



South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society Newsletter

Fall 2019, Volume 2

In This Issue

- Letter from the SDSOS President
- 2019 Year in Review
- SDSOS Leadership attends the NOLC in Washington DC
- Annual Mary Van Zee Memorial Award
- Meet your 2019-2020 SDSOS Board of Directors
- Membership Update

Contact Us

Keri.sdsos@gmail.com
www.sdorthopaedics.org

Letter from the President



The last year began on a sad note for the South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society. We incurred the untimely passing of our long time director Mary Van Zee. Thankfully we had the hard work and leadership of our president Greg Alvine and immediate past-president Geoff Haft to help us navigate the time without our director. Their efforts allowed us to carry on and further thrive as an organization.

Our organization was blessed to find Keri Talcott who agreed to become our new director. Although she had "big shoes to fill", she stepped right in and helped organize the annual meeting in August that had the largest attendance of surgeons and vendors to date. In addition, she came through with a huge save when our keynote speaker was unable to attend at the last minute, and she found Dr. Jesse Otero from OrthoCarolina to give a great talk on Complications of Total Joint Arthroplasty. Congratulations to both Dr. Alvine and Keri on a great meeting!

For my year as president of this organization, I would like to strive to obtain 100% membership of all South Dakotan orthopaedic surgeons in our society. Please encourage your partners and colleagues to become members or renew their membership because we will be stronger as a society with greater participation.

Our society is interested in finding ways to further provide value to its members. My primary goal this year would be to increase our role in advocating for our patients and our profession. With the current political environment, it is essential that we are able to 1) maintain and improve our abilities to provide optimal care for our patients and 2) ensure that the financial remunerations for our hard-work and expertise are appropriate and not eroded by political policy at either the state or the national level.

To fulfill this goal at the state level, our society has appointed a member, Dr. Stephen Eckrich, to serve as a liaison to the South Dakota State Medical Association. At the national level, I encourage every one of our members to contribute to the AAOS OrthoPac. Currently, 16 out of 80 AAOS members from South Dakota have donated a total of \$9252 to the OrthoPac. We shouldn't see this as a donation; rather, it is an investment in our future. At this point every orthopaedic surgeon in the state should have the means to contribute to some degree. If you have not already, consider investing \$50, \$100, or even consider joining me in a Capitol Club contribution of \$1000. I would like to acknowledge the other Capitol Club members from our state which include: Blake Curd, Peter Looby, and Raymond Sherman.

President's letter continued...

Contributors will be recognized at the 2020 annual meeting. You can contribute now by texting AAOS to the number 41444.

Lastly, our society sends two members to the annual National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. During this meeting we meet with our South Dakota Congressional and Senate representatives and try to impress upon them the importance of political policy that supports physicians and our patients.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you see any other ways in which our society can help you or your patients.

Regards,
Keith M. Baumgarten, MD
President

2019 Year in Review



This past year as President of the SDSOS was a great one. The annual meeting has come and gone but not without some memorable moments.

Dr. Steve Eckrich was honored with the inaugural Mary Van Zee Tribute award for his excellence in South Dakota Orthopaedics. The glass plaque was presented to him by Dr. Geoff Haft, and he also delivered a meaningful memorial presentation about Mary's life. We miss her presence, and Steve truly exemplifies what we want this award to represent: outstanding characteristics as a surgeon, physician, and member of the community. He continues to be involved as our elected representative to the South Dakota Medical Association for the next 3 years. Congratulations, Steve!

Keri Talcott has stepped in as our new executive director. She did an amazing job this year with all aspects of the organization. I feel we are stronger and growing because of her leadership. The 2019 meeting in August was a great success. Thank you to all the speakers and exhibitors. We had a record total of 55 attendees (doctors and exhibitors) this year!

We resurrected the famous "anvil launch" by Steve's brother, Paul. He is quite a character and kept us all laughing as he blasted the heavy piece of steel. It's quite a site and feeling in your chest!

The reigns have been passed to our new President, Dr. Keith Baumgarten. We are all orthopaedic surgeons in South Dakota. The SDSOS is us. Let's all get involved, contribute any way we can, and grow our organization. We have many changes facing us all, and now it is more important than ever.

Thank you all for a great year,
Greg Alvine, MD
Immediate Past President

SDSOS Leadership Attends the NOLC in Washington, DC



(Left to Right: Dr. Robert Woodruff, Dr. Steven Giuseffi, Senator Mike Rounds, Dr. Peter Looby & Keri Talcott)

Every year, orthopaedic surgeons from across the country take time away from their practices to meet with legislators in Washington, DC, as part of the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC). This event represents a collaborative advocacy effort by the orthopaedic community to inform and educate lawmakers regarding legislation that affect surgeons and our patients. This year the meeting was held June 5-8, 2019.

