



# Washington D.O.

Fall 2010

5220 California Ave S.W., Suite B / P.O. Box 16486 Seattle, WA 98116-0486  
(206) 937-5358 FAX (206) 933-6529 / [www.woma.org](http://www.woma.org)

## Spring Seminar Features Chronic Non-Cancer Pain Management

The Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery is in the process of adopting new rules on pain management, as required by HB2876 passed in this year's legislative session. The rules must include a dosing cap which cannot be exceeded by non-pain specialists without consulting a specialist. The proposed rules have set the cap at 120 MED (morphine equivalent dose) per day. The rules provide some exemptions, one of which is that a DO obtain a minimum number of hours of pain management CME within two years of exceeding the cap. This means that any non-specialists who currently exceed the cap will need to meet the Pain CME minimum (current proposal is 12 hours) before June 30, 2011.

The WOMA Spring Seminar, Chronic Pain Management for Primary Care, scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Doubletree Guest Suites / Southcenter in Seattle, will provide 8 hours of pain management CME to help DOs understand the new rules and assist non-pain specialists desiring to meet the CME exemption requirements to exceed the dosing cap. WOMA's CME and Ad Hoc Committees on Pain Management have assembled a program that provides pertinent topics and expert presenters.

Topics include Differential Diagnosis- Is Pain Really the Problem and are Opioids Really the Answer? -Lynda Williamson, DO; Pathophysiology of Pain - Gordon Irving, MD; Opioids for Non-Cancer Chronic Pain: A Changing Policy and Regulatory Landscape - Gary Franklin, MD, MPH; Depression and Anxiety Impact on Chronic Pain Patients - Dan Wolf, DO; Elements of an Effective Opioid Agreement - John Patz, DO; Applications of Urine Drug Testing in Chronic Pain Management - Bert Toivola, PhD; Responsible Opioid Prescribing - Scott Fishman, MD; Evaluations for Substance Use Disorders: Managing the Chronic Pain Patients at Risk of Addiction - Dan

## Pain Management Rules Workgroup Develops Final Draft

At its final meeting on October 18, 2010, the Pain Management Rules Workgroup, including representatives of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Medical Quality Assurance Commission, Podiatric Medical Board, Dental Commission and Nursing Commission agreed on rules to bring back to their respective boards for consideration and adoption.

The boards will require non-pain specialists to consult pain specialists if exceeding the 120 morphine equivalent dosage cap. Specialists are defined as board certified or board eligible by AOA or ABMS approved certification in physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, rheumatology or anesthesiology; or if the osteopathic physician has a subspecialty certificate in pain medicine by an AOA or ABMS approved board.

An osteopathic physician is not required to consult a pain specialist when providing documentation of adherence to all standards of practice defined in the rule and one of more of the following conditions apply:

1) the patient is following a tapering schedule; 2) the patient requires treatment for acute pain which may or may not include hospitalization requiring a temporary escalation in opioid dosage with expected return to or below their baseline dosage level; 3) the osteopathic physician documents reasonable attempts to obtain a consultation with a pain management specialist and the circumstances justifying prescribing

above 120 MED per day without first obtaining a consultation; and 4) the osteopathic physician documents the patient's pain and function is stable and the patient is on a non-escalating dosage of opioids.

The rules provide exemptions from the required consultation if: 1) an osteopathic physician is a pain specialist as defined in the rules; 2) an osteopathic physician has successfully completed, within the last two years, a minimum of 12 CME hours on chronic pain management approved by the profession's continuing education accreditation organization, with at least two hours dedicated to long-acting opioids, including methadone; 3) the osteopathic physician is a pain management practitioner working in a multidisciplinary chronic pain treatment center, or a multidisciplinary academic research facility; 4) the osteopathic physician has a minimum three years of clinical experience in a chronic pain management setting and at least 30% of current practice is the direct provision of pain management.

WOMA will post on its website a link to the final rules when adopted by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. In an effort to help non-specialists meet the CME exemption, WOMA is providing an 8-hour pain management CME program on April 2, 2011 for its Spring Seminar. Registration will be available soon on the WOMA website. See related article on this page.

