



AMERICAN  
OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

# 2023 Annual Report



2023

# AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Table of Contents

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Introduction. . . . .                                   | <b>3</b>     |
| Effecting change through advocacy. . . . .              | <b>4</b>     |
| Members making a difference. . . . .                    | <b>5</b>     |
| Breaking new ground for osteopathic residents . . . . . | <b>6</b>     |
| Promoting public health . . . . .                       | <b>7</b>     |
| Uniting the profession . . . . .                        | <b>8</b>     |
| Enhancing the value of membership . . . . .             | <b>9</b>     |
| Preserving osteopathic distinctiveness . . . . .        | <b>10</b>    |
| Advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. . . . .      | <b>11</b>    |
| Supporting osteopathic research . . . . .               | <b>12</b>    |
| Building our community . . . . .                        | <b>13</b>    |
| Sharing osteopathic pride . . . . .                     | <b>14</b>    |
| Statement of financial position . . . . .               | <b>15-16</b> |
| 2023 revenues/expenses . . . . .                        | <b>17</b>    |

# 2023 AOA Annual Report

Dear Colleagues,

As we reflect on the past year of advancements in the osteopathic medicine profession, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to support the 186,000+ DOs and osteopathic medical students providing distinctive osteopathic care to millions of patients across the nation. Our profession is larger and stronger than ever, and the AOA is fully dedicated to ensuring our members grow, thrive and succeed.

Each year, the AOA identifies organizational goals that provide a roadmap for our work in support of the osteopathic profession. In alignment with the AOA's five-year strategic plan, these goals focus on ensuring our organization continues evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of its physician and medical student members. The goals set in place last July include the following key objectives:

- Build a better future for the osteopathic profession.
- Enhance member service and engagement.
- Expand the voice and influence of the AOA in the health care community.

In furtherance of the first goal—building a better future for the profession—the AOA has worked to expand and enhance the support and services we provide to osteopathic medical students, residents and new physicians in practice. A new collaborative partnership with the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) provides students with expanded access to a full slate of benefits and services designed to support their education and careers.

In addition, we continue working to ensure AOA Board Certification remains the premier certification pathway for all osteopathic physicians. Through ongoing communication, education and collaboration with residents and program directors, we continue to champion the inherent value and distinctiveness of osteopathic certification. Toward this end, we recently launched a new Designation of OMT, which signifies an AOA board-certified physician's skills and expertise in Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment and osteopathic principles and practice.

Enhancing the level and breadth of service we provide our members is an ongoing priority for AOA leaders and staff. During the past year, we put measurement and tracking tools in place to help gauge the success of our efforts and worked to identify new strategies for enhanced

engagement with AOA members and affiliate partners. Membership surveys and focus groups will provide additional insights into the diverse needs of the profession and help inform the AOA's unique value propositions for DOs and osteopathic medical students.

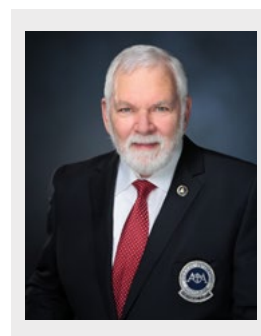
Public policy and professional advocacy work play a critical role in our efforts to expand the AOA's influence within the medical community. Earlier this year, the AOA was one of only 12 health care organizations invited to participate in an exclusive White House Roundtable meeting focused on maintaining a strong response to COVID-19. In addition, AOA leadership provided testimony for the first time ever at the AMA Board of Trustees House of Delegates Interim Meeting. On the international front, the AOA and Osteopathic International Alliance continue work with the World Health Organization to provide input on the U.S. osteopathic medical regulatory model and the growth of the osteopathic profession worldwide.

Please read on for more detail on these initiatives, as well as others the AOA is advancing on behalf of our physician and student members. We look forward to another year of growth and expansion within the profession and remain committed to celebrating and preserving the distinctiveness of osteopathic medicine.

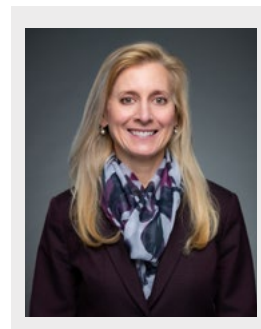
Sincerely,



**Ernest R. Gelb, DO**  
2022-23 AOA President



**Kathleen S. Creason, MBA**  
AOA Chief Executive Officer



# Effecting change through advocacy



One of the most impactful ways the AOA works to ensure a successful future for the osteopathic profession is through political advocacy on behalf of DOs and osteopathic medical students. By collaborating with key policymakers and other leaders, the AOA works to advance policy priorities that benefit the public health of the nation and support all members of the osteopathic profession and the patients they serve.

