



THE COPA CONNECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE RALPH NOBBE, CPO

Orthotic and Prosthetic Colleagues:

COPA has embarked upon the pathway outlined during the February 2009 Strategic Planning Session. This session was coordinated under the guidance of Immediate Past President Rick Chavez, CPO, and Executive Director Bryce Docherty. At this time I wish to thank Rick Chavez, CPO for his service and commitment to this organization.

COPA has seen its membership dwindle through attrition, acquisition and apathy. Our membership has only recently begun to stabilize. The challenges now faced by COPA as an organization have increased exponentially, the risks to the industry multiplied. The most recent economic crises will continue to impact all levels of health care and all businesses operating within California.

The key strategic initiatives identified in our three-year strategic plan will strengthen the core mission of COPA as a trade association. These strategic initiatives include: support and development of educational opportunities within California, support of a strong business environment in California, and development of a cohesive legislative presence.

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Ralph Nobbe, CPO

UNDER THE DOME

BRYCE W.A. DOCHERTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LOBBYIST



"Budget Kabuki"

The Budget Conference Committee has opined on how best to close the \$24 billion deficit. The Assembly has passed a handful of "kick the can down the alley" fixes to prevent

the issuance of IOUs for the first time in 17 years. The Senate Republicans and Governor Schwarzenegger blocked final adoption of the "kick the can" intermediate fix due to lack of a comprehensive fiscal solution.

The Senate on a majority vote basis passed a package of bills that implement much

fewer cuts than proposed by Schwarzenegger and also includes "sin taxes" on tobacco, oil, etc. Schwarzenegger has threatened to veto any tax proposal and anti-tax advocates will challenge the legality of any majority vote tax increase based on the constitutional two-third legislative requirement for approval of any tax levy.

Many of the budget proposals conceptually meander around the hallowed halls of the Capitol and mysteriously get amended in budget trailer bills nearly moments before votes are taken. Therefore, there is no single source or one working copy of the budget.

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BOARD MEMBERS[Ralph Nobbe, CPO](#)***President***[Lars Jensen, CP](#)***Vice President***[Rick Chavez, CPO](#)***Immediate Past President***[John Crane](#)***Secretary/Treasurer***[Tom Beall, CPO](#)***Board Member***[Gary G. Bedard, CO, FAAOP](#)***Board Member***[Kel Bergmann, CPO](#)***Board Member***[Harry Brandt, CO, BOCO](#)***Board Member***[Mark Conry, CPO](#)***Board Member***[Robert Jensen](#)***Board Member***[Karl Lindborg, CPO](#)***Board Member***[Bryce W.A. Docherty](#)***Executive Director/
Lobbyist******President's Message, cont'd.***

COPA remains a volunteer membership organization, with volunteer leadership. COPA remains a small trade association now faced with significant and immediate challenges. The current, and recurring, California budget deficits and pending budget negotiations represent a quagmire of uncertainty for all health care providers and patients. Other groups have armed themselves with significant resources through greater membership participation, dollars, and political clout – but, COPA has a more compelling story.

It is right now, today, that your membership and support of COPA have become most critical. Never has it been more important to support this organization and further the interests of your chosen profession, within your own state, California.

As your COPA President, I strongly urge you to participate, join and actively support this organization. COPA is your voice in California and with your help will no longer remain an “untold story.”

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The COPA Connection*.

Under the dome, cont'd.

Instead there are several dozen “trailer bills” for various different components of the budget. These trailer bills move through the Legislature essentially as “spot bills” until an agreement has been reached.

Schwarzenegger loathes this budget process and has demanded the Legislature stop this “Budget Kabuki” and pass meaningful long-term budget reforms and the subsequent cuts needed to stabilize our chronic fiscal woes. However, no agreement has been reached and California begins the new fiscal year with an empty bank account.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of budget proposals that were approved by the Budget Conference Committee and are currently under consideration.

O&P Medi-Cal benefits are currently NOT under consideration for being eliminated as part of the optional category. Also, Medi-Cal provider payments will NOT be made via the IOU or “registered warrant” process. See the “Did You Know?” column below for more information on the IOU process.



“If you miss a day “Under the Dome” – you miss a lot!”



