

Minutes of the Rhode Island Podiatric Medical Association

Date: January 18th, 2016

Location: 1149 Restaurant

Sponsor: NEPOS (New England Orthotic and Prosthetics)

Speaker: Matt Carlow of Carlow Orthopedic & Prosthetic, Inc.

Topic: OWLS (Orthomerica Wound and Limb Salvage) Product Line

I. Secretary's Report

- A. Minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting were accepted.

II. Bills and Communications

- A. Dr. John Volpe recognized for 25 years of RIPMA membership.
- B. The Rhode Island Medical Society has provided us a renewal contract for their services (providing a phone line and operator services for RIPMA, printing and mailing services, email services)
 - a. Several concerns were brought up including poor response to phone calls placed to the RIPMA phone line, misinformation given over the phone line, and also the phone operator mishandling phone calls. Dr. Cavicchio will bring these concerns back to the Rhode Island Medical Society.

III. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Fish

- A. We have \$25,000 in checking; \$14,000 in savings; \$9,000 in the PAC fund.
- B. Dr. Fish presented a plan for an advertising campaign to promote Podiatry in the state of RI. The direction is aimed at promoting Podiatrists as the "foot and ankle experts" to the general public, in an effort to increase awareness of podiatric medicine. Dr. Fish is in contact with an advertising specialist who will come up with a promotion package for us which may include a billboard promotion.
- C. A motion was passed to allot up to \$7,500 for this purpose. An advertising committee was proposed and instated to coordinate this process: Dr. Fish, Dr. Van Dine, and Dr. Roda.

IV. CAC/PIAC Report: Dr. Lepoer

- A. Update on MACRA/MIPS: As of January 1st, you should be recording data (Meaningful Use and Clinical Quality Measures) to report to avoid a penalty in 2018.
- B. If you chose to do nothing this year (2017), you will get a -4% penalty in 2019. If you chose to report something, you will not get a penalty OR bonus. If you report more than the minimum, you could qualify for up to a +4% bonus. If you do very well with your reporting, you could qualify for an exceptional performer bonus. You only need to report for a 90-day reporting period to meet the minimum criteria and avoid a penalty. To receive a bonus, you must report for the full year.
- C. The quality payment program is very nicely explained via the following link:
 - a. <https://qpp.cms.gov/>

- D. If you are **NOT** using digital films (ie you develop your x-rays with chemical process) in the office, you are required to use an “FX Modifier” when you bill, which will reduce your payment.
- E. Regarding Diabetic shoes and inserts, you need to have documentation in your record that the “shoe/insert was properly fit to the patient by the doctor” to avoid a problem if you are audited, or medical notes are requested.
- F. Three EMR programs being used by members of the society include SammyEHR, Practice Fusion, and Health Fusion.

V. APMA Delegate and APMA PAC: Dr. Cornell

- A. Members who gave to the PAC last year include: Dr. Appleton, Dr. Battey, Dr. Bigelli, Dr. Cavicchio, Dr. Cobrin, Dr. Colannino, Dr. Coppolelli, Dr. Cornell, Dr. Decesare, Dr. Fish, Dr. Gallucci, Dr. Golden, Dr. Greenburg, Dr. Cummings, Dr. Lepoer, Dr. Miele, The Heart Foundation, RIPMA, Dr. Pontarelli, Dr. Michael Reuter, Dr. Ruggiero, Dr. Simeone, Dr. Van Dine, Dr. Volpe, Dr. Waterman.
- B. A new congress is being instated; a top priority is passing the VA Bill which will give parity to podiatrists as physicians. Hopefully, this will create precedent for podiatrists outside the VA.
- C. Neighborhood “Integrity” plan update: Many patients are not aware they were switched from Medicare to this Medicaid HMO plan, which may be a problem when the patient is billed for services. Make sure you are updated on the patient’s current insurance plan. This may especially be a problem when a denial results with nursing home patients, dispensing DME and shoes, and surgery.
- D. Discussion was had over whether or not to bring this situation public as a society, or in conjunction with the Rhode Island Medical Society, or not at all.

VI. Executive Director Report: Dr. Cavicchio

- A. APMA is encouraging new membership recruitment, and maintaining current members.
 - a. Dr. Cavicchio did contact several prior members of the society who still currently practice in RI to elicit interest in rejoining at a waived or reduced membership fee.
- B. The APMA is initiating a mentorship program, they would like primarily younger members to be involved, especially those who may be located near a college or university. If anyone is interested in being a mentor, they need to be endorsed by the society, and there is an application process. Contact Dr. Cavicchio for more information if you are interested.
- C. The fee for x-ray certification has increased
- D. The RIPMA website is being updated to keep it current with our members newest contact information. Please look yourself up in the directory and report and mistakes to Dr. Cavicchio.

VII. Newport Seminar Update: Dr. Simoes

- A. Dr. Simoes and Dr. Ruggiero are stepping down from their seminar committee positions AFTER this year’s seminar. This year will be a transition year with the new committee members. The new committee members were introduced Dr. Karwal and Dr. Michael Reuter.

- B. This year's conference is May 4th, register before March 23rd to get the lowest registration fee of \$540, after that it goes to \$590, and then \$640.

VIII. New Business

- A. New RIPMA member introduction and induction: Dr. Arun Karwal (Foot and Ankle Institute) and Dr. Shaylyn Mcteague (North Smithfield Podiatry).

IX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- A. Dr. Ruggiero and Dr. Simoes: Discussed how the process of selecting speakers for the Newport Conference has changed in recent years, sometimes leading to last minute cancellations of speakers. Moving forward, the board is considering ending our relationship with the PI and considering other options. First, any and all concerns will be discussed with the PI in an attempt to continue working together.

Meeting Adjourned; Next meeting April 19th

Submitted by: Dominic Roda, DPM