During the past year, the AOA and its partners achieved several notable federal advocacy wins on behalf of the profession. Many of these efforts provided opportunities to collaborate closely with osteopathic affiliate partners, including state associations and specialty colleges.

These efforts resulted in the following:

- The historic \$1.44 billion six-year reauthorization of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program being reported out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The program invests in the training of physicians in community settings and helps attract physicians in rural and medically underserved areas.
- Prevention of cumulative 8.5% cuts to Medicare payment rates that were scheduled to take effect in 2023.
- Enactment of legislation requiring states to provide children with 12 months of continuous coverage under Medicaid and the option for states to provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage.
- A two-year extension of numerous Medicare telehealth services that were temporarily available during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- Enactment of legislation that includes funding for distribution of 200 additional Medicare-funded graduate medical education residency positions.
- Appointment of a DO to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, which helps guide the Department of Health and Human Services and CDC on infection control practices.
- Finalization of CMS rules to improve prior authorization (PA) in Medicare Advantage, including changes that align PA requirements with Medicare fee-for-service coverage rules.
- Unanimous adoption of a Senate resolution designating the week of April 17-23, 2023, as National Osteopathic Medicine Week.



# Members making a difference



AOA members play a critically important role in advancing the success of the AOA's advocacy efforts. Through letters, emails, texts and phone calls to lawmakers, as well as in-person advocacy at events like DO Day, thousands of osteopathic physicians and medical students raised their voices this year on issues like Medicare payment reform, the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program, medical student loan relief and prior authorization requirements.

During the past year, approximately 2,200 members of the osteopathic profession sent 7,063 messages to federal and state lawmakers in support of more than 20 AOA grassroots advocacy initiatives. These activities contributed to several important policy wins on behalf of the osteopathic community.

At the state level, the AOA's public policy team collaborated with osteopathic affiliate organizations to send 21 letters on 15 issues and 9 state-specific grassroots alerts to state lawmakers. In addition, more than 871 individuals from 7 states sent 2,187 messages to state legislators.

Collectively, these efforts resulted in a success rate of 81% on issues, including:

- Scope of practice legislation failing to advance in 4 states
- Shortcuts to physician licensure failing to advance in 2 states
- Enactment of a \$1 million noneconomic medical malpractice damages cap in Iowa
- Increased Medicaid funding in a Georgia appropriations bill

On the international advocacy front, the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) achieved recognition status in August 2022 from the World Federation of Medical Education, which will help DOs interested in working abroad to secure practice rights. The status signifies the appropriate and rigorous standards upheld at COCA-accredited osteopathic medical schools.

The AOA also continues collaboration with the Osteopathic International Alliance and the World Health Organization to provide input on the U.S. osteopathic medical regulatory model and the growth of the osteopathic profession worldwide.

## By the numbers

# 2,200

members of the profession participated in grassroots AOA advocacy campaigns

# 7,063

messages to federal and state lawmakers

# 21

AOA grassroots campaigns focused on issues of importance to osteopathic physicians and students

# 9

state-specific grassroots alerts

# 871

members of the osteopathic profession sent more than 2,000 advocacy messages to state lawmakers

# Breaking new ground for osteopathic residents

## 2023 NRMP Match surpasses record for DO placements

The 2023 NRMP Match resulted in residency placements for a record number of participating osteopathic medical students and DOs. A total of 7,132 osteopathic candidates matched into postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) residency positions in 37 specialties. Outside of the NRMP Match, additional DO candidates secured residencies through NRMP's SOAP, the San Francisco and urology matches, and the military match, leading to a final total placement rate of 99.5% for DO seniors.

On Match Day, a total of 3,902 matching DO students landed positions in primary care programs and 2,910 matched into secured non-primary care placements across a wide range of specialties. This year's Match resulted in increased placements for DO residents in family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. The number of DO placements in specialty training programs increased for general surgery, neurology, psychiatry, pathology, orthopedic surgery, child neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, vascular surgery and otolaryngology. Additionally, a record number of 320 graduating osteopathic fourth-year students and 68 graduates placed via the military match.