Wolf, DO; Strategies for Working with Manipulative and/or Drug-Seeking Patients - Panel Lynda Williamson, DO, Scott Fannin, DO and Michael Quirk, DO.

Registration will be open soon on WOMA's website at [www.woma.org](http://www.woma.org). Eight category 1 AOA-approved credits are anticipated. WOMA will also be applying to the AAFP for 8 Prescribed credits.



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Seattle, WA 98116  
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Fax (206) 933-6529  
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The "Washington DO" is the official publication of the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association, published in February, May, August and November. Members are encouraged to submit articles for potential publication. Signed columns are, in all cases, the opinion of the author. For advertising information, please contact the WOMA executive offices at (206) 937-5358. Deadlines for ads and articles are the 10th of the month preceding the publication.

## Notice of Meetings

### Washington Osteopathic Foundation Board

5:30 p.m.

### WOMA Board of Governors

Dinner Meeting

6:00 p.m.

December 4, 2010

Doubletree Guest Suites/Southcenter  
Seattle

## WOMA Welcomes New Members

At its meeting on September 11, 2010, the WOMA Board of governors approved the following applications for membership:

#### Active

Michelle Coleman, DO, Tacoma  
Daphne Dahms, DO, Seattle  
Judy Scheidt, DO, Oak Harbor

#### Postgraduate

Lisa Dodobara, DO, Yakima  
Grant Griffith, DO, Yakima  
David Lu, DO, Yakima  
Adia Taylor, DO, Yakima

#### Student

Garrett Jeffrey COMP'2012  
Jennifer Pense COMP'11  
PNWU Class of 2014  
Claire Anderson  
Timothy Scott Barnard  
Jillian JoAnn Bartling  
Cody James Belkoff  
Megan Joan Blaisdell  
Nicole Marie Breen  
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Ashley Laura Humphries  
Justin Hutchinson

Nathan Thomas Jansen  
Jacob Darrell Jensen  
Asha Ariana Jetmalani  
Julie Ann Johnson  
Joshua Le  
Helan Khang Lee-Garrard  
Jason Randall Lewis  
Emily Nicole Marques  
Christopher Burkhart Marshall  
Jared Joseph Mell  
Clayton Scott Miller  
Emily Parkman Morrison  
Terra Nair  
Thanh-Truc Thi Nguyen  
Alana Rae Noritake  
Brooke Parker  
Aaron J Pierce  
Whitney Lou Reid  
Jeremy Welsh Reifsnnyder  
Dustin Ray Roberie  
Brandon Rysavy  
Camille Paayal Samujh  
Jason Eric Schend  
Michael Robert Schiedler  
April G Shipowick  
Julia Simmons Lisa Ann Simoncelli  
Justin Russell Smith  
Ashley Rose Snyder  
Kathleen Reewoom Song  
Ian Ray Strand  
Erica Swenson  
Jacob Patrick Templin  
Mary Alyssa Terra  
Krystal Dae Thueringer  
Adam Richard Waggoner  
Josiah Benjamin Ward  
Shane Weber  
Jacob Christopher White  
Di Xun

## Getting to Know You

WOMA is pleased to welcome the following new active members:

**Michele Coleman, DO** is a 2004 graduate of KCUMB. She received her postgraduate training at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, NY. She is currently practicing family medicine and neuromusculoskeletal medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center.

**Daphne Dahms, DO** is a 1998 graduate of OSUCOM and did her postgraduate training at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. She is board certified in anesthesiology and includes OMM in her practice.

**Judy Scheidt, DO** graduated from MWU - Arizona in 2006. She received her postgraduate training in family medicine at Central Washington Family Medicine, Yakima. Dr. Scheidt's practice focuses on pediatrics, OMM and women's health in Oak Harbor.

## OMT Guidelines Accepted by Agency for Healthcare Research

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) notified the American Osteopathic Association that the final posting of the American Osteopathic Association guidelines for osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) for patients with low back pain have been posted to the National Guideline Clearinghouse.

