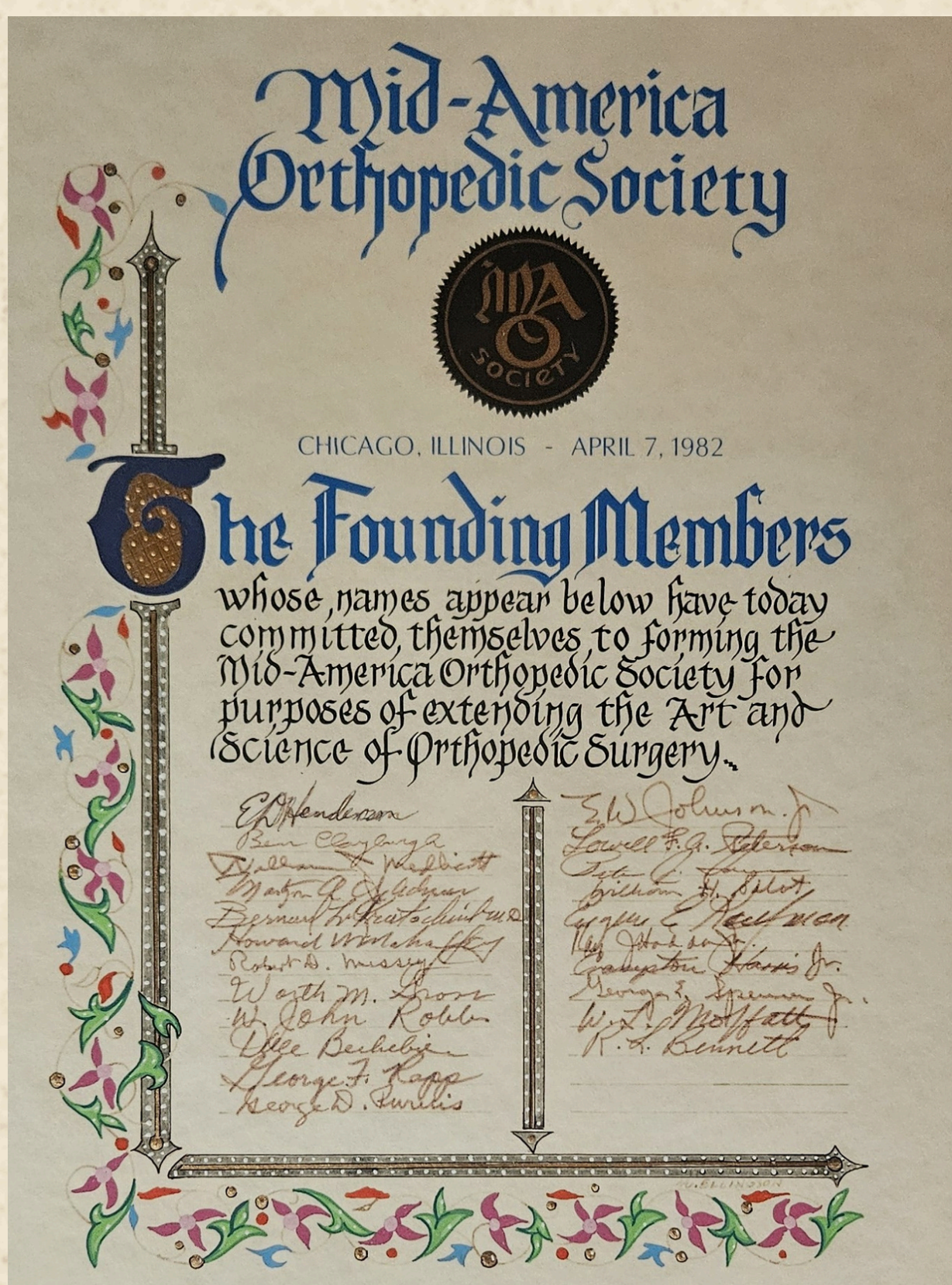


HISTORY OF MID-AMERICA ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION



Mid-America Orthopaedic Association was established on April 7, 1982, when 22 representatives from 19 Mid-America states gathered in the basement of the Sheraton Hotel at Chicago O’Hare Airport. During their meeting, they finalized plans for the new orthopedic association and signed a document stating: “The Founding Members whose names appear below have today committed themselves to forming the Mid-America Orthopaedic Society for the purpose of advancing the Art and Science of orthopedic surgery.”

