



POMA District VIII

Important Update

ANNUAL WINTER SEMINAR MOVING JANUARY 2023 TO SEVEN-SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT, CHAMPION, PA

April 21, 2022

Dear POMA District 8 Members, Winter Seminar Attendees and Exhibitors:

Thank you for having previously attended, participated in, or sponsored as an exhibitor at the POMA District 8 Annual Winter Seminar. We just held our 35th Annual Winter Seminar, in a Hybrid Format, welcoming both In-Person and Virtual Attendees as we continue with the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. It was wonderful to see so many of you in person once again at Nemaocolin as well as to interact with those unable to attend on site but still participate live virtually! Being together as an Osteopathic Family is such a huge part of the overall experience of this conference. Certainly, the educational component to enhance and hone our skills as Osteopathic Physicians and to that end to be able to provide the best care possible to our patients following our return to our practices once we depart the conference is a significant focus. However, the POMA District 8 Annual Winter Seminar is so much more. We as the POMA District 8 Officers and Education Committee strive yearly to provide a family-friendly environment for our hard-working members and attendees to be able to reconnect, reenergize and refocus our personal and professional lives with other members and colleagues, as well as to have much needed time with family in each of our hectic professional lives. Family is so important to each of us to find some semblance of work-life balance to be the best physician, parent, spouse, colleague, etc. to each of those who are important in our lives.

We have provided this conference from its inception in 1987 at Hidden Valley, and since 2005 at Nemaocolin. As the conference has grown, we have continued to evolve in how we meet our member's needs. Certainly, this year was no exception during the ongoing pandemic. We as the POMA District 8 Officers & Education Committee went to significant effort to return to some sense of normalcy with our conference as well, welcoming you all back in a hybrid format for this most recently completed conference. This did not come about easily with many challenges along the way, overcome with the tremendous assistance and efforts of our amazing POMA Staff in the POMA Central Office in Harrisburg!

However, we are now looking to the future of the POMA District 8 Annual Winter Seminar with the ongoing main goal to provide affordable and pertinent education for our members and attendees in a family friendly environment. Unfortunately, despite exhaustive discussions with the leadership and management of Nemaocolin, we will no longer be able to do so at that facility. They have made it abundantly clear, that despite our longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship of the POMA District 8 Annual Winter Seminar, which has provided a significant benefit to them as well at a time of year that Nemaocolin is traditionally not well utilized, they are going in a different direction as a company. They have essentially decided they are NOT going to participate with any conference type activities and are rather significantly changing their focus as a resort. Specifically, one of the planned changes is that they are moving to an "all butler" resort for each room, similar to what they have done at Falling Rock with the most inexpensive room to start around \$799.00 per night! This includes the Lodge, which is to begin renovations over the next year and will be closed around that same time. During these difficult discussions with Nemaocolin we have been doing our due diligence as your elected leaders by looking at alternative venues if indeed this unfortunate inevitability with Nemaocolin came to this regrettable conclusion, which I am sad to say is the case. We have had a wonderful relationship with Nemaocolin, but a mutually agreeable continued relationship could not be reached due to this change in management philosophy of the resort. Please know that we have attempted in good faith to continue to remain at Nemaocolin. I personally have been quite saddened and upset to how we as a group, and myself personally, have been dismissed by them despite our long relationship over all these years. I have personally been going to Nemaocolin since 1996, long before our conference moved to the resort. Nemaocolin is where I proposed to my wife, Michelle, at the small chapel along the walking trail. I mention this to you only to allow you to understand that I personally, and we as the leadership of District 8, have done all that we can to try to sustain this relationship with Nemaocolin, unfortunately to no avail.

To that end, we are pleased to report to you all that we have secured **The 7-Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, Pa. for our POMA District 8 Annual Winter Seminar starting in 2023!** We were able to keep the dates we had planned, **Thursday, January 26 - Sunday, January 29, 2023.** We have had significant discussions and negotiations with 7-Springs and have been able to secure many of the same benefits, amenities and pricing, some of which are at a better discount on behalf of our members. As

luxurious as Nemaocolin as a resort is, we are excited to get back to our roots as a truly family-friendly conference. We suspect there will be some challenges and growing pains with a change in venue, like what we experienced our first several years when we moved from Hidden Valley to Nemaocolin. We pledge to you that we will continue to strive to provide the quality, affordable education in a relaxing and family-oriented atmosphere, as has always been our goal. We look forward to this next phase of our journey together and the future of POMA District 8 and Our Annual Winter Seminar!! We will provide more information later in the year with registration, room reservation information and so forth as we would traditionally leading up to the conference.

Stay safe and be well! We look forward to seeing you all at 7-Springs in January 2023!!

Osteopathically Yours,

The POMA District 8 Officers & Education Committee:

Gene Battistella, DO, Chair	Tom DeGregory, DO
Pete Stracci, DO, Vice-Chair & Trustee	Dennis Eckels, DO
Jessica Masser, DO, Treasurer	Margel Guie, DO
Les Pallone, DO, Chair-Emeritus	Kevin Thomas, DO

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