This represents the first osteopathic guideline accepted by AHRQ for their National Guideline Clearinghouse. The clinical practice guideline is based upon the results of Foundation sponsored research at the Osteopathic Research Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

## Free Organ and Tissue Donation Symposium

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine has been awarded a perpetual endowment from the Colby Foundation in order to educate our osteopathic students regarding organ and tissue donation.

The Organ & Tissue Symposium, scheduled for Friday, November 5, will focus on Medical and scientific research around organ and tissue donation, State requirements regarding organ and tissue donation, Personal testimonials from donor families and organ and tissue recipients.

The Symposium takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for 1st & 2nd

Year Medical Students and Health Care Providers. For more information and to register, please contact Dr. Linda Dale at PNWU, (509) 452-5100. Participant registration for this free symposium is also available by visiting PNWU's website at [www.pnwu.org](http://www.pnwu.org).

The general public is welcome to attend an afternoon tea and community symposium from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Butler Haney-Hall for a presentation on how the organ and tissue donation process works, plus meet with a donor family and/or a recipient.

Please register through the website at [www.pnwu.org](http://www.pnwu.org).

## WOF Contributions Appreciated

*A message from David Lukens, DO, President*

No matter how long it's been since you attended osteopathic medical school, you probably remember how difficult it could be for you and/or your classmates to study and worry about how you were going to afford tuition, books and living expenses.

The Washington Osteopathic Foundation (WOF) was organized to support osteopathic education and training in Washington State. The WOF board started a loan program in 1971 that not only assists the students; it provides an incentive in the form of low interest rates to those who practice in Washington upon completion of their training. It currently provides up to \$10,000 per year at a modest 3% interest with lenient repayment terms. Several of you have taken advantage of this program.

Over the last thirty-nine years the program has been able to sustain itself with the repayment of loans. Now that we have an osteopathic medical school in Washington with more of the enrollees from Washington than any other Pacific Northwest State, and annual tuition is upwards of \$40,000, we are experiencing an increase in loan requests.

In addition to our loan program, the WOF also provides a few scholarships and supports the osteopathic pre-med forums at universities in Washington to make sure that those students are aware

of the distinctive choice of osteopathic medicine.

I would like you to consider a tax-deductible contribution to the WOF to help continue its programs. Contributions this year are 75% below budget and we could sure use your help. If you can do this, please print, complete and submit with your check, MasterCard or Visa information, the contribution form on page 8 or downloaded from the WOMA website at [www.woma.org](http://www.woma.org), select the Foundation tab, then WOF contributions. All contributions will be acknowledged in a future edition of the Washington DO newsletter and on WOMA's website.

In addition to the providers of auction items and bidders at the convention, we would like to thank the following for their tax-deductible contributions in 2010: Lon Hoover, DO, Robert Gramenz, DO, Melicien Tettambel, DO, Bill Dickinson, DO, Monica Haines, DO, Sharelle Leick, John Boston, DO and Michael Lorich, DO.

I know that some of you have generously supported the school in Yakima and other osteopathic medical schools and for that you are commended. Giving back to the profession is important. This is a simple way of showing our students, regardless of which school they attend, that we want them to practice here in Washington. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

## PNWU Update

*By Dean Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO, MPH*

Third year students at PNWU-COM have completed their first four core rotation blocks at ten regional campuses throughout the Northwest. All preceptors who have volunteered to take students at each site are valued and appreciated.

On October 15th, the Osteopathic Foundation of Central Washington, PNWU-COM, and Kennewick General Hospital hosted a "Sky's the Limit" Hangar Party, honoring the preceptors, hospital staff, and PNWU-COM supporters who have made the Tri-Cities regional campus possible. AOA President Karen Nichols, DO, thanked everyone present for their teamwork, which is her presidency's theme. Seven third year PNWU-COM students have made the Tri-Cities their home for their clinical rotation years, and are helping pioneer this core rotation site. Silent "Pie's the Limit" and live auctions raised over \$16,000 to support residency development in the region.

