

Fight For Chiropractic
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ACA Chairman of the Board

Unless you have been in a cave in Afghanistan for the last few months, you have no doubt heard about the many victories achieved by the ACA. And what's truly remarkable is that the ACA prevailed over powerful opponents who have almost unlimited resources and who would like nothing more than to see the chiropractic profession dry up and blow away.

Take the physical therapists for example. During the ACA's federal lawsuit against Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) unbelievably filed documents with the court that stated PTs should be authorized to correct subluxations since they have been doing that for many years! That statement leaves little doubt that the APTA is trying to lay claim to the very core of chiropractic.

So how does the ACA stack up against the physical therapists in manpower and armament?

The ACA has
18,000 members
40 staff members
\$6.5 million annual budget

The APTA has
74,000 members (4 times more),
168 staff members (4 times more)
\$27 million annual budget (4 times larger)

Now let's look at the manpower and armament of the American Medical Association compared to the ACA.

The AMA has
297,000 members (16 times more than the ACA)
1,200 employees (30 times more than the ACA)
\$190 million annual budget (29 times larger than the ACA)

And let's not forget the American Osteopathic Association who submitted testimony at the Congressional hearing on Veterans Affairs last year in opposition to our efforts to expand chiropractic into the VA. Even though they represent a profession MUCH smaller than ours, they too have more firepower than the ACA.

27,757 members (1.5 times more than the ACA)
143 staff members (3.5 times more than the ACA)
\$8.7 million annual budget (1.4 times larger than the ACA)

Two things are very obvious from this data. First, recent ACA victories were achieved primarily as a result of the dedication and expertise of the 40 men and women who compose the ACA staff. They are true warriors for this profession who continue to outfight our heavily armed opponents on a daily basis.

And the second thing that is obvious is that the ACA needs immediate reinforcements if we are going to compete with our powerful opponents who have us outgunned and outnumbered. In other words, we need more ACA members and we need them now!

I urge you to join the fight for your profession by joining the ACA because it's real simple. The more members we have...the more we can do for your practice, your patients and your profession. Look for the ACA membership application in this issue, fill it out and mail it in TODAY!

If you have comments or questions, you can contact Dr. Edwards at JamesEdwards@JamesEdwards.com