

Annual Report 2024



American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists

Join us for CME. Stay for your career.



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MISSION STATEMENT

AOCA is the primary resource for clinical education and professional development for physician anesthesiologists, and facilitates networking, advocates and promotes the practice of osteopathic anesthesiology.

VISION STATEMENT

AOCA is the professional home for physician anesthesiologists, advancing and promoting the distinctive philosophy and practice of osteopathic anesthesiology.





AOCA is dedicated to our members

Quality Education

AOCA is committed to providing members with quality CME delivered by noted experts in anesthesiology through a diverse range of educational formats designed to meet professional needs. Members benefit from in-person conferences as well as the flexibility of virtual or streaming options. AOCA also offers engaging opportunities for one-on-one discussions with key physician leaders, providing invaluable clinical insights.

Committed Community

AOCA fosters camaraderie by connecting members with peers and fellow professionals. Unique opportunities are available to build meaningful relationships within the osteopathic anesthesia community through participation in live meetings or informal connections beyond those events. AOCA creates a sense of belonging within a professional organization that values the osteopathic philosophy shared by its members.

Career Success

AOCA supports members at every stage of their careers by serving as an advocate and resource. The organization enhances clinical services, hones leadership skills, provides a competitive edge for residencies and fellowships, and facilitates connections for research and training opportunities. Members can explore AOCA's extensive resources on its website and rely on the organization to prioritize career aspirations.



Guiding Principles

Principles that the AOCA incorporates into their programs, products, services, and overall organizational culture:

FINANCIAL

AOCA is transparent regarding AOCA's financial status and fiduciary accountability while investing in strategic initiatives that are aligned with the strategic plan

ENGAGEMENT

AOCA provides crucial, relevant, and regular communication to the AOCA community to provide and encourage engagement

INCLUSION

AOCA encourages a culture that supports the osteopathic principles of equality and inclusion

Incoming President's MESSAGE

Ursula Landman, DO, FAOCA



It is an incredible privilege to serve as AOCA's fifth female president, following in the footsteps of so many distinguished leaders since our College was founded in 1952.

Reflecting on the moment I took the osteopathic pledge, I am reminded of the responsibility we have—not just to our patients, but to our profession and community. The practice of anesthesiology is constantly evolving, and it is critical that we, as osteopathic physicians, remain actively engaged in shaping its future. This year, my primary goal is to strengthen member engagement within AOCA. By fostering greater participation, we can expand our reach, enhance the resources we offer, and ultimately support our physician members in delivering the highest level of care.

One of the most impactful ways we can invest in the future of osteopathic anesthesiology is by supporting young physicians. I encourage all our members to contribute to the Timothy D. Ernst Emerging Professionals Fund, which provides scholarships and awards to students and residents. Your generosity directly supports the next generation of anesthesiologists and ensures that AOCA remains a vital resource for years to come.

For decades, AOCA has brought together the brightest minds in osteopathic anesthesiology, serving as a hub for leadership development, professional education, and community building. I challenge you to invite a DO colleague to join AOCA—by expanding our community, we can further our mission to advance osteopathic anesthesiology and improve patient outcomes.

I look forward to a year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful engagement. Thank you for being part of AOCA and for your dedication to our profession.



Click image ▲ to watch a highlight from the inaguration at the 2024 AOCA Annual Convention & Conclave.

Past President's MESSAGE

James Griffin, DO, FAOCA



Serving as AOCA's President has been an absolute honor and the capstone of my career. I want to thank everyone in the AOCA for their guidance, support, and confidence in me throughout this journey.

2024 was a year of growth and progress for our College, and I am proud of what we accomplished together. Your Board of Governors worked diligently to advance our mission and provide value to our members. Some key achievements this year include:

- Hosted one fully virtual conference, one in-person meeting with an on-demand component, and 10 webinars to meet members' CME needs.
- Signed the AMR Management Contract to ensure effective operational and meeting planning services.
- Conducted monthly Executive Committee and quarterly Board calls to keep leadership involved and informed.
- Utilized the Strategic Plan to guide the College's initiatives and long-term direction.
- Conducted member interviews to highlight the impact of our colleagues and preserve the history of the AOCA.
- Raised over \$8,000 for the Timothy D. Ernst Emerging Professionals Fund to invest in the future of osteopathic anesthesiology.

I encourage each of you to find ways to get involved with the AOCA. Everyone has something to contribute, and I promise you will receive more than you give. This is our College, our specialty, and our profession—if we don't support ourselves, who else will?

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to all the remarkable things ahead for the AOCA.