# Promoting public health



As the professional home for the nation's workforce of osteopathic physicians, the AOA regularly partners with internal and external stakeholders across the health care industry to build and implement health initiatives at the national, state, and local levels. Over the course of the past year, these efforts led to the implementation of educational grants focused on developing physician resources and materials related to the following health topics:

## COVID-19

- An online toolkit, as well as an educational symposium and sessions at OMED22 and DO Day 2023 provided updated information for physicians regarding effective strategies and recommendations for COVID treatment.

## Influenza and RSV

- A series of educational videos provided physicians with tips for addressing influenza and RSV prevention and treatment with patients. OMED and DO Day education sessions advised physicians on using social media to combat misinformation about influenza, RSV and other infectious diseases. Online toolkits provided physicians with training and patient education resources.

## Mental health and social determinants of health

- In collaboration with the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), the AOA worked to plan a national initiative focused on social determinants of health, and partnered on mental health and behavioral health integration efforts with other national organizations, agencies and foundations.



## Improving patient safety

Following the official listing of the AOA Patient Safety Organization (PSO) with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2022, the AOA worked throughout the past year to prepare resources, policies and procedures to guide implementation, achieving the following milestones:

- Developed comprehensive PSO training materials, including case studies and interactive modules.
- Drafted policies and procedures to guide PSO operations, including collection of data, patient safety evaluations and other resources to ensure compliance with the Patient Safety Act.
- Created a physician guide to educate members of the osteopathic community about the benefits of joining a PSO.
- Established an advisory committee to support the quality and safety of PSO initiatives.

# Uniting the profession



## Innovating OMED

More than 7,000 DOs, osteopathic medical students and other attendees participated in OMED22, the AOA's first-ever hybrid osteopathic education conference. Offering options for virtual participation via an online platform or in-person attendance



at the live conference in Boston, OMED22 provided on-demand access to more than 200 hours of educational programming spanning 18 medical specialties.

With customizable tracks for osteopathic medical students, pre-med students and residents, as well as tracks focused on innovation and culturally competent care, OMED offered the opportunity for attendees to earn up to 50 hours of AOA or ACCME credit.



## Making an impact at DO Day

More than 1,200 DOs, osteopathic medical students and affiliate executives participated in the AOA's hybrid DO Day conference, measuring a 94% increase in DO participants over 2022.

During the in-person advocacy event, more than 300 members of the osteopathic profession from 43 states participated in 285 meetings with lawmakers and staff on Capitol Hill to discuss issues of critical importance to DOs, medical students and the patients they serve. Congressional meetings focused on three issues:

- **Protecting access to care** by advocating for positive updates to Medicare physician payment.
- **Expanding graduate medical education** through the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program, which received a six-year reauthorization following DO Day.
- **Advancing student loan reform** through the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act.





# Enhancing the value of membership



The AOA continually works to evolve and expand the services, resources and support we provide to our members. With the goal of ensuring that AOA membership remains relevant, useful and meaningful in today's health care landscape, the organization recently launched a new member satisfaction survey focused on identifying the current needs of the profession and addressing opportunities to enhance member value. Takeaways will help inform future membership structure, programming and education offerings.



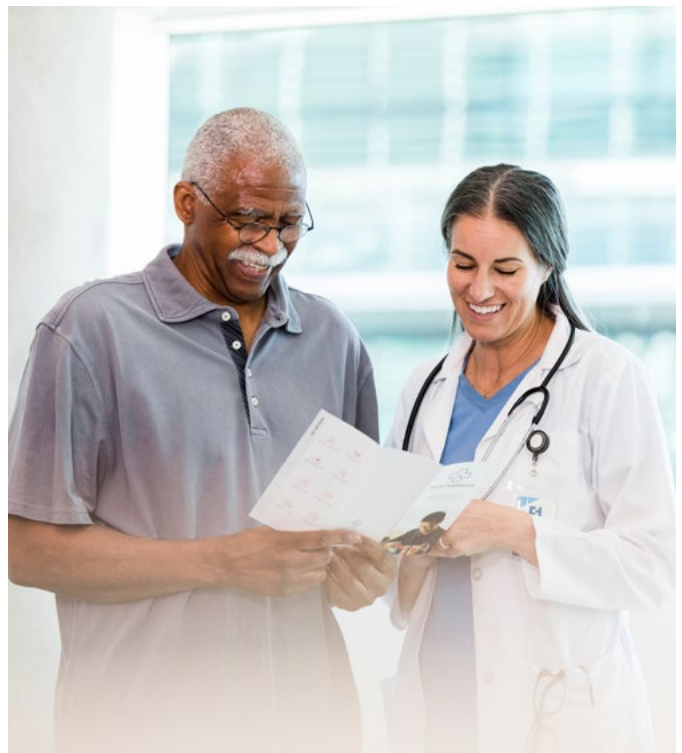
The organization also launched a new membership workgroup composed of DOs and osteopathic medical students. In collaboration with stakeholders across the profession, the workgroup will gather information used to develop and facilitate focus groups that will position the AOA to define a new member value proposition.

