

Subject: Establishing A Distinct Osteopathic Identity Based on Osteopathic Philosophy

Check one:

- Resolution is intended for Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
 - Resolution is for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates
 - Resolution is intended for both the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates
-

Whereas, clearly establishing a distinctive Osteopathic professional identity is necessary for the continued expansion and health of the Osteopathic profession, and

Whereas, Osteopathic distinctiveness is based on the insights of AT Still that led to the formation of Osteopathic philosophy, and

Whereas, to describe Osteopathic philosophy AT Still wrote that:

“Life is matter in motion,”¹ and

“When all parts of the human body are in line we have health. When they are not the effect is disease. When the parts are readjusted disease gives place to health,”² and

Whereas, in the first Osteopathic medical school, the American School of Osteopathy, AT Still taught Osteopathic philosophy, and the clinical application of Osteopathic philosophy led to the development of Osteopathic manipulative treatments, and

Whereas, the tenets of Osteopathic philosophy as originally espoused by AT Still retain validity today when expressed in modern scientific terminology, and

Whereas, Osteopathic philosophy is based on inductive reasoning and therefore arranges existing factual knowledge to develop theories, rather than using deductive reasoning to establish new facts,

Be It Resolved that,

The Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association establish that Osteopathic philosophy can be characterized as an inductive form of reasoning that involves the concepts of Life, Health, Morbidity, and Healing,

And Be It Further Resolved that a modern translation of AT Still's historic language expresses that:

- Life's homeostatic processes express a force that absorbs, excretes and changes the molecular structure of Earth's environmental matter to form, or aggregate, an organism;
- Health is the state of normal physiologic function resulting from the appropriate aggregated material structure of the organism and its parts;
- Morbidity results from a loss of normal function due a loss of aggregated structure, or increased entropy, within the organism's aggregated matter, and
- Healing is the restoration of the functional aggregated structure of the matter forming the organism resulting in a return normal function,

Fiscal Impact (if applicable): None

References

1. Still AT. The Philosophy and Mechanical Principles of Osteopathy. Kirksville, MO: Author, 1892. Then, Kansas City, MO: 1902. Reprinted, Kirksville, MO: Osteopathic Enterprises; 1986
2. Still AT. Osteopathy Research and Practice. Seattle, WA: Eastland Press; 1992. Originally published by the author; 1910.