The group comprised 21 orthopedic surgeons and one industry executive, with each of the 19 states represented by a councilor from the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Edward D. Henderson, MD, and E. W. Johnson, Jr., MD, who were not councilors, alongside Ben J. Clayburgh, MD, who was a councilor, played a key role in assembling the participants. Mr. R. Lew Bennett, then CEO of Richards Co., was invited for his expertise in aiding the formation of the Eastern Orthopaedic Association and drafting its by-laws. Although no formal photograph was taken, one of the delegates captured the moment using a pocket camera.

MAOA Founders Photo | April 7, 1982



Back Row - left to right:
Worth M. Gross, MD*
Mr. R. Lew Bennett*
Bennie J. Clayburgh, MD*
George F. Rapp, MD*
Crampton Harris, Jr, MD*
William J. Medicott, MD*
Robert D. Mussey, MD*
OK
TN
ND
IN
AL
MO
IL

Back Row - left to right:
Eugene E. Kaufman, MD*
William L. Moffatt, Jr, MD*
W. John Robb, MD*
L.F.A. Peterson, MD*
George D. Purvis, Jr, MD*
Peter J. Irwin, MD*
KS
TN
IA
MN
MS
AR

Front Row - left to right:
William H. Salot, MD*
Dale E. Berkebile, MD
Martyn A. Goldman, MD*
Howard W. Mahaffey, MD*
Edward D. Henderson, MD*
MI
SD
KY
WI
MN

Front Row - left to right:
Ray J. Haddad, Jr, MD*
E. W. Johnson, Jr, MD*
George E. Spencer, Jr, MD*
Bernard L. Kratachvil, MD*
LA
MN
OH
NE

*Deceased

Mid-America Orthopaedic Association was founded with the goal of hosting an annual scientific conference and bridging the gap between the Eastern and Western Orthopaedic Associations, both of which had state-defined boundaries as seen on the 1982 map. In addition to advancing orthopedic surgery, the Association sought to foster fellowship and social connections among members by holding family-friendly meetings at resort hotels.

During its formative meeting, members established the Association’s mission: “The purpose of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association is to extend the art and science of orthopedic surgery and supply a forum for free discussion of its various aspects.” A Board of Directors was appointed, with Edward D. Henderson, M.D., of Minnesota as the first President, Worth M. Gross, MD, of Oklahoma as Vice-President, and E. W. Johnson, Jr., MD, of Minnesota as Managing Director.



1982

The Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and taxation documents were drafted by Gregg S. K. Orwoll, JD, who served as General Counsel from 1982 to 2009 and presided over all membership meetings during his tenure. The official seal was adopted on November 8, 1982, following a motion by Dr. Purvis, approving a design presented by Dr. Johnson featuring an orthopedic tree encircled by the Association’s title.

On July 23, 1983, the Board reviewed a proposed medallion that could serve as a logo pin or be worn as a presidential symbol at annual meetings. A motion by Dr. Haddad, seconded by Dr. Johnson, approved the purchase of the medallion, which was originally suspended by a black ribbon. Some members advocated for a brighter, more festive ribbon, leading to the adoption of green, yellow, and purple Mardi Gras colors—an iconic tradition that continues today.



E. W. Johnson, Jr., MD

The Association benefited from strong leadership and adherence to its founding principles. As the first Managing Director, Dr. Johnson was committed to reinvesting funds into education for residents and young orthopedists. He emphasized responsible financial management, prudent spending, and an active, dedicated Board of Directors. His philosophy guided the organization, setting a precedent for professional education institutions.

Dr. Johnson also ensured that meetings remained engaging and relevant as membership needs evolved. He actively sought industry support to build a strong financial foundation, enabling the Association to host high-quality, well-funded events. His efforts were supported by Executive Secretary Becky Carlson (Waara), whose contributions further strengthened the organization’s operations and outreach.

The inaugural Annual Meeting of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association took place at The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO, from May 18 to 22, 1983. Under the leadership of President Edward D. Henderson, M.D., the event welcomed 205 orthopedists, representing 19.5% of the Association’s first-year membership of 1,028. Exhibitors from 23 companies participated, lending their support to the gathering.