AOPA in Advance

Breaking News for O&P Professionals

Red Flag Rules Apply to O&P Effective August 1, 2009

As of August 1, O&P facilities and most other health care specialties, along with financial organizations and many other businesses, will have to be in compliance with the new Red Flag Rules. Earlier this year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) published regulations implementing the Red Flag Rules, which were put in place to help guard against identity theft.

Although first scheduled for implementation on May 1, as noted in the AOPA In Advance of May 5, this date was changed to August 1 to provide additional time for affected entities to develop a plan. In addition, it gave the FTC time to put together a step by step guide to help small businesses and those with a low risk of identity theft to comply with as little effort as possible.

There are two criteria that make your business subject to the Red Flag Rules. The first is that you are a "creditor." While you may not usually think of your business in these terms, if you provide care and do not collect the fee from the patient either before or at the time of service, you are considered a "creditor" under this rule.

The other requirement is that your business has "covered accounts." This means that your business maintains accounts that have a reasonably foreseeable risk for identity theft, including financial, operational, compliance, reputation or litigation risks. While you may feel that your risk in this area is low, the FTC has found that up to 5 percent of identity theft victims have experienced some form of medical identity theft. However, the good news is that since your risk is probably low, you will be able to use the FTC step-by-step guide to implement a limited plan to comply with this rule.

Your first step [should be to click here and review the "Guide for Healthcare Providers"](#) put out by the FTC. This will give you a good explanation of how the rules should be interpreted by healthcare providers. Once you become familiar with this, [click here and complete the step by step guide furnished by the FTC to help you set up your plan.](#)

Once this is done, print out the plan you just wrote and implement it! Include this in your company policy manual and start training your employees on what to look for and how to react if a problem is found.

And that's it. As long as you follow your plan, you'll be in compliance. And while no one likes another set of rules to follow, at least these will protect not only your patients, but also your business, from theft.

Questions? Contact Kathy Dodson at (571) 431-0810 or kdodson@aopanet.org.

Host Your Member of Congress and Help O&P

The Congressional summer recess is often the best time to invite your member of Congress to visit your facility, meet your staff and learn how unique and high value the providers of O&P are to the healthcare system. Visits like these are especially important in light of the Medicare reform debate soon to take place. Most will be home for the July 4 long weekend and during the summer recess, usually the second week of August through the Labor Day weekend. Many members are also in their state on Mondays and Fridays.

Hosting takes on added importance and provides a unique opportunity for O&P because specific bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives and companion bills will soon be introduced in the U. S. Senate. H.R. 2575 - the Prosthetic and Custom Orthotic Parity Act - requires third party payers offering O&P coverage to provide benefits comparable to their regular medical and surgical benefits. H. R. 2479 - the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2009 - links payment to complexity of the device and patient needs to the qualifications of the provider and also prohibits reimbursements in licensure states to those not properly licensed. Limiting reimbursement to only those qualified or properly licensed would substantially reduce fraud and abuse.

[Click here to read a copy of H.R. 2479, the Medicare Improvement Act of 2009.](#)

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The above articles appear through the courtesy of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA), where it appeared recently in their publication "AOPA-in-Advance."

AOPA in Advance, cont'd.

[Click here to read a copy of H.R. 2575, the Prosthetic and Custom Orthotic Parity Act of 2009.](#)

AOPA will provide you with information on the issues, guidelines on hosting, media suggestions and other details so you can do a first rate job in educating your Senator or Congressperson on the O&P issues. Here are some quick preliminary "how to's" on hosting a meeting:

1. Write the Member or a member of the staff extending the invitation and indicating how many your staff (i.e. voters) will be present. No reason why you can't partner with other nearby O&P facilities to make it of even greater value to the Senator or Representative. You're all in this together.
2. Follow up with a phone call to the Member's Washington office and their nearby district office. Offer to help arrange press coverage.
3. Let AOPA know of the invitation - AOPA may be able to help facilitate the meeting and provide more assistance, particularly if the AOPA PAC has contributed to your legislator.
4. [Click here to review the Facility Tour Guidelines.](#)
5. And be sure and take plenty of pictures that you can send AOPA for inclusion in the O&P Almanac.
6. Invite local media in order to have publicity for this well-deserved event.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at (571) 431-0835 or srybicki@aopanet.org.

