate status. We have reassigned our corporate status to a 501(c)6 Tax-exempt Trade Group.

This change was necessary to reduce the need to pay taxes fund-raising/ membership monies. This enables WSOPP to position itself to implement fund-raising plans for carrying our Parity and Licensure Bills.





WSOPP

**Wisconsin Society of
Orthotists, Prosthetists &
Pedorthists**

**WSOPP—
Communications
ATTN: Andrea Pavlik, CO
1344 North Taylor Drive**

**Phone: 920-803-9610
Fax: 920-803-9611**

2008 WSOPP Members

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Aljan Company
Farrell Prosthetics
National Pedorthic Services
O & P Associates
Reichert & Kelsey
Winkley Orthopedic
Wisconsin Pe&O*

MEMBERS

Robert Agard, CPO
Scott Amyx, CO
Walter Austin, CPed
Glenn Barclay, CO
Mick Batton, CO
Christopher Beardsley, CPO
Chad Bieri, CP
Ross Bossetti, CPO

Alan Burke, CPed
Curt Burtram, CO
David Castellanos, CPed
Tom Current, CPO
Dennis Farrell, CP
Thomas Flatley, CO
Paul Flahavan, CPed
Mark Gilles, CO
Glenn Gorenson, CO
Kurt Gruben, CPO
Greg Gruman, CP
Robert Harold, CPed
Jerry Henderson, CPed, CO
Jack Hutter, DPM, CPed
Dennis Janisse, CPed
Jeremy Janisse, CPed
Brian Kelsey, CPO
Dane Lafontsee, CPed
Jeffrey Langer, CPed
James Lewallen, CO

Robert Lotz, CPO
Brian Mink, CO
John Mooney, CPO
Jason Olson, CPed
Andrea Pavlik, CO
Doug Reichert, CP
Delvan Russ, CPed
Bruce Russell, CO
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David Sanchez, CO
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Christian Schubring, CO
Charles Schultz, CP
Jack Schultz, CO
James Shippy, CPed
Kristi Smeaton, CP
Ronald Wibel, CPed
Jane Wolking, CP
Jake Wood, CO

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Chris Duprey
*Alan Lien, RTP/ RPA
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Carrie Romandine*

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