## Dr. John Allen Honored

John Allen, DO of Sunnyside recently achieved the Degree of Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Allen is retired from active practice but continues to serve patients in the Yakima Valley where he is medical director for both Hillcrest Manor and Rehabilitation Center and Lower Valley Hospital and Palliative Care.

To be considered for this honor, a physician must be an AAFP member for a minimum of six years, provide public service outside medical practice, conduct original research and serve as a teacher in family medicine.

Allen began work at Hillcrest Manor 10 years ago as a consultant to their Eden Alternative Philosophy of Care. He also served as consultant for the retirement center's Therapy Services and Medicare Enhancement Program before acting as medical director.

At Lower Valley Hospice, it is not uncommon for primary physicians to turn the care of their patients over to Dr. Allen when they are admitted to hospice service.

Congratulations Dr. Allen!



## Medical Marijuana Petitions

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission), in consultation with the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery considered petitions to add Alzheimer's, chronic renal failure, and neuropathic pain to the medical conditions for which medical marijuana may be recommended under state law. A public hearing was held June 2, 2010.

The petitions for Alzheimer's and neuropathic pain were denied. The petition to add chronic renal failure was granted with conditions. Expert testimony provided sufficient evidence to support including chronic renal failure to the list of terminal or debilitating medical conditions for which medical marijuana use may be recommended.

Some side effects of hemodialysis such as nausea or anorexia are currently treated with THC. However, the smoked form of marijuana cannot be used in a dialysis facility. Concern was also stated for adverse affect on eligibility for a transplant.

Limitations and conditions for approval are: 1) the health care provider must ensure informed consent of risks associated with marijuana use based on the patient's condition, including but not limited to any potential adverse effect on the patient's eligibility for renal transplant 2) marijuana use by a chronic renal failure patient in connection with side effects of hemodialysis, including the smoked form of marijuana must be consistent with requirements and restrictions at the facility where dialysis is received; 3) the approval is subject to review and modification if newly available published and peer-reviewed clinical studies that are scientific, controlled and randomized, demonstrate that marijuana use by chronic renal failure patients to alleviate hemodialysis side effects adversely affect their health outcomes or treatment.

## Preferred Drug List on Hold

The Health Care Authority has announced that the November 1, 2010 changes to the Washington Preferred Drug List (PDL) (announced on September 29, 2010) are cancelled. The agencies will use the PDL as it existed at the time of the last update on April 1, 2010. The current PDL may be viewed at: <http://www.rx.wa.gov/documents/washingtonpdl.pdf>. Outstanding manufacturer supplemental rebate offers will be returned without review.

In addition, because of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services delay in publishing the 2010 unit rebate amounts as a result of recent changes to the federal rebate program, as well as uncertainty resulting from the proposed Medicaid budget reductions affecting the adult pharmacy program, the agencies will not conduct cost analyses of the P&T Committee recommendations for meetings of October 20, 2010, December 15, 2010 and February 16, 2011.

This will allow the agencies to fully incorporate new federal rebate formulas and any program changes resulting from the 2011 Legislative session into our cost model for determining drugs to be included on the PDL. During this time the agencies will not be requesting manufacturer supplemental rebates, and will not be conducting cost analyses on the P&T Committee recommendations. The agencies anticipate that no changes to the PDL will occur as a result of these meetings unless the P&T Committee recommends changes based on clinical or safety concerns.

The P&T Committee will continue to meet as scheduled to conduct ongoing reviews of updated evidence with regard to the current PDL, as well as to provide federally required drug utilization review activities. This will ensure that the existing PDL continues to be consistent with P&T Committee recommendations on drug safety, efficacy and any effects on special populations.

The agencies will resume requesting manufacturer supplemental rebate offers and conducting cost analyses beginning with the April 20, 2011 P&T meeting and continuing thereafter.

The agencies remain committed to an open and transparent PDL development process and will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available.