This spring, the AOA performed an organization-wide transition to an upgraded association management system. The new platform, which is powered by Salesforce, will enable the AOA to provide members with more customized service and resources tailored specifically to their needs. In addition, the new platform offers members more streamlined access for managing their AOA information, benefits and services.

## New membership options!

To meet the changing needs of the osteopathic community, the AOA continues expanding customizable membership options for osteopathic physicians and students. Earlier this year, the AOA launched group membership packages for organizations and institutions dedicated to supporting the success of the osteopathic profession. Group packages provide access to discounted CME, physician support services, credentialing verification and more.

In addition, the AOA now offers special membership options for GME programs that support the training of residents, fellows and interns. These programs provide access to customized resources in the areas of professional development, education, networking and physician services.



# Preserving osteopathic distinctiveness

With the goal of increasing the osteopathic distinctiveness of AOA-accredited CME activities, the AOA has implemented the following recommendations, which were developed by the Osteopathically Distinct CME Taskforce and approved by the AOA Board of Trustees and House of Delegates in July 2022.

## Definition of osteopathically distinct

**CME:** Evidence-or practice-based medical education which includes the body of knowledge and skills essential to the osteopathic profession and patient care and integrates osteopathic tenets and philosophy.

## Faculty requirement for osteopathically distinct CME:

At least 50% of the total educational credits must be presented by osteopathic physicians.

## Curriculum requirement for osteopathically distinct CME:

CME activities must address one or more of the AOA's seven core competencies, or the osteopathic tenets.

## New OMT designation for AOA Board Certification

This spring, the AOA launched a new OMT designation for AOA Board Certification. Physicians who hold an active AOA primary board certification are now eligible to earn the additional designation of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) alongside their specialty AOA board certification by passing the new OMT written exam and OMT performance exam.



# Advancing diversity, equity and inclusion

In 2021, the AOA reaffirmed its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) with the adoption of a detailed plan to combat racial injustice and inequality and ensure the organization's leadership and staff reflect the diversity of its members and the patients they serve. During the past year, the AOA continued efforts to promote equity across race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, sexual preference and disability.

Goals achieved in 2023 include:

- Launch of the 2023 cohort of the AOA Leadership Academy, which provides opportunities for skill development and enhancement for future leadership roles within the AOA and the osteopathic profession.
- Finalization of a liaison relationship with the Latino Medical Student Association, including regular meetings to discuss potential areas for collaboration.
- Observation of heritage and identity recognition months throughout the year via social media, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Pride Month, Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month, Women in Medicine Month and Native American Heritage Month.



"Osteopathic Medicine, in all its distinctness, emphasizes the individualized, wholistic approach to treating patients, therefore choosing a pathway in medicine towards osteopathy has allowed me to provide my future patients with the best possible hands-on care. Being a part of the first tribally affiliated medical school has allowed me to interact with different cultures and people, while also being able to express and represent my own tribe."




Shaelyn Ward, OMS II, General Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation

AOA




### Celebrating Women's History Month



**Jenette "Nettie" Bolles, DO**  
Photo c/o Museum of Osteopathic Medicine

- **1894: Osteopathic Medical School Graduate**  
American School of Osteopathy inaugural class of osteopathic physicians
- **1897: Founding President**  
Western Institute of Osteopathy
- **1897: First Vice President**  
American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy (now the AOA)
- **1898: Founding President**  
Associated Colleges of Osteopathy (now AACOM)




# Supporting osteopathic research



With the goal of advancing osteopathic medicine and increasing the body of scientific evidence-based research supporting the osteopathic approach to care, the AOA offers grant funding to DOs, osteopathic medical students and PhD researchers conducting studies that address the following focus areas:

- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment on the prevention and management of musculoskeletal injuries
- Acute/chronic pain management
- The impact of the osteopathic approach on chronic disease and elderly care
- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine observational and explorative research studies



In 2023, the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Research and Public Health and AOA Board of Trustees awarded seven grants for research projects that address the tenets of osteopathic medicine and advance the distinctiveness of the osteopathic medical profession.