Membership

COMMITTEE REPORT



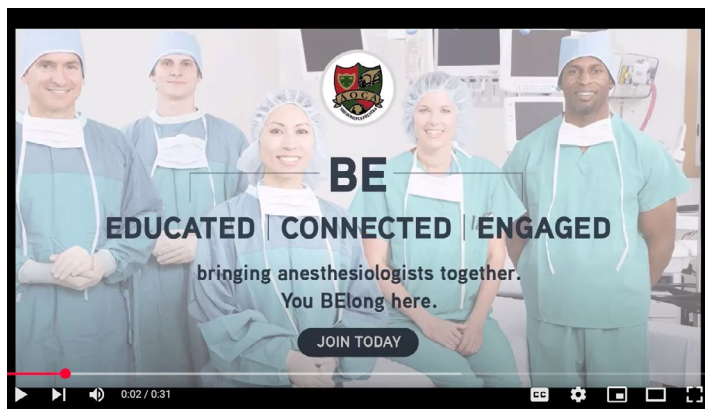
Grace Liu, DO, FAOCA &
Amanda Shakal, DO, FAOCA
Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Mission:

- Develop a three phased membership engagement plan for the next 5 years
- Determine and maintain membership value proposition
- Obtain a membership needs assessment and advocate for those needs to the BOG
- Support the marketing resources in development of a membership drive
- Recruit potential members and approve applications for membership
- Review CV's of new members for areas of contribution
- Develop a communication schedule
- Engage with the AOCA leadership and committee liaisons for content
- Guide AOCA office on social media content

The AOCA remains committed to fostering a strong and engaged community of osteopathic anesthesiologists. Membership provides opportunities to connect with peers, learn from leading experts in the field, and stay at the forefront of advancements in anesthesiology.

We encourage you to share the benefits of AOCA membership with your colleagues—whether through participation in our events and meetings, professional development opportunities, or mentorship programs. The AOCA is your professional home, where you can collaborate, gain new perspectives, and support the next generation of osteopathic anesthesiologists. Together, we continue to advance the profession and ensure a vibrant future for our specialty.



Click image ◀ to watch a highlight from the [AOCA membership video](#).

Testimonials

What our Members Had To Say...

“The AOCA has not only enriched my professional development over the past 20 years of membership, but more importantly, it has helped me build lasting relationships with many colleagues.”

– Raymond Depa, DO, FAOCA



“I am a fourth year medical student from Kansas City University. I am glad to be here at the AOCA Annual Convention because of all the great sessions, the students, residents, fellows, and other attendees I have been able to meet. It has been an fantastic opportunity to meet others, build my network, and get to know people in osteopathic anesthesiology.”

– Jonathan Builta



“AOCA has had a tremendous impact on my career growth. I’ve met amazing mentors who have helped me get involved with leadership activities and met colleagues who have now become friends. The educational opportunities at the Annual Convention, Mid-Year Seminar, and Second Sundays are world-class and help me improve care for my patients.”

– Perin Kothari, DO

“To me the AOCA is much more than a community, it is like a family. With each event I attend I feel valued, supported, and connected, to me this creates an environment where everyone can thrive together.”

– Sean Washek, DO



BY THE Numbers

AOCA represents a diverse community of practicing, early career, retired anesthesiologists, residents in training and student members representing practices in academia, hospitals, private practice and more.



533

Active Members
(including Military
and Associate
Members)

211

Life & Retired
Members



512

Emerging Professionals (Students,
Residents, Fellows)

Professional EDUCATION Committee Report



Dana Darwish, DO, FAOCA
& Rafal Kopanczyk, DO,
FAOCA
Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Mission

- Produce Mid Year/Annual Convention/ Second Sundays educational content
- Provide a national platform for osteopathic engagement
- Produce online CME content
- Maintain continuous educational engagement (year-round and from meeting to meeting)
- Provide content for members with needs for state and ongoing board certification
- Consider and be knowledgeable about expenses and revenues
- Promote attendance
- Maintain the AOCA's status as an AOA CME provider



Mid Year Seminar

Virtual



Click image ▲ to watch a highlight from the AOCA Mid Year Seminar.



"The speakers were outstanding. The subjects are of extreme value personally and professionally."

"Dr. Wolla's presentation and approach has convinced me to change my practice and pick up the ultrasound probe for gastric US of at-risk patient populations."

"Very relevant lectures for today's anesthesia practice"

"Excellent historical review of medicine and anesthesia safety."

"All very important topics in my practice. OR efficiency and safety in an ambulatory setting is something we are looking at every day."



"I went to Founding College of Osteopathic Medical School. I like AOCA because I enjoy seeing fellow colleagues, new and old, and making those relationships."