## New Lobbyists Selected

WOMA is pleased to announce that it has contracted with **Waypoint Consulting Group** to provide lobbying services for the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association. The group's principals are **Majken Ryherd** and **Jim Richards**. Ms. Ryherd has many years of experience working for and with the Washington State Legislature. Most recently she was Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House in the Washington State Legislature. She has lobbied for a variety of interests in health, housing and human services with expertise in operating and capital budgets, coalition building and advocacy.

Jim Richards has a unique blend of public affairs, communications, government relations and management experience in both the public and private sectors. He has served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the House of Representatives Democratic Caucus in Olympia, a Governor's Deputy Press Secretary, as an Assistant Director to a large state agency and as a lobbyist on behalf of various interests. In the business world, Jim has worked as a public affairs and communications consultant, a Vice President for Corporate Communications and a small business partner and owner.

Waypoint Consulting Group was recommended to WOMA by Bill Fromhold, who recently resigned as WOMA's lobbyist for health reasons.

## Certified Osteopathic-branded EHRs available

The AOA has a strategic partnership with HealthFusion to offer AOA members exclusive discounts on an osteopathic-branded version of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) program MediTouch.

HealthFusion today announced that it has received Complete EHR certification, assuring that MediTouch meets the rigorous EHR functionality and security standards set forth by the federal government through its "meaningful use" objectives. Thus, DOs who use MediTouch will be eligible to qualify for incentive payments up to \$44,000 per physician under Medicare and Medicaid in 2011 and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about MediTouch, visit the AOA website.

## Premed Forums Emphasize the Osteopathic Advantage

WOMA hosted osteopathic premed forums at five Puget Sound area universities in October. The purpose of these forums is to ensure that students interested in becoming a physician know that they have a choice when it comes to medical professions. Applications to osteopathic medical schools are on the rise. The need for primary care physicians continues to increase in rural and medically underserved areas. Osteopathic medicine is well-known for its excellence in training primary care physicians and osteopathic physician graduates have been very successful in acceptance to very competitive allopathic as well as osteopathic specialty residencies. Many DOs and osteopathic students attested to having a real

advantage over allopathic students because of their osteopathic training.

We appreciate Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO LeAnn Hunter and Melody Olsen of PNWU and Dirk Foley of Western U COMP-NW for providing information on the history, application process and curriculum of an osteopathic training program.

We are grateful to the following for making time to participate and share their osteopathic experiences with the premed students: Drs. Harold Agner, Robin Atkinson, Venus Azizi, Brian Boldt, Dan Brzusek, Misha Coleman, Marc Cote, Dan Dugaw, Jon Geffen, Peter Grimm, Wendy Heusch, Vernon Hall, Mark Hunt, Steven Leifheit, Robyn Phillips-Madson, Dan Wolf and

osteopathic medical students Kate Bonsell (COMP NW), Angela Dunn (PNWU), Lori Hener (UNJMD), Brian Kellart (COMP NW), Ryan Kelln (PNWU), Marissa Long (NYCOM), Laura Turgano (ATStill-Mesa), Jacqueline Pels (ATStill-Mesa) and Jillian Yoshimoto (COMP NW).

Over one hundred premed students have attended forums at the University of Puget Sound, St. Martin University, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University and the University of Washington this year. One more forum is planned at Pacific Lutheran University on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate, please contact Kathie Itter at [kitter@woma.org](mailto:kitter@woma.org).



*(Left) Students at Seattle Pacific University pack the room to participate in one of WOMA's premed forums in October.*

*Advisor Cindy Fitch, PhD is a supportive advocate of the osteopathic medical profession as is demonstrated by several of her former students now enrolled in osteopathic medical school.*

*(Right) Vernon Hall, DO, a graduate of Seattle Pacific University, shared his experience as an osteopathic physician. Also participating were Mark Hunt, DO, Peter Grimm, DO and Misha Coleman, DO.*

*Melody Olsen of PNWU and Dirk Foley of Western U COMP Northwest were also present to talk about the admissions process and curriculum.*





## Please Join Us for DO Day in Olympia

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 25, 2011 and plan to participate in DO Day at the Capitol. WOMA physician and student members are invited to register now so plans may be formalized. We are very grateful to PNWU Relations Coordinator Renee Kabrich who will be scheduling the legislative appointments.