In addition to funding osteopathic research grants, the AOA provides opportunities for researchers to disseminate their findings during the annual OMED research poster session. At last year's conference, nearly 100 researchers presented abstracts in the areas of basic science, clinical science, health services and public health. All abstracts were published in the December 2022 issue of the *Journal of Osteopathic Medicine*.

# Building our community



Nurturing collaborative relationships with partner organizations plays a critical role in helping the entire osteopathic community thrive and succeed. The AOA works closely with osteopathic affiliate groups, including state organizations and specialty colleges, to help advance the services and support provided across all facets of the osteopathic profession.

Recent highlights include:

- Increased engagement with affiliate organizations via the weekly Affiliate News newsletter, which garnered a 5% increase in readership during the past year.
- Attendance by more than 20 affiliate executive leaders at the AOA's inaugural Affiliate Leader Meeting held in Chicago during May 2023. The meeting featured a panel discussion on engaging young professionals in membership organizations, as well as sessions on grant writing, contract review, cybersecurity, events and digital learning.
- Establishment of an online resource hub for affiliate leaders on the AOA website.

In addition, the AOA and SOMA continue partnering to help build the future of the osteopathic medical profession. Together, the organizations work to provide support for osteopathic medical students and increase awareness of tools and resources available to advance education and professional development throughout their careers. These efforts include:

- Advocacy for equitable institutional fees for student rotations
- Addition of student representation on the AOA's Bureau of Affiliate Relations and The DO Editorial Advisory Board
- Introduction of new SOMA column in the AOA Affiliate News newsletter
- Launch of an AOA/SOMA collaborative student membership campaign
- Osteopathic medical student participation in the AOA Leadership Academy
- Continued development of the student programming track at OMED



# Sharing osteopathic pride



During the second year of its osteopathic brand campaign, the AOA continued its commitment toward building awareness and educating the public about osteopathic medicine and the unique approach DOs bring to caring for the whole person—body, mind and spirit. Year two of the campaign ran from July through December 2022 and delivered 58.5 million total impressions.

The campaign, showcasing more than 15 members of the osteopathic profession, appeared in print and digital publications including Good Housekeeping, Women’s Day, Prevention, Healthline and Newsweek. Additional news outlets added for year two of the campaign included Well+Good and MindBodyGreen, which collectively delivered almost 5 million impressions.



