

2025-2026 AOA Bureaus, Committees, and Councils

Department	B/C/C	B/C/C Description
Non-Departmental Governance	Committee on AOA Governance and Organizational Structure	<p>The Committee on AOA Governance and Organizational Structure (CAGOS) is responsible for review of the internal structure of the AOA, which includes review of bureau, committee, and council structures, and the development of new task forces, ad hoc committees, and/or committees. The Committee also reviews documents that impact the governance policies of the AOA, such as conflict of interest policies. The Committee shall have two co-chairs; one co-chair leading the Constitution and Bylaws review and one co-chair leading the Basic Documents review.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 6-8 virtual meetings annually</p>
Department of Affiliate Relations	Bureau of Affiliate Relations	<p>The Bureau of Affiliate Relations (BAR) provides the AOA state and specialty affiliates with a direct link and structured opportunities to participate in the AOA's policy development process. It also provides the affiliates with a forum to exchange information. The BAR is designed for the state and specialty affiliates to: advise the AOA on pertinent issues; gather and disseminate relevant information; review and provide input into affiliate leader education; oversee affiliate award recognition programs; and educate and mentor each other.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 3-4 virtual meetings annually</p>

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Department	B/C/C	B/C/C Description
Department of Education	Bureau of Osteopathic Education	<p>The Bureau of Osteopathic Education (BOE) studies the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (predoctoral, postdoctoral, and continuing medical education) and makes recommendations to the AOA Board of Trustees as to how to improve the educational system and the process through which the AOA oversees and approves or accredits educational programs.</p> <p>The Bureau is a representative body of the osteopathic profession. It receives reports from educational councils of the AOA. The Bureau acts to assure the AOA Board of Trustees, the osteopathic medical community and the public that the actions of the PTRC are within the framework of AOA policies. The Bureau also makes recommendations for advocating best standards in undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education, and continuing medical education.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 4 one-hour calls annually</p>
	Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation	<p>The COCA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accreditation authority for colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) in the United States. The 21 Commissioners of the COCA set and enforce accreditation standards; consider and adjudicate applications for the establishment of new COMs, branch campuses, and additional locations; and evaluate periodic reviews of existing COMs. Commissioners serve for three-year terms and can serve a maximum of three terms, except for the two COM Student Commissioners, who serve for one two-year term each.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: August (2.5 days in-person), December (2.5 days in-person), April (2.5 days in-person), June (1 day virtual)</p>

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	Program and Trainee Review Council	<p>Starting July 1, 2020, the Program and Trainee Review Council (PTRC) will continue to function as the accreditation authority for all AOA-approved programs that do not achieve ACGME accreditation by June 30, 2020. The primary responsibilities of the PTRC are to serve as the final decision making body for AOA-approved internship, residency, fellowship training programs, based upon recommendations from the educational evaluating committees of osteopathic specialty colleges. These actions may be appealed to the BOE Appeal Committee, decisions of which may be appealed to the AOA Board. The Council also makes OGME policy recommendations to BOE, including changes to specialty basic standards.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 3 one-hour calls; 1 virtual meeting annually</p>
	Council of OMED	<p>The Council of OMED is responsible for governance advice for the programming and planning of the annual Osteopathic Medical Education Conference (OMED) of the AOA. OMED is the premier source for quality osteopathic continuing medical education.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 4-5 virtual meetings annually</p>

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<p>Department of Governmental Affairs</p>	<p>Bureau on Federal Health Programs</p>	<p>The Bureau on Federal Health Programs (BFHP) provides direction on the Federal legislative and regulatory activities of the AOA Department of Governmental Affairs. The Bureau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies and evaluates Federal health and education issues of interest to osteopathic physicians and those they serve; • Ensures that the policies of the AOA and the directives of the Board of Trustees are followed and promoted; • Provides timely information on Federal legislative and regulatory issues to the osteopathic medical community; • Promotes the active involvement of members of the osteopathic medical community in grassroots activities that promote the interests of the community, and • Provides a forum for the recognition of the Training in Policies Studies program. <p>The Bureau shall have within its membership structure a Council on State Health Affairs (formerly the Bureau of State Government Affairs) and a Council on Economic and Regulatory Affairs (formerly the Bureau of Socioeconomic Affairs). Council appointees may participate in BFHP meetings at the discretion of the BFHP Chair.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 2-3 meetings (either virtual or face-to-face depending on the needs at that time) annually</p>
	<p>Council on Economic and Regulatory Affairs</p>	<p>Council members will participate in Bureau on Federal Health Programs (BFHP) meetings as directed or when relevant subject matter pertaining to the council is being discussed.</p> <p>At the request of council chairs, BFHP members are available to participate in Council meetings when input from affiliates or BEL constituencies would inform Council discussions.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: Quarterly virtual meetings for approximately 2 hours each meeting</p>

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	Council on State Health Affairs	<p>Council members will participate in Bureau on Federal Health Programs (BFHP) meetings as directed or when relevant subject matter pertaining to the council is being discussed.</p> <p>At the request of council chairs, BFHP members are available to participate in Council meetings when input from affiliates or BEL constituencies would inform Council discussions.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: Typically meets 3 times annually; once in-person at the House of Delegates, once at a joint in-person Bureau-Council meeting, and once virtually</p>
Membership Department	Bureau of Emerging Leaders	<p>The Bureau of Emerging Leaders (BEL) is the representative body and advocate for all osteopathic medical students, osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training, and early-career osteopathic physicians.</p> <p>The primary goals of the BEL are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on issues important to their colleagues, and • Develop opportunities and resources that will further the AOA's strategic plan and engage students, trainees and new physicians in the osteopathic medical profession and the AOA. <p>These opportunities and resources may include events, online content, leadership roles, networking, mentorship and community outreach. The BEL may create task forces and work groups to assist in the work of the BEL; the BEL will select students, trainees and new physicians to serve on these task forces and work groups. The BEL will focus on policy development to best represent their constituents, and has three delegates and three alternates attend the annual AOA House of Delegates.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: Monthly virtual meetings and one in-person meeting at OMED</p>

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	Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine	<p>The Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM) supports the advancement and acceptance of osteopathic medicine internationally.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 1 call; 1 meeting (either virtual or face-to-face depending on the needs at that time) annually</p>
	Bureau of Membership	<p>The Bureau of Membership (BOM) makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on policies affecting AOA membership development including recruitment and retention. Members of the Bureau evaluate trends, research to make policy recommendations, review exceptions to policy, review proposals for programs that provide tangible member benefits, and encourage the membership focus of the organization.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: Monthly virtual meetings; 1 meeting (face-to-face depending on the needs at that time) annually</p>
Department of Research and Public Health	Bureau of Osteopathic Research and Public Health	<p>The Bureau of Osteopathic Research and Public Health (BORPH) directs all AOA research and public health activities. These activities include managing all research grant and fellowship programs, developing public health educational programs and initiatives, and advising AOA on public health and research policy.</p> <p>Members also participate in and encourage educational programs on important public health issues and presentations on current clinical research and the research call for abstracts and poster competition at OMED.</p> <p>Estimated meeting frequency: 5 calls annually</p>