- Bryan Putnam

18.5
hours of AOA
Category
1-A credits
/ AMA PRA
Category 1
credits



31
Speakers



180
Registrations

Annual Convention & Conclave

Palm Springs, California



2024 Annual Convention & Conclave



Click image ▲ to watch a highlight from the AOCA Annual Convention & Conclave

10
Corporate
Support
Partners



235
Registrations

50
Speakers

30
hours of AOA
Category
1-A credits
/ AMA PRA
Category 1
credits



"I continue to be impressed with the high quality lectures provided."

"Excellent speakers and up to date techniques and anesthetic considerations. Enhanced knowledge base for me."

"As usual, all speakers were excellent and gave lots of insight into new and advancements in anesthesia practice."

"POCUS workshop was awesome! Great group ratio , wonderful instruction."

"All wonderful lectures. Very applicable to practice."

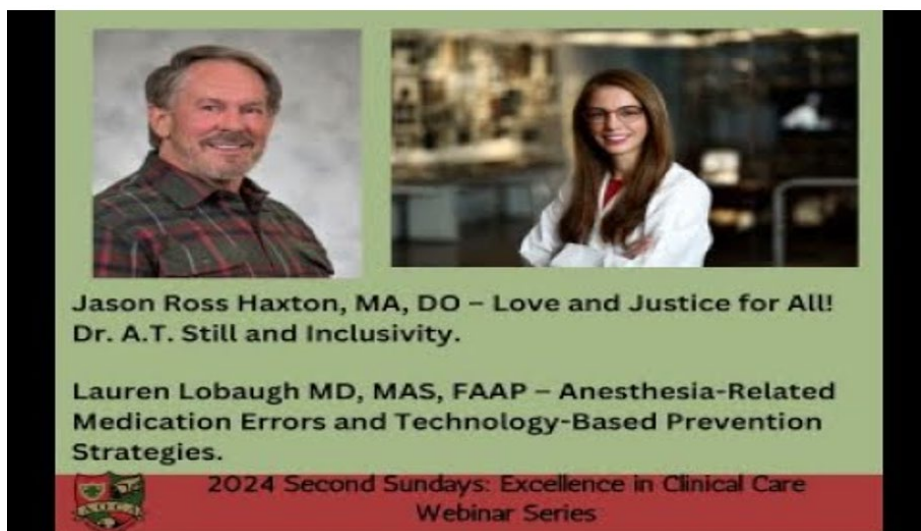
"The 30 minute presentation format is wonderful. I have been attending this meeting since 1983. The quality just keeps getting better."

"Very strong program. Excellent speakers and topics."

"I especially enjoyed the keynote addresses and found all of them of high value to my practice."

Second Sundays

Excellence in Clinical Care Webinar Series



“Fascinating and thought provoking talk”

“Great speakers and good content”

“This talk was a great balance of cutting edge science and technique that I can actually use!”

Click image ▲ to watch a highlight from the Second Sunday webinar series

10
Webinars



10
hours of AOA
Category 1-A
credits



100+
attendees per
webinar

Thanks to all the College members who attend our valuable CME events. Whether in person or on demand, the College is here to help you stay on top of your CME requirements. Remember in 2025 to encourage your DO peers to join us for excellent content by top notch presenters.

Legacy Committee

REPORT

Sandra Cifor, DO, FAOCA
Committee Chair



PAST

Committee Mission:

- History and Tradition: Research and record the history of osteopathic medicine, osteopathic anesthesiology and the AOCA.
- Legacy Fund: Research and develop the plan to create a legacy fund that would support the specific goals of educational endeavors of the AOCA.

PRESENT

[The Timothy D. Ernst Emerging Professional Fund](#) is designed to protect and promote the future of osteopathic anesthesiology by providing funding for the Timothy D. Ernst Annual Education Grant, the American Osteopathic Foundation Resident of the Year Award, the annual AOCA Scientific Session Award winners, and to develop new programs, products, and services especially for medical students, residents, and fellows to promote the field of osteopathic anesthesiology.

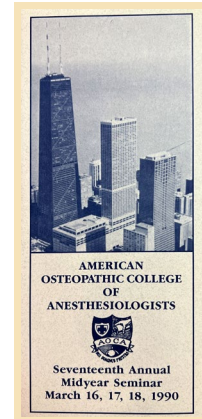
Thank you to our generous donors for their support. View the [Donor Legacy Wall](#).

FUTURE

The Copper Kettle Society honors those who have supported over a century of excellence in anesthesiology. Your donation invests in AOCA's future, creating a lasting legacy that strengthens its impact on the profession and patient care.

Estate giving offers a meaningful way to support AOCA while preserving your assets. A gift through your will, retirement plan, or life insurance policy advances resident training, education, and key initiatives—enhancing AOCA beyond what dues alone can achieve. This flexible option allows you to leave a legacy while maintaining financial control.

[Learn more](#) about the financial advantages of estate giving through the AOCA Copper Kettle Society.



