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THE OPAC REPORT

Political News & Information for America's DOs

GET READY FOR ELECTION 2008!



OPAC at House of Delegates

OPAC returned recently from the annual House of Delegates meeting where we surpassed our goal of \$100,000 raised. Not only did we raise \$109,137, but we surpassed last year's House of Delegates total by more than \$6,000. OPAC also honored members of the McDevitt Circle, Premier Club, Chairman's Club, Resident's Roundtable and Student Chairman's Club with a reception featuring remarks by U.S. Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT-2nd) and the amazing skyline views from the Mid American Club.

If you were unable to attend the House of Delegates meeting, but would still like to join your fellow physicians in contributing to OPAC, you can do so by clicking [here](#). OPAC would like to thank everyone who once again helped make this another successful House of Delegates.

Don't Miss OPAC in Sunny San Diego!

Once again, OPAC will be present at this year's AOA Convention in San Diego held September 30th through October 4th. Be sure to stop by our booth just outside the convention hall for all your political needs. OPAC staff will be on hand to discuss the upcoming elections. Student doctors, stop by to affirm your membership in the AOIA and learn about OPAC's campus outreach plans for the 2008 Election cycle.

OPAC will hold a reception for club members on Monday, October 1 at 5:00 pm for McDevitt Circle and Premier Club members and 5:30 pm for all club members. If you have not yet renewed your club membership for 2007, but would like to, please do so by September 21, 2007 to ensure your name is included on all OPAC signage at the Convention. To renew your club membership or make an additional contribution to OPAC, to ensure we reach our goal of \$1 million for the 2008 cycle, click [here](#) or contact Keith Studdard, Coordinator of Political Affairs and OPAC at (800) 962-9008.

State and Specialty Organization Outreach

OPAC continues working hard to improve its outreach to the more than 70 state and specialty organizations representing osteopathic physicians. As the sole political action committee acting on behalf of America's D.O.'s on the federal level, OPAC is your voice in campaigns and elections.

We feel it is crucial for all entities representing the osteopathic profession to come together in a united front with OPAC to increase the power of our political message. This can only be done by making membership available to all facets of the profession and ensuring every interested party has a chance to be provided with all OPAC has to offer.



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Membership expansion is the most effective way for OPAC to support and help elect those candidates to Congress that are fully aware of the issues and challenges osteopathic physicians face across the country. We are in the final stages of offering state and specialty societies membership in the American Osteopathic Information Association (AOIA) and all the political resources provided by OPAC including voter registration assistance, up-to-date political news, information on candidates, as well as a list of OPAC endorsed candidates.

We must come together as a united voice to ensure the election of pro-physician candidates to Congress on November 4, 2008.

How You Can be More Politically Involved

It is increasingly more important for osteopathic physicians to be involved politically, ensuring physicians are represented in Congress by people who understand their issues and will advocate on their behalf.

Register and Vote

- While no candidate can run successfully without adequate financial resources, there are numerous other ways constituents can be involved in and have a positive impact on a political campaign. The most important thing you do as a politically involved constituent is vote. Increase your activism by not only registering to vote, but encouraging your family members, friends, and colleagues to register. All of this will help make your voice and the voice of the osteopathic profession heard on Election Day. Click [here](#) to register to vote.

Decide

- Prior to Election Day, get to know the candidates and find out where they stand on those issues that have the biggest impact on you and your practice. Once you make the decision of which candidate you will support, there are numerous ways to get involved in that campaign to ensure its success.

Volunteer

- Campaigns are always in need of volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to develop a relationship with a candidate and his or her staff before they are elected. Your time may be spent calling potential supporters, distributing campaign literature, or even being a resource for a candidate in developing and promoting stances on physician issues.

Be a Host

- Another great way to get to know candidates is to invite them to your practice or facility. This gives them a first hand look at what a physician does on a daily



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basis and how the issues they will vote on affect patient care. Hosting a fundraiser or “meet and greet” for potential candidates is another great opportunity to get to know them and demonstrate your support. It also provides a great setting for likeminded, politically active physicians to congregate and discuss key issues with potential lawmakers.