Did You Know?

IOUs – Q&A by State Controller John Chiang

State Controller John Chiang has warned he has to start issuing IOUs to conserve enough cash to make the obligations required by the state constitution. IOUs or "registered warrants" of course are promises to pay. Who is obligated under the state constitution to get paid the regular way and who gets issued an IOU? Chiang explains in a Q&A that education and debt service have priority. Because of the state constitution, federal law and/or court orders at least the following will still be getting checks: state workers, CalPERS, CalSTRS, in-home support services and Medi-Cal providers. The following categories will get IOUs: state tax refunds, local governments, vendors doing business with the state and owners of unclaimed property. Of the 26 questions the 25th states: "Who can I call to complain about this?" The answer: "Contact the governor or your local representative in the Senate or Assembly." Click [here](#) for a complete list of the Q&A.

CSUDH Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program at Veterans Center for Orthotic and Prosthetic Education

By CSUDH O&P Program Coordinator Scott Hornbeak, CPO, FAAOP

Introduction: The California State University Dominguez Hills Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program is thrilled to move to a new, state of the art 9000 square foot facility at the Veteran Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System in August 2009. CSUDH has evolved and expanded to the point that the academic program is now ready to partner with the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, a major medical training facility serving Southern California. With this move, the CSUDH O&P Program will continue to accept students from all states, but also is establishing programs to accommodate the needs of current and future VA employees and to assist in VA research initiatives. The VA's generosity will allow CSUDH students to learn in a custom classroom and laboratory setting, and have access to state of the art medical training and the highly regarded VA Instrumented Gait Laboratory at Long Beach.

For the past six years the CSUDH O&P Program has been housed at Ossur America in Orange County, CA. With Ossur's collaboration and a Department of Defense grant, the program has grown from a capacity of 28 graduates per year to a capacity to train 48 practitioners per year in both Orthotics and Prosthetics, who will serve the orthotic and prosthetic needs of thousands of severely disabled individuals who require artificial limbs and orthoses.

Starting in 2008, the CSUDH O&P Program began clinical rotations into the Navy Medical Center San Diego. At NMCS D the students have assisted the prosthetic staff with patient care of recently wounded soldiers, and have begun to recognize the multiple layers of rehabilitation services required for amputees from the recent conflicts. CSUDH has also sponsored field trips to the O&P education program to expose recent military amputees to current technology and methods, and also to provide career advising if a wounded veteran wishes to become a prosthetic or orthotic practitioner. In the new VA facility the program plans to provide a training resource to veterans of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Need: The proposed collaboration addresses two distinct national issues: 1) war casualties from military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 2) individuals and their families who are living with one or more chronic-illnesses that have caused secondary health conditions affecting mobility, i.e. – stroke, limb amputations, nerve impairment, and muscle and tissue loss. Thousands of troops have been seriously wounded in action during the war in Iraq, which include many reservists who have employers awaiting their return. Many cannot return to their previous duties at work due to disabling injuries, i.e. loss of limbs. Without access to immediate and proper multi-faceted rehabilitation, it is difficult for individuals to make a speedy transition into a substantive quality of life and rehabilitation to work. Also, Over 1.2 million individuals live with limb loss/absence in the United States. Physicians perform more than 185,000 amputations each year in the United States – 507 a day. The number of amputations is expected to rise due to the complications of diabetes. (*Amputee Coalition of America and the American Diabetes Association*). The Prosthetic and Orthotic practitioners who are trained in the Veterans Center for O&P Education will directly serve the veterans and general population who require prostheses or orthoses.

CSUDH Partnership with VA Long Beach Healthcare System: The Veterans Center for O&P Education is conceived as a training and research facility. The Prosthetic and Orthotic training program will also interface with the VA Long Beach O&P service unit for training and research purposes. The Program will interface with the VA's Instrumented Gait Laboratory for gait analysis, and students and faculty will attend Grand Rounds, consult on difficult cases, and participate in clinical rotations with the VA Long Beach O&P practitioners.

The Prosthetic and Orthotic Program's new facility is being custom built by the VA inside an existing building at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System and leased for a nominal rate to CSUDH. The facility, with space of 9000 square feet, will be comprised of two classrooms, two technical laboratories, an instructional demonstration room, dedicated patient examination room, a gait analysis area, a computer resource room, a library, and faculty offices.

