
THE SKELETON

Volume 1, Issue 1



The official newsletter of the
North Carolina Orthopaedic Association

Summer 2007

Mark Your Calendar !!!

2007 NCOA Annual Meeting

October 26-28, 2007

Marriott Resort at Grand Dunes
Myrtle Beach, SC



NCOA Leadership 2006-2007

President:	David W. Boone, MD Raleigh
President-Elect:	Alfred L. Rhyne, III, MD Charlotte
Vice President:	James A. Nunley, II, MD Durham
Secretary-Treasurer:	Frank V. Aluisio, MD Greensboro
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Historian:	W. Jason McDaniel, MD Raleigh
Past President:	Mark D. Foster, MD Wilmington
AAOS Councilor:	Charles H. Classen, Jr., MD Kinston
AAOS Councilor:	Stephen N. Lang, MD Durham
Executive Director:	W. Alan Skipper Raleigh

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President's Message

The NCOA and You

David W. Boone, MD / President



The North Carolina Orthopaedic Association started as an organization in 1945 in Raleigh. The purpose of the Association is to provide a forum for the advancement of orthopaedic surgery in order to provide quality orthopaedic care for the people of North Carolina and to provide a united voice advocating for the orthopaedists in this state.

The NCOA convenes annually in the Fall for academic sessions as well as its annual business meeting. This past year, an outstanding joint meeting was held with the South Carolina Orthopaedic Association at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Keynote speakers included John Gould, MD from Birmingham, Michael Schafer, MD from Northwestern University and David Lovett, JD from the AAOS.

In 2007, the meeting will be held at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach, SC over the weekend of October 26-28. The agenda will include excellent academic sessions as well sessions pertaining to the business of orthopaedics. I look forward to seeing you there. More details will follow.

All NCOA members should have received their annual membership renewal packet and hopefully you have responded to keep your membership current. If you are a non-member, I strongly urge you to join the association for a number of reasons. We must be organized with one strong voice for our issues to be heard and taken seriously. An organization such as ours that cannot count the majority of orthopaedists in this state among its members will not be optimally effective in representing our profession. Issues of importance and concern to orthopaedic surgeons will continue to arise and we need to be positioned to effectively respond so that we can have a positive impact on patient care and the practice of orthopaedics in North Carolina.

Examples of issues that the NCOA has been actively engaged in over the past year include:

- Physician Ownership of PT Services
- Workers Compensation
- Medical Liability Reform
- Certificate of Need
- Emergency Room Coverage
- Medicaid Reimbursement

We will continue to respond to these and other issues and appreciate your support through membership and your willingness to participate in our advocacy initiatives.

In the left hand margin of the first page of this newsletter you will see the contact information for the current officers of the NCOA. Our Executive Director, Mr. Alan Skipper is also listed with his contact information. If you have any questions regarding the NCOA please contact one of us.

Finally, I would ask you to take a moment and think of your practice including your relationships with your patients and colleagues. I am quite sure that each of you values these aspects of your lives. We all need to take steps to protect these relationships. A strong NCOA can help accomplish this goal.

David W. Boone MD



Legislative / Advocacy Update

The 2007 session of the N.C. General Assembly convened on January 24, 2007 and as of the date of publication was getting close to adjournment. This year's session has seen a significant shift in the hierarchy with the House of Representatives with the indictment, conviction and sentencing of former House Speaker, Jim Black, an optometrist. Black's successor in the Speaker's seat is Representative Joe Hackney and his tenure thus far has provided for a more transparent legislative process than in recent years.

As we wait for the final legislative tally for this year's session, there is one bill that orthopaedists will find of interest.

House Bill 1671 – Voluntary Arbitration – This bill allows for both parties involved in a personal injury or wrongful death claim, based on alleged negligence, to agree to enter into binding arbitration with a \$1 million dollar cap on all damages, specified timelines, and a limited ability for appeal. This measure was supported by the North Carolina Medical Society and is viewed it as a positive first-step towards more substantive and necessary medical liability reform. Rep. England (D-Rutherford), Rep. Rapp (D-Madison) and Rep. Glazier (D-Cumberland) were the key sponsors of the bill.

