

# **APPALM Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 - Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Submitted by Marsha Niven, Secretary**

8:30am Call to order - Jeff Nicholson

In attendance:

Members: Jeff Nicholson, Alicia D. Sheprow, Larry Collins, Marsha Niven, Melisa Moncure, George Hillegas, Carrie Birge, Steve Fink, by conference phone Peter Berge

AAPA Staff: Liz Roe and Stephanie Radix, Constituent Chapter Support

Welcome by Jeff Nicholson, Introductions of those in attendance

Activity Reports

**President's Report:** Jeff provided a short summary of some of the activities he has been involved in over the past 12 months in his role as president of AAPALM:

Spoke at AAPA conference in Atlanta in 2010, Risk Management/Patient Safety lecture

Has had numerous speaking engagements in South Carolina, Wisconsin, Nebraska

Scheduled to speak in Maryland next

Writes a column in Wisconsin PA newsletter monthly

Applied to be on Wisconsin's (his state) PA Regulatory Board

Manages AAPALM website

Has been president for three terms - requests another member take the helm as president

**Treasurer's Report:** Melisa Moncure

Accounts, both savings and checking, have been opened in the name of APPALM now has an EIN 10/22/2011

Website, mailing expenses delineated in treasurers report.

Current checking balance: \$4049.45 Savings: \$202

**Website Editor's Report:** Jeff Nicholson

Education page has a lot of information

Members only section has been expanded

Membership renewal by credit card now available

**Membership Chair's Report:** Attila Nyilas(not present)

Hard and electronic copies of welcome letter and website admission information has been sent to each new member at the time they pay their dues.

**Newsletter Editor's Report** – Marcos Vargas (not present)

Current newsletters are on-line and archives available to members only on website

Previous full report provided

## Discussion Items and Member Activities

A. **Educational Activities:** Top priority for the organization to place an emphasis on educating both practicing PA's and the legal community to the efforts of AAPALM. NO legal advice, but practical advice. Request to AAPA staff to help us make AAPA members aware that we are available to provide information and support to PAs who are involved in malpractice litigation – again not legal advice, but information on the litigation process. (It is suggested that we put together a list of AAPALM resources to send to AAPA and State Chapters.)

B. **Contributing to the Newsletter** – send letters to Attila, including board member bio's. Any articles or papers written by members in other publications would have a link from the AAPALM newsletter.

C. **Speakers Bureau** – Marcos is in charge of putting together a data base of members who would be willing and available to speak to various groups when they contact AAPALM for information. Please send the information to Marcos. Also Larry suggested we coordinate referrals or inquiries with AAPA, so that duplication does not occur. Emphasis on approaching the state and local organizations. Jeff offered and encouraged members to use his power point presentation posted on the website. It even has the audio from last years' AAPA conference.

D. **State Directory of Attorneys for PA non-malpractice issues** – Larry is putting together an attorney database for PA's to refer to on a national basis. It was suggested that consideration be given to identifying attorneys well versed in the specific PA friendly categories: licensing, contracts and med-malpractice defense groups. Stephanie Radix from AAPA provided input, suggesting going to the adjudication panel or state chapter lobbyists from the individual states.

1. Coordinate with the state chapters to form a check off list for administrative (compliance issues) then put it in individual state newsletters.
2. Consider developing a project for obtaining information from individual states' medical boards concerning most frequent complaints brought to the board.

F. **Member Challenges/Tasks/What we can do?** Encourage us (BOD and members) to:

1. Reach out to PA schools, state & local chapters, other PA specialty groups to educate our peers as to the organization's mission statement and focus.
2. Write articles for local PA newsletters, alumni papers, even popular press at local level to again, educate and inform about common clinical errors.
3. Give talks to and participate with local PA groups - network
4. Get word out among our colleagues about what the process involves when the PA runs into the judicial system (malpractice, certification or license issues)
5. Give out Jeff articles to cross reference
6. Encourage PA programs to investigate expanding roles of PA's
7. Develop lectures on videotape for CME

8. Compile a list of most common state compliance issues - post on website
9. Develop a policy paper on recommendations for quality charting
10. Explore avenues for “rehab” for PA’s who run into compliance or practice issues, facilitating their reintegration back into workplace. Investigate state programs that are already in place.

**G. Pro-rated Dues – A Formal Proposed Action Item**

1. July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> is current fiscal year.
2. Half dues payment if someone joins after January.
3. Seconded by George and passed unanimously

**H. Clarification of Directory Use and sharing of information**

Discussion that members may send inquiries from attorneys to all active dues-paying members in the database but NOT to give out or pass on the database to attorneys or non-members. For full access to attorneys, we will keep it fee-based. This is one of our most valued membership benefits and must be protected.

**I. Open Forum**

The question was posed: Does the AAPA want to consider censuring PA’s acting as expert witnesses if their testimony is deemed unethical or inappropriate by the AAPA.

Answer by Jeff: AAPA has such a position paper and it is currently posted on the website. Unethical expert witnesses can be disciplined and lose their membership in AAPA. Different states have laws that dictate who can be considered an expert witness.

AAPA has the ability to reprimand for unethical practice. The AAPA BOD can only take away their membership, cannot take away their certification or license.

Would the AAPA be interested in having AAPALM be involved in reviewing and enforcing the current guidelines for ethic practice of expert witnesses? Stephanie will take this back to the AAPA board.

**Board Member Nominations – election to be held electronically June 20, 2011**

President Elect (2012-2013) – Jeff nominated Larry, seconded by George

Larry accepted

Vice-President – Larry nominated Jeff, seconded by George

Jeff accepted

Secretary – Marsha again, accepted

Treasurer – Melisa again, accepted

Website Editor – Jeff again, accepted

Newsletter Editor – Marcos again, will ask

Membership Chair – Attila again, will ask

CME Chair - Marcos again, will ask

Director at Large – George again, accepted

Director at Large - Alicia accepted  
Director at large - open  
Student Representative - open

As we were about to close, the question was posed to make Board of Directors elections to be for 2 year terms. That would require a revision of the bylaws. Marsha the current secretary will review the current bylaws and come up with suggested modifications for the board to review. It was generally felt that two year terms would be supported.

Meeting was concluded at approximately 10:30am.