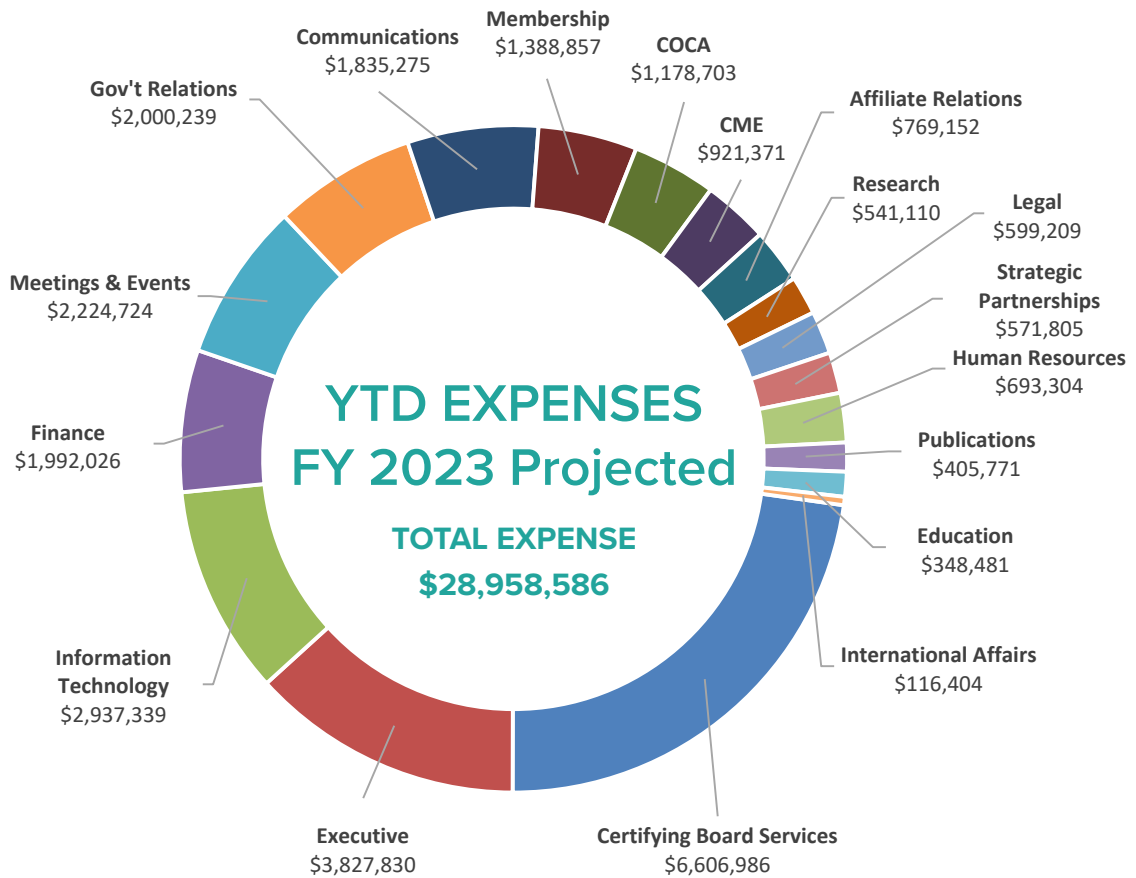
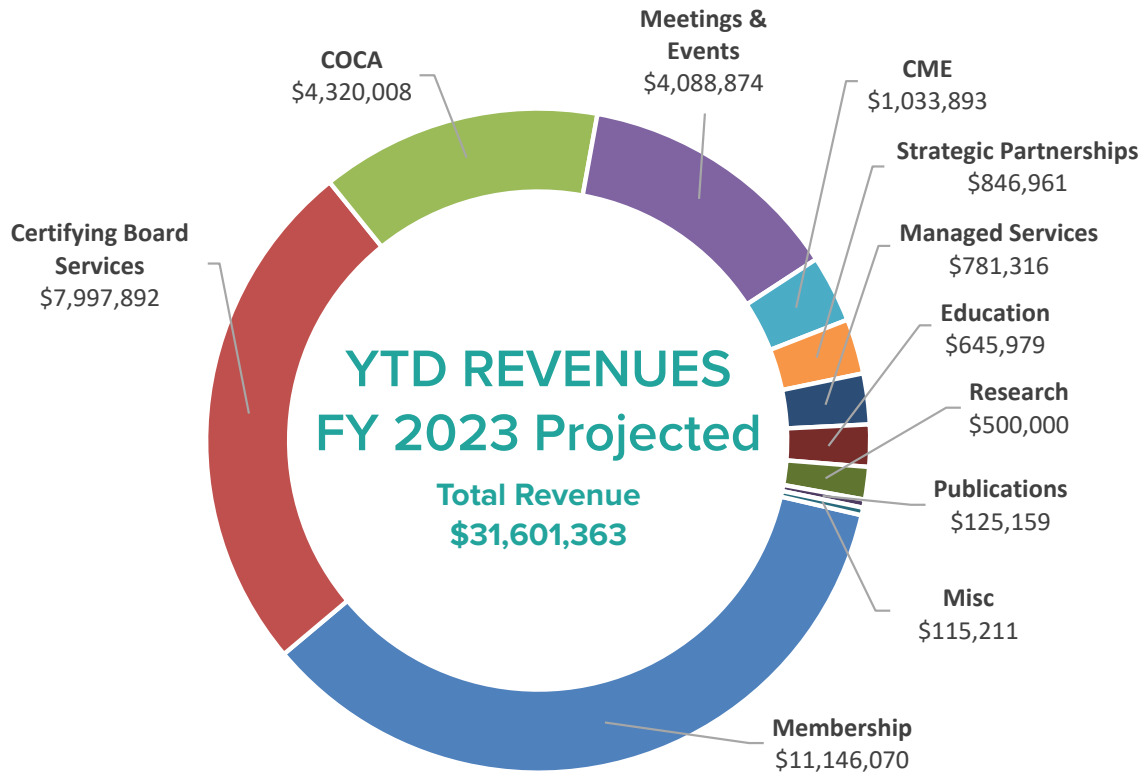
# Statement of Financial Position