CSUDH Academic Goals: CSUDH has made plans to establish a ladder of O&P educational opportunity for prospective students, including VA employees and Veterans seeking job training in Orthotics and Prosthetics. The ladder will enable a person with a high school degree to advance to Fitter or Technician at the Associates level, followed by a Clinical Assistant at the Bachelor's degree level, and finally achieve Practitioner level education at the Masters (MPO) level. CSUDH is establishing programs to meet the following needs:

Associates Degree pathway for Orthotic and Prosthetic fitters, which will prepare individuals to pursue ABC and BOC Fitters Certification and to fulfill the requirements of VA occupational code 667 (Fitter).

Bachelor's Degree pathway for Orthotic and Prosthetic clinical assistants wishing to take formal education in Health Sciences with a clinical Op-

CSUDH Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program, cont'd.

tion in O&P. This pathway will prepare students to become certified by BOC, or to become prepared to enter the Masters in Prosthetics and Orthotics Program.

Masters of Prosthetics and Orthotics (MPO) pathway for Prosthetic and Orthotic practitioners wishing to pursue National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) Residency and American Board for Certification (ABC) Certification.

Benefits to the VA:

1. Training of Current VA Prosthetists/Orthotists to become ABC Certified Practitioners: The University's O&P Program will provide several guaranteed places for VA employed Prosthetists/Orthotists to attend Certificate Courses offering in either Prosthetics or Orthotics each year. The candidates for these positions will be current VA employees, who seek formal training in an NCOPE accredited O&P school.
2. Vocational Rehabilitation for Veterans: Another goal is to establish a formal program for Veterans to achieve employment and economic self sufficiency in the field of Orthotics and Prosthetics. CSUDH seeks to create a rehabilitation program designed for disabled Veterans who wish to use rehabilitation counseling and support services in collaboration with formal training in professional Orthotics and Prosthetics school. Such a formalized program will provide different levels of education pathways from high school to community college and onto university levels to enhance the accessibility by Veterans to professional training in Orthotics and Prosthetics.
3. Professional O&P Conferences for Physicians, Therapists, and Nurses: The University's O&P Program will conduct yearly conferences on current Orthotic and Prosthetic topics for doctors, therapists, and nurses. The seminar will be open to allied health professionals from both inside and outside the VA Healthcare System.
4. Short Training Courses in O&P for VA employees and volunteers: The University's O&P Program will conduct short term training courses to teach Off-the-Shelf (OTS) Orthotic fitting techniques to current and potential VA Orthotists and Fitters.
5. Peer Visitation Center for VA and community amputees: The University's O&P Program will provide space to VA and community amputees for a Peer Visitation Center located at the CSUDH O&P Program. The Center will provide resource counseling and peer support services for VA and community amputees who seek psychological support, pre- and post- amputation advice, and resource counseling from other people with amputations in the service area. The center will also support VA and community amputees with a facility for social and recreational meetings.
6. Orthotic and Prosthetic Clinical Rotations under VA Long Beach Supervision: The University's O&P Program will assign Orthotic and Prosthetic students to in-house clinical rotations under the supervision of qualified VA Prosthetists and Orthotists at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. Students will gain valuable clinical experience as part of their clinical practicum.
7. Research Assistants for VA Research Projects: O&P Program students will be assigned each year to assist in VA supervised research on relevant O&P topics in the VA Long Beach Instrumented Gait Laboratory. Each student will be required to assist in the Gait Laboratory as part of the assigned research efforts.

Benefits to California State University Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program:

1. What are the direct benefits?
 - Ample Space
 - Access to Hospital lectures & Continuing Education
 - Access to VA Patients for Instructional Models
 - Interaction with Medical staff and Professional Service Units
2. What do the VA and CSUDH have in common?
 - Graduates are employed in VA's nationwide
 - Current graduates work at Walter Reed Army Hospital and San Diego Naval Medical Center; these injured veterans will later be served in the VA
 - Graduates serve newly injured Veterans and older Veterans with vascular disease
 - CSU graduates work in private O&P practices contracted with VA's nationwide

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COPA Annual Dues Due

All renewing and prospective COPA members should have received via U.S. mail their dues notices for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Dues are the "lifeline" of COPA and our success as an industry in California is directly related to your financial support. Please pay prompt attention to your COPA dues notice. Thank you in advance. If you did not receive your COPA dues notice or for further information, please contact COPA Executive Director Bryce Docherty at (916) 446-4343 or bryce@thedochertygroup.com.



