

Virginia Orthopaedic Society

Volume No. 3

Winter 2003

President's Message

Dear Fellow VOS Members:

The past few months have been busy and productive for our Society. With the able assistance of our professional management team at Ruggles Service Corporation, we have made great strides on several fronts. Our recent membership drive has brought many new surgeons from around the state into our fold. More people are continuing to join. This has generated revenue for the state society but more importantly, new members will bring more viewpoints and ideas. We need this strength and energy to help achieve our goals relative to the issues we face.

Some of these concerns are recurring, such as a renewed attempt by the podiatrists to expand their scope of practice. This attempt was stopped last year but apparently is being pursued again. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, we will be attempting to alter state law to allow for subrogation of our uncollected charges in cases where legal settlements are awarded. Ongoing vigilance related to availability and affordability of malpractice insurance also requires our attention.

Every year our Society sponsors a reception for our elected state legislators in Richmond. This event attracts a significant number of lawmakers and gives us a chance to personally discuss our concerns with the people who make our laws. I strongly encourage all of you to make an attempt to come to this event and speak to the people who have a profound impact on professional lives. This year the reception will be held on January 21, 2004 in the Executive Dining Room at the SunTrust building in downtown Richmond. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Be proactive! I also encourage each of our members to personally extend an invitation to your local representatives. They are much more likely to attend if they have constituents as their hosts.

Our annual meeting in May is shaping up very nicely. Program Chairman R. Brick Campbell has done an excellent job and he will be detailing the program for you. We have excellent guest speakers as well as exciting social events planned for you.

As I said in my last newsletter, try to stay



John J. Schaffer, MD

involved. If any of you have any ideas or questions, please contact the officers of the Society or our management staff. Have a great holiday season.

John J. Schaffer, MD
VOS President

2004 General Assembly Session Looming, VOS Pushes for Successful Legislative Reception

Democrats "Stop the Bleeding" in 2003 Elections

The 2003 General Assembly elections were held on November 4. Republicans picked up one seat in the Senate with Delegate Jeannemarie Devolites' (R-Vienna) win giving the GOP a 26-14 advantage. Democrats achieved their first net gain in House seats in over 25 years by picking up 3 seats; Republicans have a 61-37 majority and 2 independents who typically vote with them. Delegate Tom Bolvin (R-Fairfax) was the only incumbent to lose; Democrat Mark Sickles will now represent the 43rd House District.

With elections behind them, Governor Warner and Democrats are lining up against the Republican Leadership in the House of Delegates over tax structure reform. Both sides will position themselves for and against, respectively, tax-revenue increases until the General Assembly convenes on January 14. The more moderate Senate appears to be split in its position on tax system restructuring.

Annual Legislative Reception

Like so many other areas, success in Virginia politics is based on relationships. Relationships with Delegates and Senators are easiest to build through personal contact and through offering yourself as an informational resource and in-district supporter. The 2004 VOS Annual Legislative Reception on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 is a perfect opportunity to gather with colleagues in Richmond and socialize with your General Assembly representatives. These elected officials are invited to multiple events every night of the 60-day session. A brief, personal letter encouraging them to attend will greatly increase turnout and promote the Virginia Orthopaedic Society. Take fifteen minutes to send a letter on your practice letterhead asking your Delegate and Senator to join you at the reception. If you do not know your representatives, go to "Who's My Legislator?" at <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy/constinput.asp>, type in your address and all contact information will appear. Please call me if you would like assistance with this simple, but important, task.

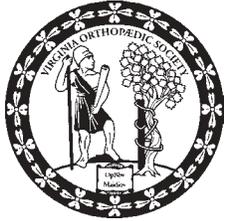
Issues Facing Orthopaedic Surgery and Medicine

VOS' engaged leadership met with stakeholders, communicated to the membership, and advocated for patient protections to negotiate with the Virginia Podiatric Medical Association (VPMA) acceptable legislation that sets limits on podiatric amputations. VPMA has indicated that it will introduce legislation that limits amputations to the proximal transmetatarsal. The agreement not to oppose this limit was based on widespread feedback from VOS members. We will closely monitor this bill to ensure it is consistent with VOS policy.

Other broad medical issues that may be addressed this General Assembly Session include medical malpractice reform to improve availability and affordability of malpractice insurance, refining areas of the Fair Business Practice (prompt payment) Act, and Medicaid reimbursement for physicians.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information on VOS advocacy efforts. I can be reached at (804) 644-4424 or cwhitehead@whiteheadconsulting.net.

Cal Whitehead



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2004 MSV PHYSICIAN LOBBY DAY

The 2004 MSV Physician Lobby Days program allows you to join the MSV legislative team and lobby your Senator or Delegate in Richmond during the General Assembly session. **Please come on January 21, 2003**, spend the day meeting with your legislators and join them at the VOS Legislative Reception on Physician Lobby Day.