| ASSETS  | 2023 PROJECTED      | 2022 UNAUDITED      |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>                           |                     |                     |
| <b>Unrestricted:</b>                                    |                     |                     |
| Operating   | \$17,860,600        | \$19,057,255        |
| Osteopathic Research<br>Development Fund                | 431,545             | 128,250             |
| Dale Dodson Educational Fund                            | 212,987             | 416,538             |
| NOAC Capital Improvement                                |                     | 378,951             |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Cash<br/>and Cash Equivalents</b> | <b>18,505,132</b>   | <b>19,980,995</b>   |
| <b>Investments</b>                                      |                     |                     |
| Operating   | 46,289,750          | 45,169,193          |
| Osteopathic Research<br>Development Fund                | 5,153,645           | 6,041,171           |
| Dale Dodson Educational Fund                            | 2,556,249           | 3,104,803           |
| <b>Total Investments</b>                                | <b>53,999,644</b>   | <b>54,315,166</b>   |
| <b>Total Cash and Investments</b>                       | <b>72,504,776</b>   | <b>74,296,161</b>   |
| <b>Accounts Receivable</b>                              |                     |                     |
| Advertising -Net  | 0                   | 1,700               |
| Affiliated Organizations                                | 176,307             | 1,300,825           |
| East Ontario  | 52,022              | 29,772              |
| Education   | 680,849             | 277,481             |
| Other   | 195,421             | 434,432             |
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>                        | <b>1,104,599</b>    | <b>2,044,211</b>    |
| <b>Inventories</b>                                      |                     |                     |
| Prepaid Expenses  | 1,611,766           | 1,134,717           |
| Deposits  | 9,755               | 23,872              |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>1,621,521</b>    | <b>1,158,589</b>    |
| Property and Equipment                                  | 30,037,363          | 32,011,501          |
| Less Depreciation                                       | (20,590,601)        | (23,042,268)        |
| <b>Property and Equipment-Net</b>                       | <b>9,446,762</b>    | <b>8,969,233</b>    |
| <b>Other:</b>   |                     |                     |
| Deferred Rent Receivable                                | 596,193             | 488,383             |
| Other   | 10,000              | 10,000              |
| Total other Assets                                      | 606,193             | 498,383             |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                     | <b>\$85,283,850</b> | <b>\$86,966,577</b> |

# Statement of Financial Position

| ASSETS  | 2023 PROJECTED      | 2022 UNAUDITED      |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>                 |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                          |                     |                     |
| Accounts Payable                                    | \$936,821           | \$1,322,459         |
| Accrued Grants Payable                              | 549,505             | 399,890             |
| Accrued Expenses                                    | 663,623             | 1,019,224           |
| Accrued Salaries and Benefits                       | 2,104,759           | 1,976,336           |
| Accrued Property Taxes                              | 762,842             | 774,043             |
| Due to Affiliates                                   | 11,946              | 69,839              |
| Deferred Revenue                                    | 13,040,927          | 14,302,230          |
| Other Liabilities                                   | 213,048             | 309,934             |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>                    | <b>18,283,472</b>   | <b>20,173,956</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                            | <b>18,283,472</b>   | <b>20,173,956</b>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                   |                     |                     |
| <b>Unrestricted:</b>                                |                     |                     |
| <b>Appropriated Through Board Designation:</b>      |                     |                     |
| Osteopathic Research Development Fund               | 5,325,717           | 6,003,484           |
| Dale Dodson Educational Fund                        | 2,432,024           | 3,419,847           |
| Osteopathic Physician Brand Awareness Campaign Fund | 49,641              | 49,641              |
| Reserve Uses  | (562,406)           | (240,688)           |
| For Contingencies                                   | 59,755,402          | 57,560,338          |
| <b>Total Unrestricted</b>                           | <b>67,000,379</b>   | <b>66,792,622</b>   |
| <b>Total net Assets</b>                             | <b>67,000,379</b>   | <b>66,792,622</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>           | <b>\$85,283,850</b> | <b>\$86,966,577</b> |







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