



## Code of Leadership

The Mission of the American Academy of Osteopathy, as established by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, is to teach, advocate, advance and research the science, art and philosophy of osteopathic medicine, emphasizing the integration of osteopathic principles, practices and manipulative treatment in patient care.

As an elected or appointed leader of the American Academy of Osteopathy, I am fully committed to the Academy and its Mission. I recognize that wearing the mantle of leadership is a higher calling and carries additional responsibilities and obligations to support the activities of the AAO. As a leader, my decisions and actions must be guided by what is best for the Academy.

To this end, I pledge to honor and promote the Academy and its Mission by following three guiding principles:

**I. I will maintain and strengthen the Vision of the AAO by the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, as demonstrated by...**

- Defining with my colleagues the Mission of the Association and participating in strategic planning to review the purposes, programs, priorities, funding needs, and targets of achievement.
- Annually contributing to osteopathic philanthropy, encouraging DO colleagues to do the same.
- Publicly supporting and promoting the Academy's policy within the osteopathic family and to the public.

**II. I will conduct myself with the highest level of Integrity to honor the AAO and to support the highest ideals of the osteopathic profession for which it stands, as demonstrated by...**

- Accepting the Bylaws of the Academy, understanding that I am morally and ethically responsible for the health and vitality of the AAO, and adhering to a conflict of interest policy by recusing myself from discussions or votes in which I may have a conflict of interest.
- Leading the way by being an enthusiastic booster and a positive advocate for the Academy, and extend that enthusiasm to the AAO's component societies.
- Accepting that every AAO leader is making a statement of faith about every other leader, we trust each other to carry out this Code to the best of our ability.

**III. I will be Competent in my actions and decisions for the AAO, as demonstrated by...**

- Fulfilling my fiduciary responsibilities as defined in the bylaws, whether reviewing and approving the annual budget, overseeing adherence to it, ensuring an independent audit takes place, and overseeing the investment policies and procedures of the Academy, or ensuring that those leaders so charged fulfill these responsibilities.
- Making myself available to attend meetings, taking phone calls, and serving on committees, and being prepared for these meetings by reading agenda and other materials.
- Understanding that the leader's job is to govern, not manage, and that the only staff member accountable to the Board of Trustees is the Executive Director.