

VTAA BOD Meeting Minutes  
6/14/2021, 6:30-8 PM EST

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.

In attendance: Deirdre Kelley, Christina Ducharme, April Brumson, Catherine Lumenello, Scott Moylan & Montana Burns

Presiding officer: Deirdre Kelley

Absent: Charles Murdock

The session meets quorum requirements. Six out of the seven members are present.

- 1) Approve meeting minutes from previous BOD meeting and post the meeting minutes to the membership.

**MOTION:** Catherine made a motion to approve the last BOD meeting minutes from 3/29/21. Scott seconded. There was no discussion, and it was unanimously approved. Montana will email our webmaster Beth the minutes to be posted on the members only section of the VTAA website.

- 2) Treasurer's report

April informed us of only one transaction in the last month to our lobbyist. Otherwise, there were just a few renewals for recurring memberships via PayPal. She can prepare a report for the next meeting.

- 3) Mid-Year Committee Meeting feedback & follow up

Scott said it was great, fantastic, well done and people had great ideas. Catherine said it was phenomenal for a first attempt. It was good to introduce the concept of a mid-year meeting and many healthy ideas came out of it. Christina suggested we plan it before the growing season next time around. Catherine and Montana thought end of March/beginning of April could be a better time. Regarding action plans, each facilitator gave a quick recap of our goals. Mori West is hosting a class this upcoming Wednesday for insurance. Scott reminded us of the legislative committee's idea for expanding our scope to include IM injections. He might reach out to Stewart and Gabe to see what next steps could be. The ethics committee updated the bylaws and anti-racism statement. They also intend to discuss ideas for inclusion later in this meeting. The membership committee already sent a survey to the membership and compiled results regarding members experiences. They plan to split up the list of inactive acupuncturists in Vermont for the committee to call or email for recruitment. The fundraising committee is figuring out how to implement sponsorship revenue in a healthy way either on the website or through light email marketing. The committee is discussing this first and then we would need consent from the membership. The outreach committee is hoping to elicit more

engagement in community lectures and possible partnerships with organizations like the UVM Integrative Medicine group.

#### 4) COVID protocol updates from Christina

Today there was some discussion on the listserv regarding any updates to COVID protocols in our outpatient acupuncture clinics. The conversation was comprehensive. The state of Vermont is still adhering to the CDC guidelines which are calling for screening, masks, etc. See links here for more complete guidance:

VT Dept of Health:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Guidance-Recision-2021.05.28.pdf>

CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html#anchor\\_1619116573222](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html#anchor_1619116573222)

Christina would like to email the membership with the current guideline links and let members know the BOD would update the group with any changes. Everyone agreed this would be a good thing to communicate and be aware of considering the governor's recent removal of COVID restrictions. For now, that change has no bearing on outpatient protocols in a healthcare setting.

#### 5) Ethics Committee ideas for inclusion

Catherine put out a call to the BOD for any other ideas on inclusion for our annual meeting, website, or any other suggestions. Please email her with any suggestions. Below is a list of potential goals from the E, C & I committee meeting:

- How to make meetings accessible for all and reduce burden including those who can't travel to meetings, have zoom/in-person meetings.
- Warn meetings via email and on webpage, perhaps not via USPS.
- Support of the membership committee for sliding scale membership rates.
- Offering childcare at the annual meeting.

#### 6) Email thread discussion

Catherine identified an email thread discussion over the weekend that was potentially targeting another member in an uncomfortable way. The BOD agreed that it was needing our attention and our goal is to ensure a safe and respectful space on our listserv. The email in question was responded to kindly and clearly from other members, but it might be wise for the BOD to craft a warning or conduct reminder email for now and any other events that may occur in the future. As part of the EC&I, Catherine will work on drafting a reminder/disclaimer based on our current bylaws regarding email conduct. They will send it out to the VTAA listserv soon to reassure everyone that this has our attention, we will respond appropriately and that cultivating a collegial, respectful environment in our community is paramount to us. Catherine suggested we perhaps send this universal

reminder as its own email, not on a specific thread. She will work on that as soon as possible to send to the listserv. There was an additional piece of the discussion surrounding misinformation. Scott advocated for allowing any and all ideas to be communicated and to protect free speech. The BOD agreed. Montana wanted to inquire with other professional medical groups what their protocol is for handling communication of this nature. Everyone weighed in on the discussion and the conclusion was to support all communication, but to protect against targeting, bullying or misconduct.

7) Atlantic Symposium email

Deirdre received an email from this group calling for email marketing. Their mission to advocacy for including acupuncturists in the Social Security Act. The ASA already is advocating this, and we are members through the VTAA. This would just be to advertise to our membership about joining their cause through membership or attending meetings. There was a discussion about allowing email marketing on our listserv and there was some reservation about it. It is perhaps something that could be asked of the membership. Nothing was decided, but it could be an item for future discussion.

8) Annual meeting prep

The annual meeting will likely take place either Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> (TBD). Deirdre will email the membership calling for CEU proposals for the class offered after our meeting. All submissions can be emailed to [vermontacupuncture@gmail.com](mailto:vermontacupuncture@gmail.com) which is Montana's/the secretary's email. The group discussed the possibility of having two teachers providing two 2-hour lectures. We would need to register both through the NCCAOM which might double our costs. Scott will follow up with Li regarding the process. The deadline could be August 1<sup>st</sup> and we could review submissions at our next BOD meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>. A decision would need to be made quickly so that we have ample time to register with the NCCAOM as well as notify the membership 45 days in advance. Our next few meetings will have a larger focus on preparing for the November annual meeting.

There was no further new business.

The next VTAA BOD meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Montana Burns, VTAA Secretary.