

# The Value of Membership

## What Have FPMA/APMA Accomplished?

- The right for Podiatric Physicians to perform surgery within their scope of practice.
- The right to administer local anesthetics.
- The right to prescribe medications and controlled substances.
- Passage of the anti-discrimination bill prohibiting hospitals from discriminating against Podiatric Physicians.
- The Veterans Administration's inclusion of Podiatric Medicine in the division of medicine and surgery.
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals' recognition of Podiatric Physicians as acceptable members of hospital staffs.
- Establishment of Podiatric Medicine residency programs.
- Availability of state funds for podiatric medical students.
- Full Medicare and Medicaid recognition for Podiatric Physicians.
- Ensure that doctors of Podiatric Medicine are not discriminated against in their right to perform hospital history and physicals.
- Surgery center privileges for Podiatric Physicians.
- Redefined Podiatric medical education by standardizing residency programs and college curriculums.
- Launched the Preferred Podiatric Network to provide panels of member Podiatric Physicians for union insurance plans.
- Medicaid -- Budget recommendations were to eliminate Podiatric Medical services for adults. Through FPMA's efforts, no cuts were made to Podiatric Physician services, saving Podiatric Physicians thousands yearly.
- FPMA successfully defeated proposed legislation that would have raised Podiatric Physician liability coverage to \$1,000,000.
- FPMA was instrumental in the appeal of the 1992 fee cap on X-rays, physical therapy, and lab services performed by Podiatric Physicians, limiting those fees to 115% of the Medicare fee schedule.
- FPMA secured physician status for Florida's doctors of Podiatric Medicine.

## **What Are FPMA/APMA Working On Now?**

- Working with unions to allow full Podiatric Medical coverage in ERISA plans.
- Partnering with other medical specialties on legislative issues whenever possible to create a larger impact.
- Creating parity that will require insurers to reimburse Podiatric Physicians the same amount per procedure as other providers.
- Working to ensure that Podiatric Medicine is included in managed care reform.
- Ongoing work with Medicare carriers on issues impacting Podiatric Physicians.
- Working to enforce the law when hospitals continue to discriminate against Podiatric Physicians' right to perform hospital history and physicals.
- Continuous monitoring of legislation that could severely impair a Podiatric Physician's right to practice his/her chosen profession.

# Additional Benefits of Membership

In addition to realizing the accomplishments of a strong organization, there are several real, tangible benefits only Podiatric Physicians belonging to the Florida Podiatric Medical Association receive (some are listed below). These benefits are updated and improved on a regular basis. These are in addition to discounts on goods and services, including car rentals, office supplies, telephone services, hotels, HCFA forms, and so forth offered by the American Podiatric Medical Association and the National Guild of Healthcare Professionals.

## AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN AND FLORIDA PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS, YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO:

- Publications/Blast E-mails from FPMA and APMA, including *FPMA Footprints Magazine*, *APMA News Magazine*, *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association (JAPMA)*, *APMA News Brief*, and *APMA Weekly Focus*.
- The FPMA and APMA websites, which offer numerous resources for Podiatric Physicians, including links to information pertinent to the podiatric profession.
- The “Find a Podiatrist” feature, which is available on both the FPMA and APMA websites and is used as a referral service to the public.
- 800 phone numbers for FPMA and APMA, serving as Information Clearinghouses for members and their staffs.
- No additional charge for attending the FPMA Science & Management Symposium (SAM) every January and the FPMA June Conference, which offer members all the CME credits they need in Florida.
- Reduced fees for continuing education programs around the country.
- The FPMA Insurance Committee, which handles billing disputes and problems that members may have and work toward parity in disbursements. Members of this committee also offer advice to members on practice management and insurance issues.
- Local component meetings, where networking and lectures on current clinical and management techniques take place on a regular basis.
- Membership in affiliated organizations, including the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine, and the National Guild of Healthcare Professionals.
- Successful public relations campaigns to educate the public about foot care, which provides referrals to members.
- Public Relations materials and consultations available at no cost.

- Reduced costs for insurance provided through the Guild and APMA.
- Free consultations with committee experts on Medicare/Medicaid, third party payers, hospital privileges, OSHA, Workers' Compensation, CLIA, etc.
- Discounts on ICD and CPT Code Books.