Awards & HONORS Committee Report



Raymond Depa,
DO, FAOCA &
Suzanne Huffnagle,
DO, FAOCA
Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Mission:

- Acknowledge the success and support the recognition of DO anesthesiologists with professional awards:
 - FAOCA, Arnold P. Gold Humanism, M. Adele King Professional Service, DSA, AOCA Resident of the Year, AOCA Student of the Year
- Oversee and maintain the promotion requirements for the distinction of Fellow of the AOCA
- Recruit nominations for qualified individuals for the AOCA awards
- Interact with committee chairs and the Board of Governors to solicit nominations

2024 Fellows

Ashley Bailey-Classen, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Rafal Kopanczyk, DO, FAOCA, FASA

Dimitrios Kassapidis DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Suzanne Huffnagle, DO, FAOCA, FASA and H. Jane Huffnagle, DO, FAOCA, FASA

Connie Mun Price, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Karen Flotildes Romo, DO, FAOCA

Del Proctor, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Karen Flotildes Romo, DO, FAOCA

Tanya Schnell, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Raymond Depa, DO, FAOCA

Amanda Shakal, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Karen Flotildes Romo, DO, FAOCA

Anie Somaiya, DO, FAOCA

Sponsored by: Jessica Goeller, DO, FAOCA

Distinguished Service Award

Robert Vandergraaf, DO, FAOCA

AOCA Past President

AOCA Life Member

M. Adele King, DO Professional Service Award

Robert Blok, DO, FAOCA

Arnold P. Gold Humanism Award

James Griffin, DO, FAOCA, FASA

Timothy D. Ernst, DO AOCA Resident of the Year Award

Michael Dougherty, DO

Nominated by: Suzanne Huffnagle, DO, FAOCA, FASA

Horia Moroica, DO

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Nominated by: Robert Gaiser, MD

AOCA Student of the Year Award

David Cooper, OMS-IV

Nominated by: James Griffin, DO, FAOCA, FASA

American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF)/AOCA Outstanding Resident of the Year Award in Anesthesiology

Camille Hawkins, DO

Nominated by: Andrew W. Gable, DO, D.ABA

Finance & BUDGET Committee Report

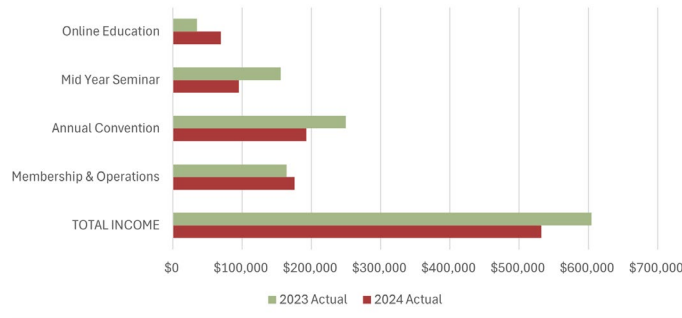
Karen Flotildes Romo, DO, FAOCA, Treasurer



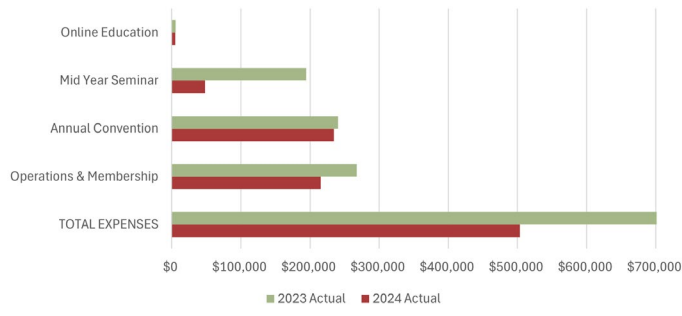
Committee Mission

- Review monthly financial reports
- Create the annual budget for BOG approval
- Consider potential revenue streams for the College
- Review and develop longitudinal financial projections of AOCA initiatives

Expense & Revenue Analysis - Income



Expense & Revenue Analysis - Expenses





BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2024

OFFICERS

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Ursula Landman, DO, FAOCA

President Elect

Jessica Goeller, DO, FAOCA

Vice President

Allan Escher, DO, FAOCA

Treasurer

Karen Flotildes Romo, DO, FAOCA

Immediate Past President

James Griffin, DO, FAOCA

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GOVERNORS

Helen Bean, DO, FAOCA

Aaron Douglas, DO, FAOCA

C. Patrick Henson, DO, FAOCA

Steven Insler, DO, FAOCA

Grace Liu, DO, FAOCA

Rafal Kopanczyk, DO, FAOCA

Camille Hawkins, DO
Resident Member

Samantha Bunk, OMS-IV
Student Member