California Workers' Compensation Official Medical Fee Schedule Updated Effective July 1, 2009

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted an order adjusting the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) section of the Official Medical Fee Schedule to conform to changes in the Medicare payment system as required by Labor Code section 5307.1. Effective July 1, 2009, the order is the Medicare quarterly update for the current year. The update includes all changes identified in change request number 6511. Click [here](#) for the order adopting the adjustments.

"Rock on the Green" Benefiting the Challenged Athletes Foundation

"Rock on the Green" And Enjoy A Day Of Inclusive Health And Fitness With Club One And Barney & Barney, Benefiting Challenged Athletes Foundation. This inspiring team is putting together a day of fitness fun on Saturday, September 12, 2009 for individuals, families, and athletes all! This first-ever event at San Francisco's beautiful Marina Green (overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge) will include a high energy 3 hour spin-a-thon / Krank-a-thon as well as both 2K and 5K family fun walks. This rockin' event is already attracting Bay Area residents with a passion for health, fitness, fun and great music!

The theme of inclusive fitness is key, as the goal of "Rock on the Green" is to provide an opportunity for able and disabled people to participate side-by-side in events solely focused on spinning, walking, Kranking and being together! In addition to the different movement events, "Rock on the Green" will feature activities for the whole family including kid-friendly events, expo booths and more. The best part is that all participants will be helping others to join in fitness and fun by raising money and awareness for the CAF.

For our spinners and Krankers, we will have over 100 spin bikes, up to 80 Krankcycles, and some of the best spin instructors in the world (including Johnny G, the creator of spinning). Our 2K and 5K walks are estimated to attract up to 1000 walkers. The goal is to show the Bay Area and the world that the day of "inclusive fitness" is here...all people experiencing the energy of moving together.

Funds raised at Rock on the Green benefit the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF). CAF raises money to help people with physical challenges pursue active lifestyles through physical fitness and athletics. CAF's mission is clear: give those with the desire to live active, competitive lifestyles every opportunity to compete in the sports they love. Click [here](#) for more information.

Challenged Athletes Foundation

Tax ID# 33-0739596

P.O. Box 91076

San Diego, CA 92191

Phone: (858) 866-0959

Fax: (858) 866-0958

CSUDH Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program, cont'd.

3. Why move to the VA Long Beach?
 - Need for High Quality Clinical Affiliation
 - Increased Research Potential
 - Current Lease with Ossur N.A. expires June 2009
 - The University does not have enough space for this laboratory intensive training

4. What are the synergies for moving the CSUDH program to the VA Long Beach?
 - Commitment to highest quality O&P services by CSUDH and VA
 - Commitment to ABC Certification pathway
 - Resource to place VA O&P Personnel in continuing education
 - Location for VA research
 - Partner with VA for O&P Resident training
 - Provide students for VA Long Beach clinical rotations
 - Emphasize interdisciplinary training with professional units at VA Long Beach
 - Provide and participate in VA Long Beach Medical training

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: \$1,200 Annual Dues (please check applicable category)

- Corporate – Patient Care:** Any firm or corporation that is principally engaged in the business of providing O&P direct services is eligible for this membership category.
- Corporate – Supplier:** Any firm of corporation that is principally engaged in supplying O&P businesses is eligible for this membership category.
- Corporate – Allied Health:** Any organization, firm or corporation that is engaged in the allied health field that serves O&P clients and businesses is eligible for this membership category.
- Corporate – Associate:** Any organization that represents consumers of orthotic and prosthetic care or other professionals who may also provide services to orthotic and prosthetic consumers is eligible for this membership category.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: \$120 Annual Dues (please check applicable category)

- Individual – Certified:** Any practitioner who is currently certified and in good standing with the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (A.B.C.) and/or the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification (B.O.C.) is eligible for this membership category.
- Individual – Technician/Fitter:** Any technician currently registered with the A.B.C. or any fitter certified by the B.O.C. is eligible for this membership category.
- Individual – Associate:** Any person with a professional interest in orthotics and prosthetics is eligible for this membership category.

