

Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024

The OAPA Board of Directors convened at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris and via Zoom. Present were Board members Hart, Rotuno, Freado, McDiffett, Homoki, Fitzgerald, Talboo, Bishop, Keller, Brown, Mathur, and Patel. Not present was Board member Gavin. Also present were Student Representative-Elect Whittaker, Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs Sittek, Gorzitze-Maxey, Meyers, and Frey, AAPA Delegates Bowlby, Dzurick, Pagel, Pagliaccio, and Thompson, 13 SCSRs, and ED Vanneman.

President Hart called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

President Hart welcomed all and took a roll call. He reminded the group that while participation is welcome, only elected board members may make and second motions and cast votes.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the July 2024 board of directors meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

President Hart revisited this year's strategic goals:

1. *Achieve legislative victories for Ohio PAs by holding a PA Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse to actively engage with legislators and stakeholders.*
2. *Develop a structure for educational programming to deliver fresh, high-quality live and on-demand programs and events that educate and inspire while driving revenue.*
3. *Target a 10% increase in membership year-over-year to develop a larger, more engaged membership base that amplifies our advocacy impact and drives essential revenue.*
4. *Strengthen ties with Ohio PA programs to foster lasting connections with future PAs.*
5. *Continue our journey with fiscal responsibility to diligently manage resources, ensure transparency, and adhere to best financial practices for financial stability and success.*

Through discussion of the goals, President Hart:

- detailed the status of an AAPA Advocacy Grant application to support title change legislation, a PA Advocacy Day in 2025, and other initiatives
- celebrated the passage of the PA Licensure Compact in July 2024 and indicated that the first meeting of the compact commission has just taken place
- described the latest in the communications between AAPA and AMA on scope creep
- referenced the many activities on the OAPA events calendar and upcoming virtual learning
- requested that SCSRs and their cohorts complete the Student Affairs Committee survey so that we can gather feedback on what students want from OAPA relating to events
- discussed the increase in student membership but need for more growth in professional membership
- outlined upcoming PA Week initiatives meant to highlight OAPA members and the profession more broadly, including an update from Vice President McDiffett regarding the PA Week Proclamation granted by Governor DeWine and a feature on PAs by the SMBO podcast
- summarized the outcome of the PA Program Director Townhall
- reminded the board of continuing financial responsibility measures, including pursuing more predictable lobbying expenses

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki reviewed the financial report materials for the period through August 31, 2024 (narrative summary, statement of financial position, and statement of activity). She noted that net revenue is \$26k ahead of 2023 YOY, the credit card has improved operational efficiency while earning cash back for OAPA, and that drafting of the 2025 budget will soon begin, so feedback is encouraged.

ACTION: Motion to approve the financial report. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki stated that the CD will mature on October 11, 2024. The recommendation is to move the principal plus interest from the maturing CD, approximately \$36,000, into a Huntington business money market account, the rate for which is currently around 4%.

ACTION: Motion to move CD funds upon maturity to a money market account. The motion carried.

Vice President McDiffett proposed Bylaws amendments. Although it is not advisable to update the Bylaws often, these are mostly clean up items missed in the last round (spring 2025), including grammatical errors, redundant language, and clarifying statements.

A point of information was raised regarding proposed wording in Article IV, Section 3, to instead start with "THE BOARD WILL DEVELOP A PROCESS BY WHICH anyone may in good faith..." and to exclude the wording "BY A PROCESS DEVELOPED BY THE BOARD" from the end of the section.

ACTION: Motion to approve the Bylaws amendments, including the friendly amendment regarding Article IV, Section 3 wording. The motion carried.

The Bylaws amendments will be voted on by the membership accordingly.

Government Affairs Lobbying Search Group Co-Chairs Pagel and Bowlby gave an update on the lobbyist search. Ten proposals were received in response to the RFP, and five respondents were selected for preliminary interviews to be completed by early October. The top 2-3 candidates will move on to a final interview by the end of October. It is anticipated that the selected lobbyist will begin a contract on retainer effective January 1, 2025.

Annual Conference Co-Chair Meyers summarized Annual Conference planning and anticipated onsite events over the coming days. There will be a post-conference on-demand package available for purchase by those who did not attend.

Executive Director Vanneman shared appreciation for Meyers and also for Awards Committee Chair Brantingham for recent efforts. The award and scholarship winners have been covered in web articles and social posts and will also be recognized in person at the Annual Conference.

There was no other business, although a point of information was received regarding the executive session nature and format.

ACTION: Motion to end the board meeting and enter executive session. The motion carried.

Executive Director Vanneman provided dinner information to in-person attendees, then Committee Chairs, AAPA Delegates, and SCSRs were excused.

The board entered executive session at 6:29 p.m.

The board exited executive session at 7:22 p.m.

The next OAPA Board of Directors meeting will be held via Zoom on January 11, 2025, from 9-11 a.m.

Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Report on Interim Board of Directors Actions
September 2024-January 2025

The OAPA Board of Directors took action on one matter between the September 26, 2024 board meeting and January 11, 2025 board meeting. According to Bylaws Article VI, Section 8:

Action by Unanimous Written Consent. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors or any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all of the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. A director's consent to action taken without a meeting may be in electronic form and delivered by electronic means.

The result of the lobbying search process was a recommendation to select Hicks Partners, a multidisciplinary organization with expertise in government affairs, public relations, and more. This decision was reached through these activities:

- At the July 2024 meeting, the board approved the launch of the OAPA lobbyist search process.
- The search was chaired by Josanne Pagel and Melissa Bowlby.
- In response to our RFP, OAPA received 10 responses, including one from our current lobbyist, Bricker Graydon.
- Of the 10 respondents, 5 were selected for interviews, conducted by Pagel and Bowlby, along with Lynn Pagliaccio and Dan Bixel, in early October.
- Of the 5 interviewees, 3 were selected for a final interview, conducted by Nate Hart, Matt Freado, Clay Rotuno, and Tracy Vanneman in late October.
- After a debrief that included Hart, Freado, Rotuno, Pagel, Bowlby, and Vanneman, a favorite emerged in Hicks Partners.
- We plan to negotiate a contract start date of January 1, 2025 with a monthly retainer.

The proposal submitted by Hicks Partners was attached for the reference of board members when considering their vote. Also shared were the benefits of selecting this firm, including:

- Experienced in helping small organizations best use their resources and be strategic with time and people
- High familiarity with healthcare landscape and challenges, so can hit the ground running
- Experienced advising trade groups on how to narrow their focus and articulate goals
- Said they will not dictate our platform but will provide the reality regarding what is achievable
- Solid relationships with existing legislators, but also the likely incoming class, particularly on the Republican side of the aisle

ACTION: The motion to approve the selection of Hicks Partners as OAPA's new lobbying firm, pending contract negotiation, was approved on November 5, 2024, by unanimous written consent.