We have reserved the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building for this event. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a brief meeting. Then participants will move on to pre-scheduled appointments, blood pressure checks and OMT demonstrations.

At noon participants and legislators will be hosted to a box lunch in the Columbia Room with presentations by key healthcare legislators. Then, the group will continue with appointments, blood pressure checks, OMT

demonstrations and, if scheduled, a committee hearing. The event will end at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Yakima-area participants can leave the driving to us. A bus has been reserved to transport from PNWU students and any DOs in the area who would like to attend.

Those who attended last year appreciated the experience and welcomed the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives as well as other key legislators. You can sign up now by printing out a registration form from WOMA's website home page at [www.woma.org](http://www.woma.org).

If you are unable to attend, but would like to support this activity, you are encouraged to join Osteopac which provides funding for this event. If you have any questions, contact Kathie Itter at 206-937-5358.

## Leadership Opportunity

All WOMA members are invited to register for and attend WOMA's Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday, December 4 at the Doubletree Guest Suites Southcenter in Seattle.

This is an opportunity for members to meet with WOMA leadership and help set priorities for the future of the osteopathic profession in Washington State.

The registration fee of \$60 is to cover breakfast and lunch. A few gratis registrations are available for student and postgraduate members. If you are interested and/or would like more information, contact Kathie Itter at [kitter@woma.org](mailto:kitter@woma.org) or 206-937-5358.

WOMA has openings for Trustees in District 1 and District 3. Please contact Kathie Itter for more information.

## Premed Forums Enlighten Students about the Osteopathic Choice



University of Washington students listen as Drs. Harold Agner and Dan Wolf share their experiences as DOs in the US Navy, at Group Health and private practice. Other presenters included PNWU third year student Ryan Kelln, Venus Azimi, DO, UW graduate and resident in the UW Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency program and Brian Kellert, 4th year Western U COMP NW student.



PNWU Dean Robyn Phuillips-Madson, DO (a UW grad) and Western U COMP NW representative Dirk Foley answer questions about their respective schools at the UW forum.



Students at St. Martin University in Olympia learned about osteopathic medical school from PNWU Director of Admissions LeAnn Hunter, Angela Dunn OMSIII-PNWU, Kate Bonsell, OMSIII Western U COMP NW, Western U COMP NW Director of Student Affairs, Enrollment and Community Outreach Dirk Foley, Brian Boldt, DO and Marc Cote DO. Also participating were osteopathic medical students Marissa Long (NYCOM) and Lori Henner (NJSOM)



Dan Dugaw, DO, shares his experience as an osteopathic physician with students at St. Martin University. Dr. Dugaw serves on the board of St. Martin's.



Melody Olsen, Associate Director of Enrollment Services at PNWU and Dirk Foley, Director of Student Affairs, Enrollment and Community Outreach at Western U COMP NW discuss the curriculum and application process with SPU students.



Steven Leifheit, DO talks about his experience at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine to Seattle University Students.



# Bear Droppings.....

by Loren H. Rex, D.O.

Whatever happened to the idea that if you needed help with chores or work around the old Manse you could always find a kid to work for you? While I have recovered from surgery to the place that I have no excuse for not doing some of the chores I used to do, something happened in the time I was down. During that period, I either got lazy or smart. Since there is absolutely no indication of an increase in overall smartness, I expect lazy has moved to the best bet. Because I live in a solar house, the overall concept works better with the glass roof being clean, not to mention the view is vastly improved if you can see out. Thus the decision needed to be made: my labor or someone else's. No decision here! My life now had purpose and I was on a mission from God. The mission was simple, trade my money for their work, the God part was more problematic.