Political activism is essential to help elect a Congress that represents you, America's osteopathic physicians. No matter how small the effort may seem, the key is that the effort is made to protect your profession.

Member Spotlight

Travis Snyder, a 3rd year osteopathic medical student at Touro University-Nevada was recently elected as the Director of Political Affairs of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). In 2005, he served as the Director of Political Affairs of the Nevada Chapter of SOMA. He also has been involved with in the Touro University Osteopathic Medical Student Government Association, serving as class Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 2006, and Parliamentarian in 2007.

Travis has been a supporter of OPAC since 2006 and is a member of OPAC's Student Chairman's Club. He clearly understands the importance of student involvement in the political process, stating, "I am grateful for the opportunity the osteopathic profession and OPAC give me to be politically active. The comprehensive programs allow me to make the most of what little time I have to devote to politics. It is important that we, as students, realize that the decisions made in Congress today directly affect our ability to care for patients in the future. I encourage my fellow students to get involved with OPAC and their local campaigns to help elect more pro-physician candidates to Congress."

Travis attended the AOA's DO Day on Capitol Hill for the past two years, AOA House of Delegates in 2007, and the AOA National Convention in 2006.

Travis grew up in West Chester, PA and spent his undergraduate years at Florida State University.

Travis Snyder

New Physicians Elected to Congress

On June 22, 2007, State Sen. John Barrasso, MD (R-WY) was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY). Barrasso received his medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School in 1978 and conducted his residency in orthopedic surgery at Yale Medical School in New



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Haven, CT. Prior to his appointment to the U.S. Senate, Barrasso maintained a private practice in Casper, WY and also served as chief of staff of the Wyoming Medical Center, president of the Wyoming Medical Society and was a rodeo physician for the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association.

In 2006, Barrasso was re-elected to his second term in the Wyoming State Senate where he was chairman of the Transportation and Highways Committee. In 1996, Barrasso ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Republican Alan K. Simpson. He was defeated by current U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) in an extremely close primary election. Although Craig Thomas' term would not have ended until 2012, Barrasso's appointment only lasts through the current legislative session. A special election will be held during the 2008 general election where Barrasso and others will run for the remainder of Thomas's term. Interestingly, Sen. Mike Enzi will also face re-election in 2008.

Barrasso was appointed to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works. He joins fellow physician Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) as the only physicians currently serving in the U.S. Senate.

In the House of Representatives, Paul Broun, MD (R) was elected to represent Georgia's 10th Congressional District in a special election to fill the seat of the late Republican Rep. Charlie Norwood. Broun received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia and maintains a medical practice in Athens, Georgia, consisting primarily of house calls. Broun twice ran unsuccessfully for office, in 1996 for the U.S. Senate and in 1990 for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Broun has been appointed to the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Science and Technology Committee. Broun will serve the remainder of Norwood's term and must seek re-election in November 2008.

Special Elections Update

California 37th District

The special election to fill California's 37th Congressional District, left vacant by the death of Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D), was held on August 21st.

California State Assemblywoman Laura Richardson (D) was victorious, receiving 67% of the total vote. She defeated Republican John Kanaley, a Sergeant in the Long Beach Police Department, Green Party representative Daniel Brezenoff, and Libertarian Herb Peters. Richardson will face re-election on November 4, 2008.

Massachusetts 5th District



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On July 1, 2007 Democrat Rep. Marty Meehan (MA-5) announced his resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives to become the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, effective July 3, 2007. A special primary election has been scheduled for September 4, 2007 to determine each party's nominee for the October 16, 2007 general election in this strong Democratic district.

Declared Democratic candidates include State Rep. Jamie Eldridge, State Rep. Barry Finegold, State Rep. Jim Miceli, former Lowell Mayor and City Councilor Eileen Donoghue, and widow of former U.S. Sen. Paul Tsongas, Dean of Middlesex Community College Niki Tsongas. Currently, Rep. Finegold is the most successful fundraiser, while Tsongas picked up endorsements from Emily's List and current Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). In addition, her campaign is being chaired by former Rep. Meehan's wife, Ellen Meehan. Donoghue and Reps. Eldridge and Miceli should not be counted out just yet, but Finegold and Tsongas look to be the front runners for the Democratic nomination at this time.