The first program featured 27 scientific papers, along with distinguished speakers. Presidential Guest Speaker Professor Willy W. Rittmann from Rorschach, Switzerland, provided insight into the field, while three “Classics” Speakers—Rocco Calandrucci, MD, of Memphis, TN; Daniel C. Riordan, MD, of New Orleans, LA; and Edward H. Simmons, MD, of Toronto, Canada—shared their expertise. Since that first meeting, the tradition of including a Presidential and Classics speakers has remained a cornerstone of the Annual Meeting.



1987

At the Fifth Annual Meeting, held at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, CA, Texas was officially added to the association with the support of John J. Hinchey, MD, who was recognized as an Honorary Founder. This expansion increased the number of member states to 20, as reflected in the 1987 map.

During this meeting, the concept of breakout sessions was introduced to accommodate the growing number of submitted papers. Initially, four breakout sessions were scheduled for the third day, providing focused discussions on specific topics. Due to the continued influx of submissions, breakout sessions were incorporated into each day of the Sixth Annual Meeting in 1988 and became a standard feature thereafter. Meanwhile, daily plenary sessions remained an essential component, allowing time for panel discussions, guest speakers, and award-winning presentations.



John J. Hinchey, MD
Honorary Founder

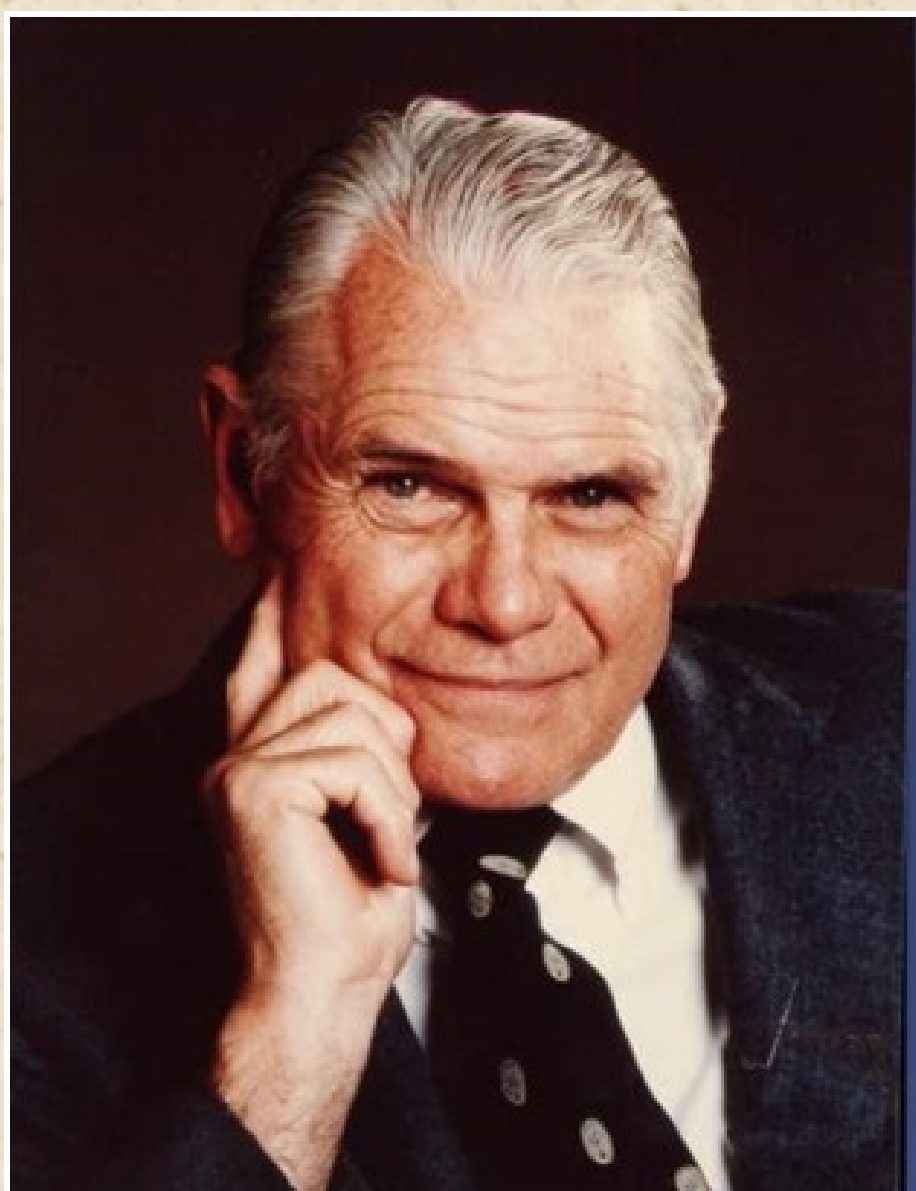
The Seventh Annual Meeting in 1989 was held at the Southampton Princess Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda. As the Association’s educational influence grew, the Board created the role of Education Director—later evolving into the Education Committee Chair—to expand learning beyond scientific papers and expert presentations. This led to the introduction of a pre-meeting course, “How to Manage and Market Your Orthopaedic Practice.”

