

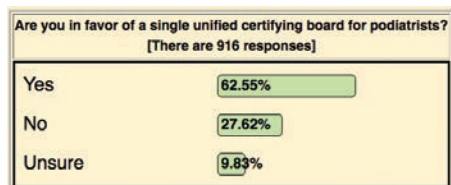
# The American Board of Foot & Ankle Medicine and Surgery

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

The history of podiatric medicine and surgery has always shown advancement through consensus. Often this consensus is by the tiniest of margins, such as the 1957 change from chiropody to podiatry. Other times, progress has been decided by a wide majority such as the 1981 addition of the word “Medical” to the then American Podiatry Association. In every case, there have been those who presented well-reasoned arguments as to why podiatry should stick with the status quo; yet in retrospect, we all agree that these changes have benefitted our medical specialty.



The recent Board Certification Summit held after the APMA House of Delegates has brought this controversial topic into focus. *PM News'* recent



Quick Poll reflects the well-known fact that the average podiatrist wants a single unified certifying board by over a two to one majority.

It is now incumbent for the leaders of the major boards to put the interests of their own board aside and act on behalf of the best interests of podiatry. This will not be easily done as it will require compromises from each side. Nevertheless, this needs to be done in order to ensure the future of podiatry. An agreement must be made to be inclusive, while recognizing that board certification demonstrates to the medical community and the lay public that an individual practitioner has met the required standards (through training and/or experience) necessary to establish competency. It's time to put this issue to rest.

Respectfully Submitted,

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