2007 Advocacy Program Brings Doctors Face-to-Face with Legislators

The NC Medical Society's *White Coat Wednesday* initiative provided a new and interactive experience for physicians during the 2007 session of the Legislature. This advocacy program offered specialty societies, such as the NCOA, and their members an excellent opportunity to engage in the policy-making process, become more effective advocates through greater understanding of legislative mechanics, and to meet one-on-one with legislators to discuss issues of importance to physicians and patients. Representing the NCOA for Orthopaedic White Coat Wednesday was NCOA President, David Boone, and Past President, David Rockwell. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate during the 2008 legislative session.

Are you a Key Contact?

Orthopaedists statewide provide a vital link to legislators when a crucial vote is imminent. The NCOA, along with the NC Medical Society and the AAOS, depends on an effective network of orthopaedists willing to serve as Key Contacts for state and federal legislators. The effectiveness of a Key Contact Network is at the heart of every legislative success the NCOA achieves. As a Key Contact, you will be notified when it is critical to contact your legislator on an issue affecting our profession and our patients. Appropriate background information, talking points and contact information are always provided so you can be prepared for any contacts you make. Sign up today. Contact the NCOA at (919) 833-3836 or ncoa@ncmedsoc.org.



Industrial Commission News & Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule Developments

Governor Mike Easley recently reappointed Commissioner Laura K. Mavretic and appointed Danny Lee McDonald to replace Commissioner Thomas J. Bolch. Please visit the NCIC website, www.comp.state.nc.us for detailed bios of all Commissioners.

The North Carolina Medical Society has performed much research and advocated strongly for the past four years to obtain meaningful revisions to the Medical Fee Schedule especially reimbursement increases for Evaluation and Management Codes. As a result of continuing dissatisfaction with the now 11 year old Medical Fee Schedule and perceived inequities with the hospital fee schedule expressed by many stakeholders, Chairman Buck Lattimore recently announced the formation of two new Advisory Council committees: the Workers Compensation Hospital Fee Schedule Study Committee and the Critical Issues Task Force.

The Hospital Fee Schedule Study Committee will investigate the adequacy of the current hospital fee schedule and recommend changes that can be agreed to by all parties. The Critical Issues Task Force will look initially at the "hassle factor" in workers' compensation medical billings and make recommendations to make the claims process more efficient. The Critical Issues committee will also look at needs for changes in medical fee schedules as well as critical issues that should come to the Commission. These committees are composed of representatives of insurance carriers, employers, labor, hospitals, physicians, and plaintiff's and defense bars. NCIC Liaison Committee chair, Dr. John Welshofer, and consultant, Caroline Fortner, have been appointed to the Critical Issues Task Force.

Advisory Council E-billing Task Force chair and NCMS Assistant Counsel Scarlette Gardner presented the committee's report at its January 29 meeting. The report included recommended components of an effective e-billing system for workers' compensation payers and providers and a long list of "hassle factor" items that may be eliminated or improved by e-billing implementation. These items will likely be discussed by the newly formed Critical Issues Task Force.

Scarlette is also producing a Workers' Compensation Manual for Medical Providers which will include the fundamentals of NC workers' compensation law and detailed bill and reimbursement information that will be incorporated into forthcoming CME programs for physicians and medical group managers.

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!

- Pericles (430 B.C.)



NCOA Goes to Washington

Report from the AAOS NOLC

A delegation from the NCOA, including President, David Boone; AAOS Councilors, Charles Classen and Steve Lang; and Executive Director Alan Skipper participated in the 2007 National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference hosted by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The conference included state society strategy sessions, legislative updates and visits to Capitol Hill. This year, meetings were held with 10 NC Congressional offices, including Representative Walter Jones pictured below with the NCOA delegation. Issues addressed included

- Support for a permanent fix to the flawed Medicare payment formula.
- Support for voluntary Medicare quality reporting.
- Increase in Department of Defense funding for musculoskeletal research programs in response to the prevalence of orthopaedic injuries our soldiers have experienced in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Medical liability reform.



Web Site Reconstruction Update

The NCOA's web site has been undergoing serious reconstructive surgery recently thanks to the work of Immediate Past President, Mark Foster. The web site should be up and running in early August and we encourage you to take a look and give us feedback on.

The new NCOA web site will be accessible at the following Internet address:

www.ncorthopaedics.org

We look forward to your comments on the content, user friendliness, and suggestions for improvements.

Local Meetings with Legislators

The NCOA is encouraging orthopaedic practices to meet with their legislators. The NCOA can help coordinate such events. Give us a call – 919-833-3836.

