



## IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2021 DUES DUE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2021

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us. COA has been working hard to provide webinars, a virtual Annual Meeting, and updates for practice survival. There are many reasons to be a member of COA. High on that list is supporting the work COA does on legislative and regulatory issues at both the state and federal levels which severely impact orthopaedic practices. It is more important than ever to pay your dues now.

### What Happened in Sacramento in 2020?

#### COA Legislative Wins:

- **Pandemic:** COA opposed legislation which would have required all physician offices to stockpile **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**. Initially, the bill required ALL physician offices to stockpile a 3-month supply of all types of PPE. While it might be a good idea to have an appropriate supply of PPE to protect you, your staff, and your patients, as introduced, this bill was excessively onerous and would have been exceedingly costly for physicians. SB 275 – the bill was eventually amended to exempt individual offices from the misguided, unfunded mandate.
- **Ownership:** COA worked within a health care coalition that opposed and defeated legislation which would have required the **California Attorney General to approve any and all health care mergers or changes in ownership**. This would have included even minor ownership changes among partners in small practices. SB 977 Died. Some version of the bill is expected to be re-introduced in 2021. COA will remain vigilant.
- **Payment:** COA negotiated updates to the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) **Medical-Legal Fee Schedule**. The latest DWC proposal includes a 25% increase and moves to a flat rate system with a basic fee of \$2,015 including a review of the first 200 pages of records, and a fee of \$3/page to review any pages above that threshold. Although not yet final, the DWC plans to implement this on April 1, 2021. COA will continue to monitor the implementation plan carefully.
- **Certification:** COA continues the battle to streamline the Radiologic Health Branch **fluoroscopy certification** so that surgeons are not delayed getting this important certification when they move to California or open practices here. COA sponsored a bill on this issue. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of bills that the Legislature was able to consider this year was limited. So, the COA bill was not taken up yet but will be re-introduced in the 2021 legislative session.

There are many other reasons for membership. Highlights of other COA accomplishments can be viewed in this 2-minute video: <https://youtu.be/BTHsX7X08o4> .

In 2021, COA will develop a registry of common group health payor problems. Currently, one of the most common problems involves “retroactive denial” of procedures that have been pre-authorized. A Task Force has been appointed to develop appropriate responses to this egregious practice. Your input on this will be appreciated and sought out in the months ahead.

If you have questions about COA membership, please click or call: Email: [admin@coa.org](mailto:admin@coa.org). Phone: (916) 454-9884.

Thank you in advance for the prompt payment of your 2021 dues and your support of the COA. And remember, we are all - **“Strong as individuals: more powerful together.”**

Sincerely,  
Lesley Anderson, M.D.  
COA President

Bob Slater, M.D.  
Membership Chair