

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

**APPEALS COURT SETS DATE FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS IN THE TRIGON LAWSUIT**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit has agreed to accept our request for oral arguments in the Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield case and has set the hearing for Richmond, VA. At this point, the court has instructed the attorneys to keep open February 24th through the 27th.

Both the attorneys for Trigon and ACA/VCA will present their positions before a three-judge panel and answer questions from the judges. Both sides will learn of the panel members 24 hours before the hearing so they have an opportunity to research the decisions by each of the judges and sharpen their presentations accordingly. It is possible that a decision from the appellate court would be rendered in the case 60 to 90 days after these oral arguments are presented.

**ACA RANKED IN TOP 25 OF LOBBYING GROUPS**

On Thanksgiving day, an article and chart appeared in the Washington Times--authored by Michael Heaney--that ranked the top 25 grassroots lobbying organizations on health care legislation. ACA made the top 25 list, checking in at number 19. At number 19, ACA tied the United Auto Workers and beat out the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Some of the organizations listed ahead of ACA include the American Hospital Association, AARP, AFL-CIO. The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), International Chiropractors Association (ICA) and the World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA) did not make the list.

Chiropractic Economics contacted Mr. Heaney to learn more about his study and the methodology that he used in arriving at his conclusions. The interview appears in the December 2003 issue of Chiropractic Economics, and can be accessed at [http://www.chiroeco.com/news/aca\\_grassroots%20lobbying.html](http://www.chiroeco.com/news/aca_grassroots%20lobbying.html). Mr. Heaney's findings absolutely confirm that the ACA is the "only show in town" when it comes to fighting for chiropractic at the national level.

**GRASSLEY FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS**

The ACA-PAC sponsored a fundraising event for Senator Chuck Grassley that took place on December 12 in Washington, D.C. More than 30 doctors from IA, VA and SC attended, along with the ACA chairman, ACA staff, Gary Mohr of Palmer College, David O'Bryon of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC), and members of Grassley's staff. Senator Grassley spoke at length

about the difficulty he faced in overcoming the objections of Senator Frist in getting the chiropractic provision included in the final Medicare bill.

Senator Grassley read directly from his Blackberry (PDA) the email message he sent to Senator Frist the day before the final vote was taken by the conference committee on our project. Here is an excerpt from Senator Grassley's actual email to Senator Frist: "I hope that this can be handled at the staff level...but your staff have been refusing my chiropractic demo...knock it off! I have been fighting AMA for years to get crumbs off the table for the chiropractors. I got \$54 billion for the docs in January...so back your staff off of this demo..."

The Grassley Campaign has informed us that our fundraiser has thus far resulted in a total of over \$50,000 collected from over 200 individual doctors. The ACA appreciates the efforts and contributions of these doctors to the campaign of a man who is a true champion for the chiropractic profession and our patients.

### **ACA BIZDOC - NEW ACA LIST SERVE DEDICATED TO MANAGING YOUR PRACTICE**

ACA invites you to share your experiences on practice management through the new ACABizDoc networking forum that goes live on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Through the ACABizDoc list serve, you'll be able to question your peers or respond to their comments on the issues such as management of managed care, ERISA, efficiencies in handling insurance documentation, starting a new practice, and more.

To support the list serve, relevant resources will be available on a new section of the ACA web site--the ACABizDoc Networking Forum page. Featuring JACA articles on practice management, speaking points on managed care, and more, the resources found at [www.acatoday.com](http://www.acatoday.com) on the ACABizDoc page will support many of the issues up for discussion on the list serve.

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