Welcome New Members

The NCOA welcomes the following new members who have joined the association since the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Christopher M. Barsanti, MD, *Greenville*
 Christopher R. Brown, MD, *Durham*
 Edward C. Brown, III, MD, *Greenville*
 Virginia F. Casey, MD, *Charlotte*
 Jeffrey M. Chase, MD, *Kill Devil Hills*
 Robert E. Coles, MD, *Morehead City*
 Daniel T. Davis, MD, *Lincolnton*
 G. Paul DeRosa, MD, *Chapel Hill*
 Douglas R. Dirschl, MD, *Chapel Hill*
 Robert A. Erdin, III, MD, *Concord*
 James E. Fleischli, MD, *Charlotte*
 G. Adam Flowers, MD, *Concord*
 Michael D. Getter, MD, *Concord*
 Scott Q. Hannum, MD, *Wilmington*
 Robert S. Humble, MD, *Salisbury*
 Riyaz H. Jinnah, MD, FRCGS, *Winston Salem*
 Harrison A. Latimer, MD, *Salisbury*
 Kevin J. Logel, MD, *Raleigh*
 Patricia L. McHale, MD, *Gastonia*
 R. Alden Milam, IV, MD, *Charlotte*
 Andrew R. Noble, MD, *Concord*
 Jason P. Norcross, MD, *Hickory*
 John S. O'Malley, MD, *Wilmington*
 Lois K. Osier, MD, *Charlotte*
 Robert A. Ottaviani, MD, *Goldsboro*
 Selene G. Parekh, MD, *Chapel Hill*
 Philip S. Perdue, Jr., MD, *Greenville*
 Karenmarie B. Rives, MD, *Lincolnton*
 Brian T. Rose, MD, *Concord*
 Mark A. Rowley, MD, *High Point*
 Shadley C. Schiffert, MD, *Concord*
 E. James Sebold, MD, *Charlotte*
 Hardayal Singh, MD, *Raleigh*
 James R. Skahen, III, MD, *Concord*
 W. Stephen Tankersley, MD, *Concord*
 Dean C. Taylor, MD, *Durham*
 H. Clayton Thomason, III, MD, *Gastonia*

Help us grow

Are there nonmembers in your practice or area? The NCOA encourages your referrals for membership and assistance in membership recruitment. Please contact the NCOA at (919) 833-3836 or ncoa@ncmedsoc.org with any potential member referrals. The strength of our association is proportionate to the amount of support from orthopaedists across the state. Thank you for your membership and support.

Congratulations!

The NC Orthopaedic Association congratulates Dr. Hadley Callaway, orthopaedic surgeon from Raleigh, who will become the 154th President of the North Carolina Medical Society at the NCMS Annual Meeting in October.

2007 Annual Meeting Update

Make plans now to join your colleagues from around the state at the 2007 North Carolina Orthopaedic Association annual meeting scheduled for October 26-28 at the Myrtle Beach Marriott at Grande Dunes.

Dr. Mack Aldridge will serve as the 2007 Program Chair and Dr. Lars Peterson will be featured as our Presidential Guest Lecturer this year. In addition to stimulating scientific papers, other topics will be presented concerning the business of orthopaedics.

Be on the lookout for the meeting brochure. For further information, contact Nancy Lowe at the NCOA at nlowe@ncmedsoc.org.



Myrtle Beach Marriott at Grand Dunes
www.myrtlebeachmarriottresort.com



***Coming to a town
near you...***

The NCOA is undertaking an initiative to take its "show on the road" to visit locally with North Carolina orthopaedists. The purpose of the project is to meet with as many of our colleagues as possible to present a brief NCOA update and overview and to demonstrate the importance of the association to our profession.

In that effort, we need help in identifying opportunities at the local and regional level. Please assist in this effort by notifying the NCOA (ncoa@ncmedsoc.org / 919-833-3836) of possibilities in your area, including regularly scheduled practice meetings, regional orthopaedic society functions, journal clubs, sponsored dinner meetings, etc. We look forward to coming to your area.

Calendar of Events

NCOA Orthopaedic Update at the NCMS Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 21st / Westin / Charlotte, NC

2007 NCOA Annual Meeting
October 26-28 / Marriott / Myrtle Beach, SC

2008 AAOS Annual Meeting
March 5-9 / San Francisco, CA

2008 AAOS National Leadership Conference
April 30 – May 3 / Washington, DC

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