By the Eleventh Annual Meeting, three early-morning Instructional Courses were added to the Friday schedule, along with occasional symposiums open to members and guests. Notable topics included “AIDS” at the Eleventh Meeting, “The Future of Orthopaedic Surgery” at the Twelfth, and “Osteoporosis for the Practicing Orthopedist and Spouse” at the Thirteenth.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting in 1995 at The Breakers in Palm Beach, FL, introduced Poster Exhibits, creating an additional platform for scientific presentations that remains a core feature today. During this time, the Association also explored case forums, controversy panels, and multimedia education, including instructional videos from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, to further support member learning.

HISTORY OF MID-AMERICA ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

Following the Fourteenth Annual Meeting in 1996, the growing importance of instructional courses—evidenced by strong attendance—led to the establishment of the Education Committee. Under its guidance, these courses became an integral and permanent feature of the annual meeting, further enhancing the Association’s commitment to professional development and education.



Howard H. Steel, MD

The first Steel Lecture was introduced at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting in 1996, held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, TX. The Lectureship was inaugurated by its benefactor, Howard H. Steel, MD, of Villanova, PA, who presented “Creations, Discoveries, and Inventions.” Dr. Steel envisioned the lecture as an opportunity to expand the intellectual horizons of orthopedists through non-orthopedic topics. Over time, it has also become a source of entertainment for spouses and children attending the event.

Dr. Johnson continued his tenure as Managing Director through the Sixteenth Annual Meeting in 1998, after which he resigned due to health reasons. In recognition of his contributions, he was honored as an Honorary President during the meeting.

Hamlet A. Peterson, MD, was elected by the Board of Directors to assume leadership, officially beginning his term at the conclusion of the meeting. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Peterson reinforced the Association’s commitment to financial responsibility, ensuring that both the organization and its annual meetings remained focused on education for orthopedic residents, as well as young and established orthopedists. He upheld the principle that annual meetings should be engaging and reflective of the evolving educational and professional landscape. Despite economic challenges and shifting industry relations, he diligently maintained fundraising efforts. Additionally, Dr. Peterson guided the Board’s decisions by analyzing long-term statistical trends from past annual meetings and Association activities.



Hamlet A. Peterson, MD



George F. Rapp, MD

The Rapp Lecture on "The Cutting Edge" in Orthopedic Surgery was inaugurated at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting in 2000 at the Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, AZ. Funded by George F. Rapp, MD, a Founder from Indiana and President of the Fifth Annual Meeting in 1987, this ongoing lecture series has become a valuable tradition.

Leading up to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting, the Development Committee of the Education and Research Fund was established to foster industry relationships and contributions toward the Association’s granting activities. Membership contributions were later incorporated to build an endowment for the Association’s Fund. From 2000 to 2011, Alan H. Wilde, M.D., the 16th President (1998), chaired this initiative until the committee was dissolved. Afterward, the office staff continued these functions until 2015, when Craig Roberts, MD volunteered as the Development Consultant—a position he continues to hold today.

The importance of technical exhibits to the success of the annual meeting has long been recognized. Initially, the Exhibits Committee Chair functioned as an ex officio Board member, attending annual Board meetings and future site visits. However, at the Twenty-First Annual Meeting in 2003 at the Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC, the Exhibits Committee Chair was officially granted full Board membership.