It seemed natural to ask the rather strapping 17 year old next door if he wanted to work but it occurred to me that the only work I had seen him do was dig a hole in the back yard for a fort and this act of exertion was several years ago. Not a lot of promise here so I moved on in my quest. I contacted places like Labor Ready and off shoots of the Millionaire Club and concluded that there was going to be a lot of paperwork involved that I had little interest in doing. Next I thought about all the flyers that appear in my mail for people anxious to do whatever jobs I needed. The basic answer was "you got to be kidding", a glass roof you want washed: You are a nut case; I'm going to call the police. O.K., I am going to get serious. I constantly see trucks in the "hood" proclaiming yard service is their specialty so I figured I cannot get the roof washed but sweeping decks and the driveway should be a possibility. The average answer was "we are very busy with real customers, but if you are willing to sign a 12 month contract we will try to find a time to come out and give you an estimate and sign the contract". The rumors of me not being

willing to make a commitment are somewhat overblown but this did seem a bit too much commitment for what I had in mind. Finally, I considered a run to Home Depot where there are usually about 100 people in the parking lot who appear to be looking for work. Apparently they are ready to go sans a whole lot of paperwork. However, I didn't want to be on the 6 o'clock news, looking like a politician and explaining "I had no idea that the people I hired were illegal" after all I asked them if they had papers and they readily agreed that they did. Although I speak some restaurant Spanish such as Taco, Burrito, and Donde est Banos, I had no idea what the men said to me except the opening Si. My mission kept bringing me back to my tool shed but I was unready to actually go to work yet.

I was whining to my office manager Linda, who has been my boss for approximately 26 years, about the deplorable fact that the world was going to Hell in a hand basket and that I was apparently not going to be able to find a porter to help with my basket. While I expected her usual answer of "grow up, wash the roof and quit whining", this time she actually had a suggestion. "Why don't you talk to my Grandsons? They are going to college and I'm sure they would like money. I should have caught that she didn't say. "I'm sure they would WORK for money". Thus it came to pass that I became a potential source of tuition money for one kid who in his Junior year is not sure if he wants to be a rock guitarist or perhaps a street person. The other is sure of his future; he wants to produce movies for Disney. Not too promising but at least they are available. After we negotiated an hourly wage approximately the magnitude of a monthly pay-check when I was their age, a time was set for Saturday morning. They actually came by separate cars and on time: a fortuitous sign.

When I asked if they had gloves, their answer was classic: it's not cold today; not a good sign. After a proper lecture on the need for hand protection and the cause of blisters, I sent them to

get the push brooms as well as shop brooms. I explained that the shop brooms were to sweep the corners and edges and the push brooms were for the middle; less than knowing stares greeted the information. After they swept the deck they proudly came to me for inspection. I asked if they were finished and they said yes. Are you satisfied with the job: yes? When I asked where they had learned to sweep, the answer was the Disney movie: The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

For the life of me I couldn't see how this was going to help. Somewhere the person who taught me how to use a broom at age eleven is spinning in the Crypt. "Get your brooms and follow me" I said, "It is time to learn how to sweep". I could be wrong but it seems to me the ability to sweep and clean is a necessary human skill. However, I could be confused, and basic may now be how to get on Face Book. What the Hell, the roof can wait until tomorrow. Sometimes I am actually glad that I am approaching my pull date. I may not be ready for this century. I will say they tried hard; they needed to.

Bear

## Save the Date!

### 98th Annual Northwest Osteopathic Convention

June 23-26, 2011

Semiahmoo  
Hotel  
and  
Conference  
Center  
Blaine, WA

Washington Osteopathic Medical Association  
5220 California Ave SW Suite B  
P.O. Box 16486  
Seattle Wa 98116

## WOF Contribution Form

(Please print legibly)

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of tax-deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The WOF Tax-ID number is 23-7115033.

You may make your contribution in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone living. If you wish to do so, please indicate below:

My contribution is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

My contribution is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Unless otherwise indicated, donations will be deposited in the general account to support loans, osteopathic training and CME in Washington State.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer my donation to go to the Warren Lawless Scholarship Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer my donation to go to the Eugene Imamura Scholarship Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in sponsoring a named scholarship fund. Please contact me.

### Authorization to Charge Credit Card

Please charge to the credit card listed below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CID Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(as it appears on the credit card)

Billing Statement Address \_\_\_\_\_

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