



Spring Convention and House of Delegates

March 28-30, 2025

Arlington, VA

Highlights

Following DO Day on Capitol Hill, we began our Spring Convention with an address from the outgoing SOMA President, **Cassandra Holub**, who welcomed us. **AOA CEO Kathleen Creason, MBA, AOA President Dr. Teresa Hubka, DO, and AOA President-Elect Dr. Robert Piccinini, DO** joined us and spoke about how all students are members of the AOA, and about the advocacy of the AOA in preventing discrimination. Following the AOA leaders, **Dr. John Gimpel, DO**, from the NBOME addressed us about an update on the COMLEX testing. We were then about to hear from our new incoming President **Joshua Connor** and National Board of Directors Chair **Raelynn Dorscheid** about what being a member of SOMA means, followed by SOMAF Chairperson, **Monzer Altrach** to provide important information about how to become involved in the SOMA Foundation. The region meetings were a great time for the Chapter Leaders to meet their Region Trustees and fellow leaders, and begin planning exciting plans for the upcoming year. We had an amazing SOMA reception, with SOMA partners SOMAF, AAOA, and Mindsplit Cafe present to help share information to students about how their partnerships promote and support students in SOMA. Additionally, we had a **community outreach** event where we made 48 wellness kits in partnership with Doorways, a local non-profit organization focused on supporting individuals experiencing domestic violence in the DC area. Our Political Affairs Director **Dylan Bogle** held an open forum about how to start grassroots advocacy campaigns. The final events on Friday included a hands on OMT in Sports Medicine session with **Dr. Mark Rogers DO, and Vincent Morra, DO**, a suture skills lab led by OMS-III and IV students and an interactive presentation from the **Overdose Prevention Committee** about harm reduction.

The highlights from Spring Convention Day 2 included an introduction to Robert's Rules from our new Vice President **Maria Rollinger** and Parliamentarian **Raashmi Krishnasamy**, and the House of Delegates which included many pertinent resolutions impacting students and current issues. We had lunch with the current OMS-IV students who matched, where it was a time for chapter leaders to learn more about specialties and ask questions about how to apply for residencies. This included the specialties of Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Surgery, and Internal Medicine. Additionally, on Saturday, Pre-SOMA had a full day of virtual programming for pre-medical students across the country with highlights of a suture knot tying demonstration, a CV workshop, and MCAT preparation presentation.

On Day 3 of Spring Convention, we began with Empower Hours, where the various directors from the National Board of Directors introduced their goals for the upcoming year. After that, we had the wonderful opportunity to hear from **Dr. Jordan Spencer, DO**, about emotional intelligence as our keynote speaker of the convention. His presentation was inspiring and very thought provoking. Following Dr. Spencer, we heard updates about each of the Committees, Subcommittees and Task Forces and what they were able to accomplish in the past year. This update was given by the outgoing President **Cassandra Holub** and outgoing National Board of Directors Chair **Nick Cristofari**. The National SOMA awards were presented next, and the winners are listed below. To conclude the conference, we heard for the last time from our outgoing President, **Cassandra Holub**. We have been so grateful for her leadership during this past year. We then heard from the new incoming President, **Joshua Connor**, who introduced his fellow incoming national leadership. The names and positions of the new leaders can be found below.

Board of Trustees for the 2025-2026 Year

Joshua Connor, OMS-IV, President and Chair of BoT

Maria Rollinger, OMS-IV, Vice President and Speaker of the House

Raelynn Dorscheid, OMS-IV, National Board of Directors Chairperson

Caitlyn Simtion, OMS-IV, Treasurer

Mara Krutsinger, OMS-III, Secretary

Raashmi Krishnasamy, OMS-III, Parliamentarian

Palmer Ford, OMS-IV, AOA Board of Trustees Student Representative

Monzer Alatrach, OMS-IV, SOMA Foundation Chairperson

Kenny Wen, OMS-III, Region I Trustee

Ross Thompson, OMS-III, Region II Trustee

Shivika Gaiind, OMS-III, Region III Trustee

Haley Budensiek, OMS-III, Region IV Trustee

Lu Wolff, OMS-III, Region V Trustee

Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 Year

Preston Capener, OMS-III, Convention

Shamirah Johnson, OMS-III, Diversity, Equity and Health Initiatives

Lauren Huelson, OMS-III, Membership and Alumni Affairs

Alyssa Arellano, OMS-IV, OPP and Wellness

Chethana Gallage Dona, OMS-IV, Senior Pre-SOMA

Idamys Saez Acosta, OMS-III, Junior Pre-SOMA

Dylan Bogle, OMS-IV, Political Affairs

Zachary Mendola, OMS-III, Professional Development

Vani Ganesh, OMS-III, Public Relations

Clayton Rawson, OMS-III, Research

Emily Fox, OMS-III, Community Outreach

Ryan Murphy, OMS-III, Strategic Partnerships

SOMA Awards

Promotion of Osteopathic Medicine Award

- Region 1: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 2: Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Fort Lauderdale
- Region 3: Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 4: Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 5: California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Excellence in Community Service Award

- Region 1: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 2: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 3: Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Region 4: New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine - Arkansas
- Region 5: Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine

2025 Chapter Officer of the Year

- Kelly McGowen, OMS-II, Chapter President, Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

SAM Award

- Mara Krutsinger, OMS-II, Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

Golden Tibia Award

- Rocky Vista University Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine

Golden Femur Award

- Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Recognition of Service Award

- Amy Chiou
- Ava DiGirolamo
- Austin Watson
- Julia Beck
- Julia Moore
- Grace Hwang
- Mahi Basra
- Momo Cote

Distinguished Service Award

- Cassandra Holub
- Kailey Jacobson
- Nathaniel Gentry
- Nicholas Cristofari
- Sneha Polam
- Palmer Ford
- Tyson Hillock
- Matthew Boss
- Phuong Vo
- Jenn Wilson

2025 President's Award

- Momo Cote, Public Relations Director, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

A Look Ahead to SLM 2025

Save the date for the Summer Leadership Meeting!!

Dates: July 16-18, 2025

Location: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel (540 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611)

Memorandum to come soon! Please reach out to Region Trustees with any questions!

Post-Convention Survey

Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey! Winners of the COMQUEST drawing will be notified soon!

Committee Applications are now open!!

CALLING ALL SOMA MEMBERS!! We are now accepting applications for SOMA Committee members for the 2025 — 2026 term. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in any of our SOMA initiatives that mirror your passion projects and

allow you to explore different avenues of SOMA involvement and leadership.
Applications will be due by April 30th at 11:59pm CST.

If you have any questions about the committee's roles and responsibilities and / or time commitment, please reach out to our NBD Chair, Raelynn Dorscheid (nbdchair@studentdo.org) and the respective director that oversees/advises that committee.

[2025-2026 National SOMA Committee Application](#)

Thank you all!

If you have any convention related questions or concerns, please email convention@studentdo.com or convcommittee@studentdo.com

Preston Capener, OMS III
Convention Director