Awards and grants were first established in 1987 and introduced at the Sixth Annual Meeting in 1988. These included a "Traveling Residency Program" grant and the "Resident with Top Paper on Program" award, both aimed at supporting residents and young orthopedists in training or early in their careers. Initially sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme, the resident paper awards were named after Edward D. Henderson, M.D., J. Albert Key, M.D., and Dallas B. Phemister, M.D. at the Seventh Annual Meeting. Later, at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting, an award was added to honor E.W. Johnson, M.D., and in the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting, the J. Albert Key, M.D. Award was renamed in recognition of Carl L. Nelson, M.D.

Following the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting at La Quinta Resort & Club, La Quinta, CA, in 2004, the Board sought to update the Association’s purpose statement. A Mission Statement was adopted before the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting at Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island, FL, in 2005: "The mission of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association is to enhance the musculoskeletal health and well-being of all people through orthopedic education and research, and to promote fellowship and socialization amongst members."

Recognizing the role of annual meetings in helping orthopedic residents gain valuable research presentation experience, the Association remained committed to adapting its programs to meet members' evolving educational and professional needs. In 2013, the Board of Directors revised the mission statement to reflect this ongoing commitment: "The mission of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association is to serve its members through outstanding educational and fellowship opportunities and to provide value-added services, at the annual meeting and throughout the year."

In 2009, Gregg S. K. Orwoll, J.D. resigned as General Counsel and was succeeded by William A. Brown, J.D.. That same year, Hamlet Peterson, M.D. was honored as an Honorary President at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting. Following the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting in 2010, Dr. Peterson stepped down as Managing Director.



Miguel E. Cabanela, MD

Miguel E. Cabanela, M.D., assumed the role of Managing Director, carrying forward the tradition of serving as a wise and fair advisor to the Board while overseeing administrative operations. At the conclusion of the 2021 Amelia Island meeting, he announced his resignation, and during the San Antonio meeting, he was honored as an Honorary President in recognition of his contributions.

In December 2021, David G. Lewallen, M.D., who had previously served as President in 2011, stepped into the role as the fourth MAOA Managing Director. His leadership was instrumental in organizing and ensuring the success of the 2022 annual meeting in April.

The Resident Trivia Quiz Bowl was introduced at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting in 2017, hosted by Tad Mabry, M.D. from Mayo Clinic, with the intention of passing the tradition on to future hosts. Using a game show format, two-member teams from enthusiastic training programs competed by answering both medical and obscure trivia questions. A highlight of Saturday morning, the event has become a fun yet occasionally embarrassing experience for participants, with the winning team earning bragging rights until the following year.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for April 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the 2021 meeting. It was rescheduled to September 2021 at Amelia Island, FL, co-hosted by Presidents Matthew Mormino, MD, and Craig Mahoney, MD. At the conclusion of the event, the gavel was passed to Norman Turner, MD, who presided over the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, in April 2022.

Under the leadership of Dr. Johnson, the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association established its home office in Rochester, MN. To assist with logistics for the First Annual Meeting, the Association partnered with the Rosenbluth Travel Agency, where Jeannette McFarlane led efforts alongside her husband Jim and colleague Maryann Lang. Their collaboration continued until 2015, when Jeannette retired. In 2016, Linda Freeman was appointed as Meeting Consultant, overseeing event planning for the Association until 2025.

The continued success of Mid-America Orthopaedic Association is attributed to the dedication of its Managing Directors - Drs. Johnson, Peterson, Cabanela, and now David Lewallen. As well as the invaluable contributions of its Executive Assistants, including Becky (Carlson) Waara (1982-1990), Sue (Krusemark) McKinley (1990-2020), Pam Kluck (1996-2025), Cayen VanLaere (2020-present), and Beth Helland (2025-present).



David G. Lewallen, MD
Managing Director



Beth Helland
Executive Assistant



Cayen VanLaere
Executive Assistant



MAOA HISTORIANS

1982-1987	Ray J Haddad, Jr, MD	New Orleans, LA
1987-1988	William C. Allen, MD	Columbia, MO
1988-1994	E. Campton Harris, Jr., MD	Mobile, AL
1994-1997	John E. Suelzer, MD	Indianapolis, IN
1997-2003	Frank B. Throop, MD	Indianapolis, IN
2003-2009	Bernard L. Kratochvil, MD	Omaha, NE
2009-2015	Thomas L. Schmidt, MD	Prairie Village, KS
2015-2024	Robert L. Kurland, MD	Rochester, MN
2024-2026	Bernard Stulburg, MD	Rochester, MN