Our South Dakota delegation consisted of Dr. Peter Looby, Dr. Robert Woodruff, Dr. Steven Giuseffi, and Mrs. Keri Talcott. We met with Senator Rounds and legislative teams for Senator Thune and Representative Johnson to discuss various bills of interest to our orthopaedic community. This year the AAOS chose three bills to focus our efforts on: the Competitive Health Insurance Reform, Surprise Medical Bills, and Hospital Competition acts.

The Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act would remove the anti-trust exemption currently applied to the health insurance market and result in increased insurance options and improved patient choice. As you are likely aware, the top-five U.S. commercial health insurance companies cover 43% of the country's insured population. This oligopoly restricts patient choice and diminishes physician bargaining power with insurers. Expanding health insurance options would lower insurance premiums, improve patient choice and allow physicians to more equitably negotiate with insurers.

The Surprise Medical Bills Act would protect patients from unexpected out-of-network bills incurred from emergency medical services. It is not uncommon for a patient to present to a "covered" hospital but receive care from a surgeon or anesthesia provider who is not covered by his/her insurance plan. This legislation would hold patients harmless (they would be charged in-network rates), and a baseball-style arbitration process would be conducted between the physician and insurer. The arbiter would consider physician charges, insurer payment, and 80% of charges according to an independent database as cost points in negotiating decisions. This model has been successfully implemented in New York, where it reduced out-of-network billing by 34%.

The Hospital Competition Act would fund the Federal Trade Commission to investigate anti-competitive hospital mergers and provide state funding to improve hospital competition. It would also mandate hospital cost transparency, equalize payments to off-campus hospital and independent physician offices, and repeal the ban on physician-owned hospitals. Increasing hospital competition has the potential to improve patient access to medical care while also lowering medical costs.

Although political advocacy doesn't provide the immediate gratification that we as orthopaedic surgeons enjoy in our work, it remains essential for our patients and profession. Please continue to be active in your local medical communities, call/email/meet with your local lawmakers, and consider donating to the orthopaedic PAC so others can advocate on your behalf while you are busy caring for patients. Remember, if you aren't at the table, then you (and your patients) are on the menu!

Steven Giuseffi, MD
President-Elect
South Dakota State Orthopaedic Society

Annual Mary Van Zee Memorial Award for Exemplary Service in Orthopaedic Surgery

In 2019, the SDSOS Board of Directors approved the designation of a new annual award to be presented each year at the SDSOS Annual Meeting. The award will be named "The Mary Bechler Van Zee Memorial Award for Exemplary Service in Orthopaedic Surgery". The award is intended to recognize the accomplishments of an individual who has represented the highest ideals of professionalism and service in orthopaedic surgery in the state. These accomplishments may include any components of direct patient care, advocacy, mission work, research, state or national orthopaedic representation.

The 2019 and inaugural award recipient was Dr. Stephen Eckrich from Rapid City, SD.



2019-2020 SDSOS Board of Directors

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, the following Board of Directors was elected for the 2019-2020 one year term. The SDSOS thanks the Board for their commitment to SDSOS in giving their time and resources to ensure a healthy, active and growing state society.



PRESIDENT
Keith Baumgarten, MD



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Steven Giuseffi, MD



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Greg Alvine, MD



SECRETARY/TREASURER
Daniel Nelson, MD



MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Chad Kurtenbach, MD



AAOS BOARD OF COUNCILORS
Peter Looby, MD

SDSOS Board of Directors 2019-2020

President.....Keith Baumgarten, MD, Sioux Falls, SD
President Elect.....Steven Giuseffi, MD, Rapid City, SD
Immediate Past President.....Greg Alvine, MD, Sioux Falls, SD
Secretary/Treasurer.....Daniel Nelson, MD, Dakota Dunes, SD
Member at Large.....Chad Kurtenbach, MD, Sioux Falls, SD
AAOS Board of Councilors.....Peter Looby, MD, Sioux Falls, SD
South Dakota State
Medical Society Representative.....Stephen Eckrich, MD, Rapid City, SD

Executive Director

Keri Talcott

PO Box 517, Harrisburg, SD 57032

Phone: (605) 275-5350

Email: keri.sdsos@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of the above SDSOS Board Members or your Executive Director, Keri Talcott, if you have any issues, concerns, or good ideas for the society.

2020 SDSOS Membership Drive

Membership in the SDSOS continues to be strong. For 2017, 2018 & 2019, the society had 75 members. This was up from past years. Let's continue to grow the SDSOS. Encourage your partners and colleagues in the state to renew their membership and remain active in the association. Let's aim for 80 in 2020!! Membership drive will begin in January 2020.

If you have new partners, or are aware of any new physicians in the state, please encourage them to be part of the SDSOS, and please also send their information to Keri Talcott (keri.sdsos@gmail.com).