

Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2025

The OAPA Board of Directors convened at the Sheraton Suites Cuyahoga Falls and Zoom. Present were Board members Hart, Rotuno, Freado, McDiffett, Homoki, Fitzgerald, Gavin, Talboo, Bishop, Keller, Mathur, and Patel. Not present was Board member E. Brown. Also present were Student Representative-Elect Whittaker, Committee Chairs Bixel, Sittek, Gorzitze-Maxey, and Meyers, AAPA Delegates Bowlby, J. Brown, Hirkala, Pagliaccio, Roxas, and Thompson, 11 SCSRs, 2 members, and ED Vanneman.

President Hart called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with a roll call. A quorum was present.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the January 2025 board of directors meeting minutes.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the report on interim board actions from January to March 2025.

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

President Hart shared it had been his honor to represent Ohio PAs and he thanked the board, volunteers, and ED for support. He celebrated OAPA's accomplishments, including increased financial transparency, net income in FY24, hiring a new lobbyist, planning Ohio PA Advocacy Day, renewed energy and growth for the Annual Conference, passing the PA Compact, and refreshed communications and operations.

President Hart reviewed the proposed strategic goals for 2025-2026: 1) Advancing PA advocacy through engagement and legislative outreach, 2) Enhancing OAPA educational opportunities for growth and sustainability, 3) Strengthening membership involvement and leadership development, and 4) Expanding pathways for future PAs through outreach and support

ACTION: Motion to approve the 2025-2026 OAPA Strategic Goals. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki reviewed the financial report.

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

President Hart acknowledged Kara Frey's decision to step down from the Membership Committee Chair role effective April 1, 2025 due to work commitments. Anu Mathur agreed to step into the role.

ACTION: Motion to confirm the new Membership Committee Chair. The motion carried.

Vice President McDiffett discussed the proposed Executive Director Policy to clarify the ED search and hiring processes, document ED responsibilities, and outline performance and compensation matters.

ACTION: Motion to confirm the new Executive Director Policy. The motion carried.

Vice President McDiffett reported that elections were open with an April 3 deadline and were being managed via the Elections Manual. Leaders were encouraged to help recruit prospective candidates.

Government Affairs Committee Chair Freado shared appreciation for Past Chair Pagel's assistance in the leadership transition. He discussed working with Hicks Partners, including planning stakeholder meetings, reviewing the biennial budget, promoting a preceptor tax incentive, preparing for the reintroduction of title change, developing an omnibus bill, and working on two communications projects to support OAPA advocacy. He reminded the board of the difference between funding for the OAPA Legislative Fund and OAPA PAC and also encouraged volunteer leader participation in the October 22 PA Advocacy Day.

Membership Committee Chair Mathur shared two proposals based on member feedback; one related to developing a Pre-PA membership category and the other to adjusting the tenure of student membership in OAPA to better accommodate the length of PA programs and post-graduation transition to practice. Discussion ensued and feedback was requested for further refinement of the proposals for a future vote.

Chief Delegate Melissa Bowlby shared that OAPA's ageism-related resolution would be put forward to the AAPA House of Delegates in May. ED Vanneman reviewed plans for the Pharmacology Conference. The next OAPA Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on July 19 from 9-11 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.