

Minutes of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in Legal Medicine
Special Interest Group

June 2, 2010
Atlanta, GA

Marriot Marquis Hotel
8:00 AM

1. President Jeff Nicholson called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM
2. There were three members of AAPALM present and several other guests who are interested in legal medicine. All participated in the discussions and all are contemplating joining the organization.
3. Jeff mentioned that for some reason there have not been many requests for expert opinions from attorneys. There are a lot of PAs who have already established themselves with various attorneys and therefore requests may not have come into AAPA like they have in the past. However, if requests to come in to AAPA, AAPALM will be glad to assist as we are able to provide experts for opinions.
4. There was discussion on obtaining a database of attorneys (at least one from each state) who would be able to advise or represent PAs concerning employment issues that we might be able to draw from. For example, on a regular basis Board Members are asked questions about issues in the workplace such as being asked to leave an employed position or a work related legal issue. AAPALM is not qualified and does not wish to give legal advice to PAs who are having their own legal, employment issues, certification or license issues. We will attempt to obtain a list of attorneys who would be able to advise PAs regarding employment issues in their own practices. This will be an open item and we will continue to follow this issue.
5. There was a discussion on dues amount and there no real consensus on whether to keep the dues very low to attract more members vs increasing the dues attracting only those who are really interested in be legal medicine PAs. Jeff is considering sending out a survey via "Survey Monkey" to get opinions from members. This instrument would also be available for voting on AAPALM issues that are important to the membership. Next scheduled elections will be June 2010.
6. Annual dues will requested soon, one the amount of dues is determined.
7. There was discussion about AAPALM members adhering to the ethical guidelines adopted by the AAPA HOD. Jeff will also sent out information on this either by way of email or Survey Monkey. An email will be sent out on this and other issues at the discretion of the President.

8. There was some discussion by Keith Moore, PA and attorney regarding disciplinary issues in the various states and possibly educating PAs regarding their own personal issues which might happen in the workplace. This is in regard to such issues as substance abuse, licensure violations, unethical practice, etc which may have an impact on a PAs medical license and ability to practice. Jim Cary will do further research on this so that PAs who may have their own personal legal//practice issues would know how to obtain an attorney to represent themselves.

Respectfully Submitted,

James L Cary, PA-C, MHA
Treasurer
Acting Secretary