

# KCA COMMUNIQUE

May 2007

**KCA**  
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www.kansaschiro.com

**SERVING MEMBERS  
SINCE 1911**

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Lenexa

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**President:**  
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Hillsboro

## **KCA Board Supports COCSA Merger Proposal.**

After some discussion but very little outright debate on the issue, the KCA Board of Directors has given its support to the recent proposal by the Council of Chiropractic State Associations for a merger of the American Chiropractic Association and the International Chiropractic Association. As reported to KCA members earlier, the COCSA proposal demands that the two national associations sit down and work out a way to merge their organizations so that all national chiropractic leadership and resources can be focused on one mission: the future health of the profession. According to reports from monthly regional COCSA conference calls most state chiropractic associations have now registered their support for the proposal. However, some KCA members and others around the nation who support the proposal have also added that it may be very difficult to actually carry it out.

## **Physical Therapist Limited Access Bill Stuck in Confer- ence Committee.**

The legislation introduced this year by the Kansas Physical Therapy Association (House Bill 2483) to allow for up to 30 days of therapy for a pre-diagnosed condition without referral from a physician has become stuck in a Senate/House conference committee. With the adjournment of the Kansas Legislature on May 2 that means the bill is lost for this year, but can be advanced further next session. As previously reported KCA did not directly oppose the bill, which had been worked out in compromises between KPTA and the Kansas Medical Society. However, KCA did attempt to attach an amendment to the bill in the House which would prohibit spinal manipulation by physical therapists. Although our amendment was not accepted, the otherwise heavily-amended bill may have trouble advancing even next year, as the Senate and House versions are different. The KCA

Legislative Committee will be reviewing options for KCA action for next year.

## **KCA New Doctor Seminar – Save the Date.**

Topeka will be the location of this year's event on June 14 from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. Topics to be announced soon will include how to set up a new practice, billing and documentation, and patient care issues. KCA Board members will be involved in the presentations as well. Registration forms will be out soon. Save the date.

## **Consumer Protection Bill Makes It the Second Time.**

After suffering a Governor's veto on House Bill 2530, which would exempt physicians and other health care providers from being targeted by a possible new round of consumer protection lawsuits, health care provider groups came back with House Bill 2451, which redefines "health care provider" and clarifies the legal limitations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. The new bill passed the House and then the Senate by large margins in the last days of the Session, and the Statehouse word is that the Governor will sign it this time.

## **Medicare NPI Number Is**

**Now!** As early as July 1, 2007 Medicare fee-for-service contractors may begin rejecting claims that do not contain an NPI for the primary provider. The deadline for beginning to submit all HIPAA-standard claims (Medicare) with the new National Provider Identifier is May 23, 2007. Although claims processors are expected to wait until there is a clear majority of claims coming in with the NPI before trying to begin rejecting claims, those contractors are free to set up their own timetable. If you still do not have your NPI you can go to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/> on the CMS website. You should also make sure that your billing staffs begin to include your NPI on your claims as soon as possible.

**Dr. Timothy Bolz to Be Reappointed.**

The office of the Kansas Commissioner of Insurance has accepted the nomination of KCA member Dr. Timothy Bolz for reappointment to another 4-year term on the Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Governors. The nomination was made by the KCA Board of Directors and the Commissioner has already informally agreed to make the reappointment.

**KCA Committees Meet at Spring Convention.**

In between educational sessions at this year’s Spring Convention in Wichita members of the Legislative, Medicare and Membership committees each got together to lay out plans for action this year. Chairperson Dr. Travis Oller led his Legislative Committee in a discussion of a new “Adopt a Legislator” program modeled on a successful project in Nebraska to bring Association members together with their state legislators on a permanent basis. The Committee’s strategy will be to identify a limited number of KCA member volunteers to match with key legislators and then expand the program to all at a later date.

Dr. Tobi Jeurink led her Medicare Committee in discussion on the status of claims processing and payment in the Medicare program. Members are standing by to take action if and when issues arise with the new NPI identifier or any other program issues.

Membership Chairperson Dr. Kenyon Erickson and his committee had a brain-storming session where they identified alternative ways of recruiting new members for KCA, including a postcard recruiting campaign based on a “Support Your Profession” message. Members also explored ideas

such as a district competition for most new members, recruiting activities aimed at students and new practitioners.

**Your Board Report.**

The KCA Board of Directors met at the Spring Convention in Wichita on April 13 and some of the items of business handled were: KCA Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Paul Brackeen presented a financial report for the first quarter of 2007 showing income of \$104,725 against expenses of \$67,894 at this point in the year. He pointed out that dues collections were behind schedule this year and called for renewed efforts in that area by members and staff.

KCA Insurance Committee Chairperson Dr. Tim Warren reported that complaints are being received on denials of insurance claims and that contacts are being made with BC/BS and other carriers to sort out the problems.

COCSA President Dr. Jerry DeGrado reported activity concerning United Health Care claims, the possibility of renewed efforts for CA certification nationally, and the establishment of Chiropractic Emergency Response Volunteer (CERV) Teams to certify DCs for emergency preparedness.

Dr. Dennis Scharenberg, KCF President, led a presentation called “Getting the Word Out” that demonstrated public information techniques that are already being used to promote chiropractic care statewide. He hopes to get more support from KCA members in the future.

Discussion occurred on a proposal to set up a legal committee or to otherwise establish priorities for KCA le-

gal action when needed. Another proposal discussed was whether to have a convention committee to focus more on quality speakers and educational programs. A convention task force was appointed to explore the best way to make improvements in that area.

**KCA President to Address CCC Graduating Class.**

Dr. Gail Boyer has been invited to speak to the graduating class of Cleveland Chiropractic College, her alma mater, on August 17 in Kansas City. The event comes just a few months before the College will be moving its main campus and clinical program to Overland Park. Her remarks are expected to include the importance of career-long support of the chiropractic profession through active involvement in state and national associations.

**Your Experience Counts.**

KCA speakers will be presenting a wealth of information on practice and business topics for new doctors at the June 14 New Doctor Seminar (see page 1). KCA is requesting that members submit a short description of “What I Wish I Had Done Differently” when setting up a new practice. Examples might include, “Don’t buy a new copier without knowing that you can get reliable service for it,” or “the best way to approach your office layout is ....” Please send your items to the KCA office or to [kca@kansaschiro.com](mailto:kca@kansaschiro.com) as soon as possible.

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*[www.kansaschiro.com](http://www.kansaschiro.com)*  
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