

# KCA COMMUNIQUE

March/ April 2008

**KCA**  
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**SERVING MEMBERS  
SINCE 1911**

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Lenexa

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Manhattan

**Secretary/ Treasurer:**  
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Derby

**Past President:**  
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**Executive Director:**  
john Kiefhaber

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Carol

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Assitant:**  
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**Kansas Chiropractic  
Foundation**

**President:**  
Dennis Scharenberg,  
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Hillsboro

***Senate Committee Calls for Heads  
to Roll.***

In a very unusual step for the Legislature, the Senate Committee on Health Care Strategies voted late last month to demand the firing of the Executive Director and of the General Counsel of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. The extreme action came under the direction of the committee chairperson, Sen. Susan Wagle, after a series of hearings focusing on some high-profile cases of alleged patient abuse and deaths that the Committee did not think had been investigated quickly enough by the Board staff. Although there was no direct criticism of Board members, in hearings attended by KCA, the Committee certainly fired off all its ammunition at the staff. Problems that were cited by the Committee included slow investigations, unwillingness to cooperate with federal investigators in shared cases, and lack of communications with patients and families that had reported Kansas doctors. A resolution calling for “such changes in personnel as necessary to ensure that the Board effectively fulfills its statutory duties and to restore public confidence in the Board’s operations ...” passed the full Senate and went on to be passed by the full House in nearly the same form.

Before a meeting of the Board of Healing Arts could be called the next week to deal with the resolution, which did not have the force of law, both targeted staff members resigned their positions effective in June and July. It appeared that the majority of Board members did not agree with the Senate committee’s conclusions and were prepared to defend their staff members,

who had both worked for the Board since the 1980s.

The Senate committee hearings also came in response to the introduction of H. B. 2620 this year, which would allow the Board of Healing Arts to impose intermediate sanctions that would be non-disciplinary, to establish a searchable database on doctors’ history on the Internet, and to allow the use of fingerprinting and background checks on practitioners applying for license. The bill also calls for a redefinition of various offenses concerning patient care and standards of care. The KCA Legislative Committee will be reviewing new amendments to the bill before the Legislature returns for wrap-up April 30.

***Welcome New KCA Members.*** KCA district members and staff have been busily recruiting new members this year in response to the Board’s directive that increased membership is Goal #1. The following doctors represent a 7% increase in membership so far:

- Dr. Jade Meylor, KC Metro
- Dr. Casey Baker, KC Metro
- Dr. Kristina McKinsey, NE
- Dr. Lee Malmstrom, NE
- Dr. Dennis Guy, SC
- Dr. Craig Wilson, SG
- Dr. Richard Snow, KC Metro
- Dr. Thad Schneider, NC
- Dr. Jason Eichacker, SG
- Dr. Tim Bolz, NE
- Dr. Mark Childress, KC Metro
- Dr. Roger Anderson, KC Metro
- Dr. Gerald Berning, SC
- Dr. Jeffrey Howell, SC
- Dr. Stanley Diehl, SG

Dr. Kim Bell-Ginest, SG  
Dr. Grace Brewer, KC Metro  
Dr. Jeff Warner, NC  
Dr. Kristee Metts, SG  
Dr. Jeremy Goodrum, KC Metro

KCA has also welcomed over 30 new student members, mostly from the new Cleveland Chiropractic College campus in Overland Park. The recruitment campaign is called “KCA Membership on the Move.”

***Congressman Moran Reports Back to KCA.***

After a visit to his Washington office by the KCA delegation to the National Chiropractic Legislative Conference in February, Congressman Jerry Moran reports that he did meet with Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Peake to stress the importance of chiropractic care for veterans in government hospitals and rehabilitation programs. The Kansas doctors at the conference outlined the importance of inclusion of chiropractic in military and veterans programs as well as needed changes in the Medicare program. The issue is getting more attention nationally, and Senator Sam Brownback’s office has now requested further information on the long-term savings to patients with chiropractic services.

***KCA Course on Radiologic Technology Starts.***

A new 6-hour training course for chiropractic assistants, medical assistants and nurses’ aides who assist with x-ray procedures has begun with locations around the state to be announced soon. The KCA course has been developed in response to a new state requirement, starting July 1 this year, that unlicensed personnel have 12 hours of specialized training per year on safety and patient care issues. The program also should help involve chiropractic assistants in KCA activities.

***Some PTs Reporting No Pay.*** At least some physical therapists are reporting that they still cannot get paid by insurance if they do not submit a referral from a licensed doctor. Some believed that last year’s Kansas legislation allowing physical therapists to treat patients for a recurring condition for 30 days without a new doctor referral would result in opening the floodgates for non-referred patient claims payments.

***TALL Event at Capitol Goes Well.*** KCA members from across the state gathered at the Kansas statehouse for TAKE A LEGISLATOR TO LUNCH (TALL)

on February 14. Doctors stressed the importance of chiropractic in health care overall and spent time getting to know their legislators personally. KCA is focusing on getting to be better known among rank-and-file legislators as well as the leadership so that future political action or committee testimony will be more effective.

***Your Board Report.*** The KCA Board of Directors met on February 14 in Topeka and the following items of business were handled:

- Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Paul Brackeen reported an 8% budget deficit for the 2007 year, caused mainly by a decline in membership from 2006 and unexpected expenses for KCA building maintenance. His plan for recovering is to grow the membership quickly and to recruit more vendor sponsors for KCA events.
- Medicare Chairperson Dr. Tobi Jeurink reported that members in the four-state Medicare region are meeting to coordinate plans for future program improvements during and after the conversion to WPS.
- Dr. Mark Balderston reported that there have been 72 cases handled and closed since 1988 in the Impaired Physician Program administered by KCA. There are currently two cases open.
- President Dr. Gail Boyer started discussion with the Board about whether KCA should establish the position of President-elect to allow for training and planning for members who volunteer to run for President in the future. After discussion, no conclusion was reached.
- It was reported that members in the KC Metro district had begun working with Executive Director John Kiefhaber on coordinating the appearance of KCA doctors at health fairs throughout the state. This project would promote a consistent message about chiropractic for the public and for employer groups that have health fairs and would offer lists of KCA members in that area.

***Questions on Medicare?*** KCA is preparing a major report on the Medicare program for the next KCA Journal, and we need your questions and suggestions concerning the program. Please submit questions in writing by fax or e-mail by April 30 so answers can be included, without names, in the story. E-mail is [john@kansaschiro.com](mailto:john@kansaschiro.com) and fax is (785) 233-1833.

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