



SPRING 2023 MONTANA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Greetings again from MOMA. It's time for an update! We continue to be active in many ways to promote the distinctive approach Osteopathic medicine offers to the delivery of health care in this country. If you visit our website: mtosteopaths.com, you will find references to this including our CME event (Primary Care Roundup held August 3-5 this year in Billings, MT), previous newsletters and a presentation that, in part, discuss some efforts to brand what osteopathic distinctiveness really means. MOMA's board understands the importance of promoting this distinctiveness in education and otherwise. We believe that, especially with the expansion of the profession, this needs to continue to be important, otherwise we will gradually lose what the profession has to offer the practice of medicine. Items of note are:

- 1) MOMA's Primary Care Roundup, which we have done at least once (all but one year) annually for the past 34 years, will be August 3-5, 2023, in Billings, MT. The agenda is full again this year at 25 credits, all diverse primary care education. With specific speaker instructions to all our speakers (DO, MD, etc.) we strive to promote education that reinforces a focus on the tenants of Osteopathic medicine, which is just good patient care. (Our website CME link has these speaker instructions for review.) [To register, you can go to the Billings Clinic's CME site billingsclinic.cloud-cme.com and register under the Conferences link.](http://billingsclinic.cloud-cme.com) Billings Clinic has co-sponsored our CME for the last 14 years or so, and for the 2nd year now, our event is on the Billings Clinic's campus. You can also register and view the agenda on our website mtosteopaths.com/events-cme. This year you can attend live, live-virtually, and for 60 days post conference at your leisure to obtain credits.
- 2) MOMA dues: our dues year has been July 1 to June 30 for many years, but to be consistent with the AOA's (American Osteopathic Association) dues year, our current dues period is from July 1, 2022, to Dec 31, 2023 (18 months). Our yearly dues rate has been \$200.00 for many years, but to coincide with this longer period, it is \$300.00 this year. You can go to our website to pay your dues online or download a form to send via snail mail. If you paid dues of \$300.00 after July 1, 2022, you are current. We understand this may have been confusing to many but hope it will simplify things going forward. We have strived to keep our dues rate reasonable. Be assured we will use these funds to promote our mission as best and energetically as we can.
- 3) Two new Montana schools of osteopathic medicine! Since returning to Montana in 1988, and being active with MOMA since then, there have been numerous attempts/research into starting an osteopathic school in the state. The challenges faced were overwhelming until Rocky Vista University and Touro University arrived. I think in large part because both have other campuses and experience in this education, they chose to meet these challenges and are starting their first classes this summer. The current and anticipated shortages of physicians in this country, and the fact that the osteopathic profession is largely made up of primary care specialties, including almost 40% family medicine and 60% primary care, make this an important endeavor. MOMA looks forward to working with both schools to promote osteopathic distinctiveness in this level of education. As you all know, the first 2 years are on campuses, then we will have a chance to help in the much-needed clinical years. It is my understanding that the plan is to grow this clinical education in Montana, but also utilize rotations out of the state. This certainly is not a new approach. I was in the 4th class of COMP Pomona, and many of us traveled out of state for our clinical years. Please consider being preceptors as this process moves forward. It is a chance to give back, share your knowledge, and make these efforts much more successful. By

precepting, we can help support the goal of bringing more physicians to Montana. I would be remiss in not mentioning Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the outreach efforts it has done in Montana for many years. They have been most helpful to MOMA in many ways, we thank them for all their efforts here in Montana, and we hope to continue to interact with them in the future.

- 4) The NWOMF (Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation) continues a scholarship program for osteopathic medical students. On our website, there is a link to one of these scholarships (Shirley Carpenter fund) that awards a scholarship yearly to an osteopathic medical student from Montana. There is a write up about Shirley on this link, and you will see why we honor her.

Consider being involved with MOMA, as a member or otherwise. Use our website to contact us, or our email address: montanaosteopathic@gmail.com with any questions or comments. We welcome your involvement. Happy summer and thank you for doing all you DO for our profession.

Don Grewell, DO, FAAFP,
Executive Director, MOMA

Hello, colleagues!

First, a quick introduction. I am so honored to be writing as the president of MOMA. As a Family Medicine doc, I'm currently working in Billings as faculty with the residency. I am a Montana girl, having grown up in Whitehall. Some of my goals as president are to increase engagement of our members and find ways to add new members. Keep reading for some invitations on how you can become involved!

It has been a busy year for MOMA already. We are gearing up for our annual CME conference. Thank you to everyone who is helping us – there has been such enthusiasm! MOMA was founded to provide CME to Montana DO's and offer a chance to connect with others across our vast state. We have continued that mission and continue to offer connection through continuing education. Too often we become isolated in our different corners of the state so think about coming to Billings in August. Speaking of making new connections, Montana is soon to welcome folks with "OMS" behind their name. There has been a lot of buzz around the two new colleges of Osteopathic medicine coming to our state. MOMA is excited to welcome students but haven't forgotten about the residents across the state, either. The board has been brainstorming ways to offer students and residents meaningful membership and support in their medical education. We'd love to hear your suggestions about how to do this. Reach out and let us know your ideas! To send us your ideas about these topics or other notions, please email montanaosteopathic@gmail.com.

Thank you to our dues-paying members. Your support allows us to continue the efforts above and more. If you are not a member, consider joining! Information on mtosteopaths.com. To everyone: Let us know how we can better support you in caring for Montana. Make time to enjoy our beautiful state in whatever way fills your bucket and take care.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Sizemore, DO
President, Montana Osteopathic Medical Association