

**ACA NEWS**  
**By James D. Edwards, D.C.**  
**ACA Treasurer and District VI Governor**

**ACA, VCA PETITIONS THE COURT OF APPEALS**

George McAndrews, Esq., recently submitted to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals a motion for rehearing before both the three-judge panel that submitted the recent ruling, and before the entire appellate court. A copy of the petition laying out the justification for this request, and the argument refuting the decision, can be found on our Web site at: <<http://www.acatoday.com/media/releases/pdf/03-1675%5B1%5D.prh.all.pdf>>.

We anticipate that the court will review our motion in fairly short order (two weeks to a month) and render a decision on whether or not to rehear the issue. If it decides to rehear it, it will give notice to Trigon to respond. If it does not rehear it, then we have laid the foundation to file a motion with the United States Supreme Court, a process that would most likely take an additional six to eight months. A fact sheet on the Trigon suit has been prepared that outlines what we have accomplished thus far and why it is our duty to continue this struggle. If you have any doubt that we're doing the right thing, please visit: <[http://www.acatoday.com/media/releases/nclaf\\_bulletin.shtml](http://www.acatoday.com/media/releases/nclaf_bulletin.shtml)>.

**ACA-PAC WILL BE A FORCE AT 2004 POLITICAL PARTY CONVENTIONS IN BOSTON AND NEW YORK**

As the world's oldest (Est. 1906) and largest (15,000) membership organization for doctors of chiropractic, the ACA is once again ready to make its presence felt when the nation's elected leaders - Republicans and Democrats - gather this summer for the presidential nominating conventions. For five days beginning on July 26th, the Democrats will meet in Boston to nominate Senator John Kerry and a yet to be selected running mate as their candidates for president and vice president in November. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney will be re-nominated by their party at the Republican Convention in New York during the week of August 30th.

The political conventions present opportunities to educate key members of Congress and administration officials about the concerns of the nation's 60,000 doctors of chiropractic and 30 million chiropractic patients. The ACA's government relations team is now planning advocacy activities focusing on the chiropractic profession's priority legislative and regulatory issues, including prompt implementation of the ACA-backed demonstration of expanded access to chiropractic care through Medicare, full inclusion of and direct access to DCs (HR 4051) in the VA health care system and enactment of a legislation (HR 3476) to extend chiropractic care benefits to military retirees and dependents. In addition, the ACA will officially recognize two leaders in Congress who have supported the chiropractic profession on key votes time and again, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Congressman John McHugh (R-NY). Senator Harkin, a speaker once again at ACA's National Chiropractic Legislative Conference in March, serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and has worked tirelessly in support of funding for chiropractic research initiatives and is leading the fight for fairness for DCs in the National Health Service Corps student loan re-imbusement program. Congressman

McHugh, the Chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Total Force, was a driving force behind enactment in 2003 of ACA-backed legislation ordering the Pentagon to accelerate by a full year the availability of chiropractic care to America's active-duty military personnel.

#### ACA MENTIONED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

On Thursday, May 13, National Public Radio (NPR) broadcast from coast to coast a segment on heavy backpacks and a measure in California that would limit the amount of weight kids have to haul on their backs. The broadcast mentioned the ACA, citing our recommendation that kids not carry more than 10% of their weight on their backs. To hear the audio of the segment, visit:

<<http://www.npr.org/features/feature.php?wfld=1895690>>

#### WOMAN'S WORLD FEATURES TOUCHING CHIROPRACTIC SUCCESS STORY

After consulting with the ACA, Woman's World magazine published a moving story of a woman who found relief thanks to chiropractic care from trigeminal neuralgia - a painful condition that left her unable to smile. Woman's World published the story in its May 11, 2004 issue. The magazine enjoys a circulation of over 1.6 million readers. At the end of the article, ACA national spokesperson Jerome McAndrews, DC, provides a partial list of some not-so-obvious ailments that chiropractic has had success with. The article also provides ACA's Web site, through which prospective patients can locate ACA members -- like you -- in their communities. Thanks in part to ACA's media relations efforts, nearly 10,000 people use ACA's "Find-a-Doctor" search each month. Try it yourself today: <<http://www.acatoday.com/search/memsearch.cfm>>

#### ACA RESPONDS TO WALL STREET JOURNAL, NEW YORK TIMES AND MORE

ACA continues to serve as the vanguard of the profession by responding promptly to media organizations that misrepresent chiropractic care or portray it in a negative light. Recent ACA responses include letters to the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and the Miami Herald, plus a positive response to a recent Newsweek article that exposed the dangers of unnecessary back surgery. To view these and other recent ACA's media responses, visit: <<http://www.acatoday.com/media/record/>>

#### ACA ATTENDS NATIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE CONGRESS

ACA President Donald Krippendorf, DC, was invited to the largest gathering of managed care executives held by the National Managed Health Care Congress (NMHCC) in Washington, DC, May 5-6, 2004. Specifically, he was part of the National Medical Directors Forum, which met for two full days to discuss the new dynamics in health care, centering on quality, best practices and performance pay. National insurance plans such as Anthem, BC/BS, United Healthcare and major payers such as CMS, General Electric, and others were in attendance.

After listening to how the MDs would tweak the current system, Dr. Krippendorf challenged the group to think outside the box and to create patient-preferred options to

neuromuscular care that keep costs down and do not contribute to the drivers in today's health care market, which are prescription costs, out-patient facility services and surgery. This idea was supported by NCQA, a national accreditation agency for managed care networks that is expanding patient programs of this nature. ACA plans to meet with NCQA officials for further discussions.

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