

Dear MAG Delegates and Alternates,

In 1986, I began the challenging and rewarding journey of participating in organized medicine. Since then, it has been my honor and privilege to serve physicians and our patients at the local, state and national levels—through the Okefenokee Medical Society, the Eighth District Medical Society, MAG, the GA Society of Ophthalmology, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the AMA.

In my experience, the AMA HOD is unquestionably the widest reaching policy-making body in organized medicine. The AMA is also the big dog in DC, even when we don't like every single thing the AMA does in that venue.

We should all be proud of the impact MAG's small delegation (6 delegates out of over 650) makes in the national arena. Your delegation has swayed the debate and decision on numerous occasions, to steer official AMA policy closer to conformity with MAG HOD policy. If there were more AMA members in GA, our impact would be even greater.

This has required hard work from each of our delegation members, following extensive discussions on strategy. One of our most effective advocacy tools has been the relationships we have developed with other key delegates and AMA leaders over the years—and, of course—the insightful and nuanced policy that we all develop at the MAG House.

As the result of my ongoing work efforts and the relationships Georgia has established in organized medicine, I was honored to have served as the Chairman of the Southeastern Delegation to the AMA, which represents 16 states plus DC and Puerto Rico. With this collaboration, we elevate MAG's influence from that of 6 delegates to that of 120.

The practice of medicine is obviously evolving. Your AMA delegation's commitment to the doctor-patient relationship remains our most important guiding principal, with maintaining the practice of medicine as a viable profession being a close second. There are many serious challenges, as there have always been. You know what they are and so do we.

As physician advocates, let's celebrate the ongoing victories and positive impact of organized medicine in GA and the US, while we strive to make the best of our setbacks and reverse or mitigate them whenever and wherever we can. And let's bring our friends and colleagues along for the ride. Together we really are stronger.

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to advocate for MAG's positions in the considerations of the AMA HOD. MAG's positions will continue to be my positions, as your delegate.

I respectfully ask for your vote for re-election to the office of MAG Delegate to the AMA HOD.

Sincerely,

Bill Clark, MD, Waycross

MAG AMA Delegate

PS. If you are not currently an AMA member, *please join or rejoin this year.* You can do this by going online to www.ama-assn.org online.