

**Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Actions by the 2023 House of Delegates**

The OOA House of Delegates met Friday, April 21, 2023, at the Columbus Hilton at Easton Town Center in conjunction with the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium. Speaker David A. Bitonte, DO, and Vice Speaker Michael E. Dietz, DO, presided over the meeting. Both were re-elected to a one-year term.

Delegates elected the following OOA officers: President-Elect Douglas W. Harley, DO; Vice President Edward E. Hosbach II, DO; and Treasurer Andrew P. Eilerman, DO. Immediate Past President Jennifer L. Gwilym, DO, will remain on the Executive Committee and provided the State of the State Report. Nicklaus J. Hess, DO, was installed as OOA President the following day during the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium luncheon.

The House also elected nominees to the Ohio Osteopathic Foundation Board of Trustees: Mark S. Jeffries, DO, for a three-year term expiring 2026; and Paul T. Scheatzle, DO, for a three-year term expiring 2026. Delegates also approved a list of members to serve as part of the Ohio Delegation to the AOA House of Delegates in July.

Two Reference Committees met virtually in advance of the House. Delegates representing all ten districts were appointed to the Committees and discussed five resolutions in total.

Melinda E. Ford, DO, chaired Reference Committee 1. Committee members included Paul A. Martin, DO; Henry L. Wehrum, DO; Paul T. Scheatzle, DO; Sharon L. George, DO; and Cheryl Markino, staff. Chelsea A. Nickolson, DO, chaired Reference Committee 2. That committee was comprised of John C. Baker, DO; Sandra L. Cook, DO; Nicholas G. Espinoza, DO; Charles R. Fisher, DO; Jennifer L. Gwilym, DO; and Teri Collins, Staff

The resolution to reaffirm existing policy position was approved as submitted:

- RES NO 2023-04 Reaffirmation of Existing Policies
- 2023-04 a. Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- 2023-04 b. Continuing Medical Education, Reduced Registration Fees for Retired and Life Members
- 2023-04 c. Energy Drink Dangers
- 2023-04 d. Engaging Osteopathic Physicians as Preceptors
- 2023-04 e. False Qualification Standards and Advertising for the MD Degree
- 2023-04 f. Health Plans, Stability and Continuity of Care
- 2023-04 g. Hospice and Palliative Care Support
- 2023-04 h. Infectious Waste Disposal
- 2023-04 i. Medicare Services
- 2023-04 j. Medication Reconciliation
- 2023-04 k. Ohio Insurance Guaranty Association
- 2023-04 l. Osteopathic Anti-Discrimination
- 2023-04 m. Osteopathic Education, Promoting a Positive and Enthusiastic Approach
- 2023-04 n. Patient Medical Care Expense Control
- 2023-04 o. Physician Choice to Participate in Health Plans

- 2023-04 p. Protection of the Doctor-Patient relationship as Related to Proposed Gun Control Laws
- 2023-04 q. Reaffirmation of The DO Degree
- 2023-04 r. Social Media Guidelines for DOs
- 2023-04 s. Suicide Prevention and Screening
- 2023-04 t. Taser Safety (In Memory of Kevin Psikura)
- 2023-04 u. Authority of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to Certify Osteopathic Continuing Medical Education in Ohio

Three new policy statements were submitted; all three of these resolutions were amended and approved:

- RES NO 2023-01 Protection of the Patient-Physician Relationship and Opposition to Physician Penalties for the Provision of Gender Affirming Care
- RES NO 2023-02 Improving Pharmaceutical Formulary Accessibility
- RES NO 2023-03 Invisible Disabilities

Delegates voted to delete one existing policy statement:

- 2023-05 Wireless Enhanced 911 Services for the State of Ohio

Three of the resolutions were forwarded to the AOA House of Delegates for its July 2023 meeting. All of them were amended and adopted by the AOA:

- H-622 Protection of the Patient-Physician Relationship and Opposition to Physician Penalties for the Provision of Gender Affirming Care
- H-623 Invisible Disabilities
- H-624 Improving Pharmaceutical Formulary Accessibility