(Name, Company)

(Address, City, State, Zip)

(Phone, Fax, Email)

NOTE: Please check here ___ if you decline to have 25% of your annual dues dedicated to the COPA Political Action Committee. Contributions or dues payments to COPA or COPA PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. COPA estimates that 10% of your membership dues will be allocated to lobbying expenditures for the fiscal year 2009/2010, and are not deductible as business expenses.

Please make checks payable to: **COPA**

SHARE this membership application with your colleagues so they can become a member of the premier orthotics and prosthetics association in California.

Click here to view:
[Membership Registration Online!](#)

POLITICAL ACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

COPA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE *CORPORATE* CONTRIBUTION FORM

President's Club (\$2,500-\$6,000): These prestigious members include manufacturers, patient care businesses and individuals who want to be constant and consistent actors in the issues surrounding the O&P industry. In addition to receiving all of the benefits provided to Leadership Board and Golden State Club members also receive a specially designed President's Club lapel pin; complimentary admission to all COPA events and Complimentary admission for one guest to attend a President's Club event. In addition, President's Club members may be included in "invitation only" receptions and functions with legislators whenever possible.

Leadership Board (\$1,000-\$2,499): These members receive a specially designed Leadership Board lapel pin; invitations to legislative briefings and receptions featuring key legislators who are active in healthcare policy and special recognition throughout the year at events and in COPA publications.

Golden State Club (\$500-\$999): These members receive a specially designed Golden State Club lapel pin and special recognition throughout the year.

STATE LAW REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

(Name, Company)

(Employer or Occupation)

(Address, City State, Zip, Phone)

COPA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE *INDIVIDUAL* CONTRIBUTION FORM

Silver Dollar Club (\$365 One Dollar per Day): These prestigious members receive a specially designed Silver Dollar Club lapel pin and special recognition throughout the year.

Future Framers Club (\$25): These student members receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their contribution and education and training about effective advocacy and professional communication with legislators.

(Name)

(Employer or Occupation)

(Address, City State, Zip, Phone)

NOTE: COPA PAC contributions are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions may not exceed \$6,000 in one calendar year.

Please make checks payable to: **COPA PAC (ID#791961)**

Click here to view:

[COPA/PAC](#)
[Corporate](#)
[Contribution](#)
[Pledge Form](#)

Click here to view:

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[Contribution](#)
[Pledge Form](#)

California Orthotics and
Prosthetics Association

1231 I Street, Suite 203
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 446-4343
Fax: (916) 446-4333
E-mail: bryce@thedoehertygroup.com



We're on the web!
[www.oandp.com/
copa](http://www.oandp.com/copa)

COPA'S MISSION...

Promoting the art and science of Orthotic and Prosthetic practice to create and communicate innovative solutions for a positive patient experience.

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE AT COPA...

Strength is measured by numbers. COPA has galvanized support from the O&P business community by encouraging businesses of all sizes to join as corporate members. Today the organization is moving forward in representing the needs of the individual practitioner in all areas of career development, including educational seminars and a renewed commitment to licensure for California. In order to facilitate individual contributions to support COPA, new membership categories have been added to allow students, technicians and practitioners at all levels of the career path to join COPA and share in the march toward professional recognition in California.

STANDING ON SUCCESS...

COPA has a proven track record in legislation, association governance and membership responsiveness. Representing the field since 1970, COPA is an organization that has the resources to bring the community of O&P together as one voice to strengthen and solidify the unique characteristics that typify O&P professionals today. An Uncertain Future Without Your Support... For many years, the few have supported the many while all have prospered. The burden has now become too great and the pool of resources must be widened to ensure continued success.

The threats to the O&P community are real. This year alone, practitioners have been sanctioned by the Board of Pharmacy and the Physical Therapy Licensing Board. Individual lawsuits have been brought against practitioners who now stand in legal limbo with no statutory scope of practice.

Limited state resources to treat the poor and those injured on the job are being bargained away to those with stronger voices and wider support.

What will history say about your commitment to O&P?