

David J. Park, DO, FAAFP, FACOFP *dist.*
2023-2024 President

1. What was your Presidential theme this year? My presidential theme this year was "Legacy."
2. How did you develop your theme? I thought about my theme many years ago as I reflected on my personal and professional aspirations. Being an immigrant to the U.S. from South Korea, my most significant personal goal is to start the legacy for the Park family name in this new country our family has declare home. Professionally, for the ACOFP, I wanted to make a significant impact and leave a lasting legacy for the organization as an innovative leader. I also aimed to honor and carry forward the legacies of the many presidents who came before me, particularly those who have made a positive impact in my life. I have gotten to become very personally involved with the ACOFP and this blend of personal and professional ambition and respect for our organization's history inspired me to choose "Legacy" as my presidential theme.
3. What do you see as your biggest accomplishment(s) this past year? We have had several big accomplishments this past year. These include exceeding our membership goals with nearly 90% renewals and a high number of new members, being the recipient of the AOA DEI Unification Award, launching the highly successful Corporate Council Roundtable program, and obtaining the largest REMS grant for opioid education. We also helped align the goals and processes of the ACOFP Foundation and the ACOFP Auxiliary with the ACOFP.
4. What did you feel was your most important mission during your year as President? The most important mission was to engage our membership, ensuring that their voices were heard and their contributions recognized. This was also one of my most favorite things I did as President – traveling to different states and COMs and having personal conversations with our members Another aspect of this was recruiting new and previous members to join our organization.
5. What was your biggest disappointment(s)? One of the biggest disappointments was the ongoing struggle to regarding our members' questions, concerns, and complaints regarding board certifications. I know many ACOFP members are frustrated about AOBFP and unfortunately, they channel that towards us.
6. What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing the ACOFP in the coming year(s)? The biggest challenges include maintaining and increasing membership by increasing or enhancing our services and online products and other opportunities that have value to our members. Our goal is to be the #1 professional home to all those committed to osteopathic family physicians.

7. How did you address the issue of membership during your year? We focused on enhancing member engagement through personal visits to state societies and student chapters, and promoting knowledge sharing and networking opportunities. We also encouraged members to actively participate in ACOFP events and initiatives. One new thing I did was to send recorded video messages to our members with the hope of engaging with those who prefer watching a short video rather than reading an email.
8. How much communication took place from you as President and the membership at large? There was extensive communication, including regular email and video updates, personal visits, and participation in dozens of meetings and conferences live and online. I made it a priority to stay connected with our members and ensure they were informed about our activities and initiatives.
9. Describe the “team concept” for mentoring your upcoming Board officers. Mentoring upcoming Board officers involved a collaborative approach, where experienced leaders provided guidance and support to newer members. This included sharing insights, fostering open communication, and encouraging active participation in decision-making processes. I made it a priority for the new board members to feel like they belonged.
10. Share with us how you as President managed the budget? Managing the budget required thoughtful planning and oversight, ensuring that we allocated resources effectively to support our strategic priorities. This included securing grants and sponsorships, optimizing operational efficiencies, and prioritizing initiatives that delivered the greatest value to our members.
11. Describe your activities and travels as an officer of ACOFP relative to students and residents. My engagement with students and residents included visiting 18 state society and student chapter meetings, and fostering networking opportunities at conferences. For example, during our annual convention in Orlando, I hosted the resident and student leaders in the presidential suite and provided a brief leadership development and networking session. These interactions provided valuable insights and helped strengthen our ties within the osteopathic family.
12. What will be your fondest memory of your presidency that you will always remember? My fondest memory will be the great sense of camaraderie and dedication within the ACOFP community during my travels. Witnessing the passion and commitment of our members, and knowing that our collective efforts made a positive impact, is something I will always cherish.