VOS Legislative Reception

Wednesday, January 21, 2004
SunTrust Building, Richmond, VA

White Coat Day for Professional Liability Reform



March on Richmond to the State Capitol
February 4, 2004

The Medical Society of Virginia will be hosting a "White Coat Day" in Richmond on February 4, 2004 to make the case for common-sense Medical Liability Reform to the General Assembly. You will receive specific details in the coming days and weeks, but please mark your calendars for this very important date and plan on spending the day at the state capitol to lobby your legislators, attend the courts of Justice Committee meetings.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!!!

Virginia Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting 2004

VOS president John Schaffer and I would like to welcome old and new members to the first ever Society meeting in Norfolk, VA. The downtown Norfolk area has gone through an unbelievable revitalization in the last several years led by the arrival of the MacArthur Center and Nordstrom's, the battleship Wisconsin, the NorVa music club, and numerous chic and trendy restaurants and night spots. The energy and vitality flowing down Granby Street will certainly invigorate our meeting.

We have tried to provide something of interest to every member no matter what practice setting or state location. For those of you who could not make it to New Orleans and/or will not be heading out to San Francisco, we will bring the Academy to you. Dr. James Herndon, current president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, will be arriving Sunday to bring us up to date on the various activities of the AAOS. He will also be giving us an extremely well researched discussion of the patient safety movement. We all need to hear this, so please plan to stay through Sunday morning.

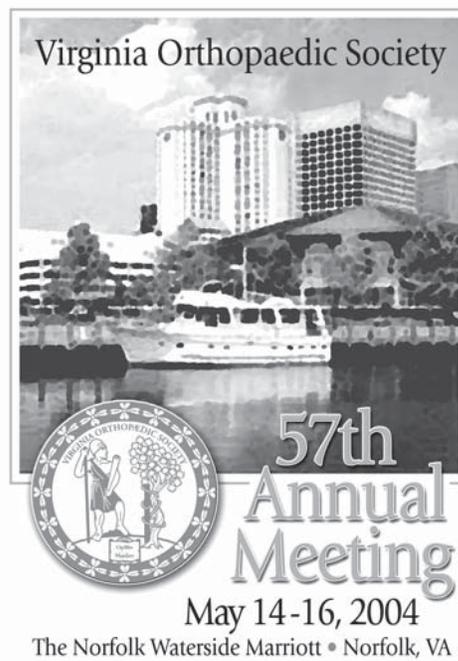
Dr. Peter Trafton, a nationally known orthopaedic trauma surgeon from Brown University, will speak on recent advances in the science of femoral and tibial fracture treatment. I have also asked him to address, from a national

perspective, how orthopaedic trauma coverage for the local and regional hospitals is being orchestrated.

Dr. William Hozak of Philadelphia will continue the discussion of MIS/LIS for the total hip, including the impact of ceramics. This is set for Friday night; dinner is being provided at the Norfolk Marriott sponsored by Howmedica.

Two practice management forums are planned. Dr. Vic Goradia of Richmond will give us a mini-in-service including practical coding tips and the use of clinical templates to help us streamline our documentation while making sure our "r's" are crossed and our bullets are loaded. We have gathered a panel of physicians with experience incorporating ancillary services into their practices from across the state. They will share with us their successes, their failures, and any recommendations they might have for the rest of us.

In keeping with the nautical nature of Norfolk (*ouch*), our social activities will involve local marine features. The Norfolk Marriott, our meeting site, is situated on the Norfolk harbor, of course. Hopefully, everyone will join us aboard the American Rover, a three-masted schooner, for a cocktail cruise and a closer look at the harbor Saturday evening. Tours of the largest



battleship in the world, the Wisconsin, are being arranged. Golf outings and/or deep-sea fishing can be facilitated if there is enough interest. We will provide some guidance to the downtown cuisine and shopping opportunities, as well.

Come early, stay late, have fun, learn something. We'll see you here.

R. Brick Campbell, MD
Program Chair

We wish to give special thanks to our corporate sponsors who supported the 2003 Annual Meeting.

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Friday Welcome Reception:

Sponsored by DePuy Orthopaedics

Welcome Dinner:

*Sponsored by Pfizer Inc. and
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Saturday and Sunday Continental Breakfasts:

Sponsored by athenahealth

Saturday Evening Dinner:

*Sponsored by Stryker Corp.,
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and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals*

Golf Outing:

Sponsored by Zimmer Mid-Atlantic



Virginia Orthopaedic Society

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Richmond, VA 23230-1086



57th Annual Meeting

May 14 - 16, 2004
Norfolk Waterside Marriott

Abstract Deadline: January 15, 2004

Submit abstracts to www.vos.org



Welcome New Members

Nigel M. Azer, MD, *Charlottesville*
Thomas G. Bergfield, MD, *Suffolk*
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VOS Legislative Reception

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