Republican Jim Ogonowski, a retired U.S. Air Force Officer, will face actuary Tom Tierney in the GOP Primary.

This seat will remain likely in the Democrat column regardless of which candidate wins the Democratic primary.

2007 Gubernatorial Election Update

Kentucky

Kentucky held primary elections on May 22, 2007 where voters selected current Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R) and former Lt. Gov. Steve Beshear (D) to face off in the November 6, 2007 general election in what promises to be a nasty campaign. Fletcher was able to win 50% of the Republican primary vote despite being embroiled in scandal. Even more surprising than Fletcher's performance, Beshear avoided a runoff by winning a strong 41% of the vote in the six candidate Democratic field.

Beshear will now make this race a referendum on Fletcher's first term with a steady mention of the hiring scandal that has surrounded the Fletcher Administration. Fletcher was able to overcome the negative campaigning deciding the GOP primary. He must do the same in the general election. While Beshear is well known throughout the state, incumbency must not be overlooked. Beshear must continue to distance himself from the national Democratic Party in order to win the moderate vote in Kentucky. This race will go down to the wire.

Louisiana



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U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal (R) remains the front runner in this race to replace current Gov. Kathleen Blanco (D) who is retiring at the end of this term. Jindal, who was defeated by Blanco in 2003, will be challenged by Louisiana State Sen. Walter Boasso (D). Boasso recently bought significant television time throughout the state and is making this a closer race than many early predictions. Jindal is campaigning as a reformer promising to fix the corruption so often associated with Louisiana politics. Boasso recently sold his business for \$60 million and is willing to spend a great deal of his own money on his race. Boasso has attacked Jindal and insurance companies promising greater access to homeowner's insurance for all Louisianans and also has been actively attacking Jindal for his reluctance to participate in a candidate debate. This will be a fun race to watch until the open primary on October 20, 2007 which features candidates of all parties listed on one ballot. If no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote, a run-off election will be held November 17, 2007 between the top two primary vote getters, regardless of their party affiliation.

Mississippi

Mississippi voters went to the polls for primary elections on August 7th. In the Gubernatorial race, current Gov. Haley Barbour (R) was successful, receiving 93% of the vote in the GOP primary. On the Democratic side, attorney John Arthur Eaves, Jr. was able to secure his position as the nominee, garnering 74% of the vote. These two will face off in the general election on November 6, 2007. Gov. Barbour has amassed more than \$8 million in campaign funds and Eaves has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to spend large amounts of his own money towards his campaign. In spite of this commitment of Eaves, Barbour, who has an approval rating of close to 60%, is the odds on favorite.

Upcoming Events

September 4, 2007 – Massachusetts 5th District Primary Election

September 21, 2007 – Deadline for OPAC Club renewal to ensure recognition on signage at AOA 112th Annual Convention

September 30 – October 4, 2007 – AOA 112th Annual Convention, San Diego, CA
Look for the OPAC booth just outside the convention hall

October 1, 2007 – OPAC Reception at AOA 112th Annual Convention, San Diego, CA
Invitations will be mailed to OPAC Club members directly

October 16, 2007 – Massachusetts 5th District General Election
Deadline to register to vote – September 26, 2007

American Osteopathic Information Association - Osteopathic Political Action Committee

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October 18-21, 2007 – Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists, San Francisco, CA

Look for AOIA Director of Political Affairs and OPAC, Kristen Beaubien, to talk a little politics!

October 20, 2007 – Louisiana Gubernatorial open primary election

Deadline to register to vote – September 19, 2007

November 6, 2007 – Statewide elections held in Kentucky and Mississippi

Deadline to register to vote in Mississippi – October 6, 2007

Deadline to register to vote in Kentucky – October 10, 2007

November 17, 2007 – Louisiana Gubernatorial General election (if necessary)

Deadline to register to vote – October 17, 2007

If you haven't already supported OPAC in 2007, we encourage you to do so today. Make a contribution online at www.OsteopathicPAC.org today!

If you do not wish to receive future emails from AOIA-OPAC, please email opac@osteotech.org and include your name and AOIA membership number.