

VTAA BOD Meeting Minutes
8/9/2021, 6:30-8 PM EST

Meeting called to order at 6:41 PM.

In attendance: Deirdre Kelley, Christina Ducharme, Charles Murdock, Catherine Lumenello & Montana Burns

Presiding officer: Deirdre Kelley

Absent: April Brumson & Scott Moylan

The session meets quorum requirements. Five 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 6/14/21. Montana seconded. There was no discussion, and it was approved. Charles abstained from voting because he was absent at the last meeting. 4 votes (the majority of 7 total members) were enough for quorum. 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 \$1,000 transaction in the last month to our lobbyist. Otherwise, there were just a few renewals for recurring memberships via PayPal. She can possibly prepare a report for the next meeting. Montana mentioned that we incurred a one-time \$25 late fee from the secretary of state lobbyist registration website as well in June.

- 3) Annual meeting prep

Due to emerging concerns over the COVID-19 delta variant we unanimously decided that our annual meeting will take place over Zoom on Saturday, November 6th. From 9 AM to either 3 or 4 PM with an hour lunch between 12-1 PM. Montana did some cost research for an in-person event at Hotel VT, but we will not move forward with that option at this time. Deirdre asked if we received any CEU proposals for the class offered after our meeting. Only one submission was made by Montana for a class titled "Research in Acupuncture." Montana forwarded her application to the BOD for consideration. She requested to not be a part of the decision-making process and was open to any feedback or outcome. The BOD will need to decide soon so that the NCCAOM CEU application can begin. The group discussed the possibility of having the course be either 2 or 3 hours. The BOD manual was checked to see if there was a specific number of hours guaranteed as a member benefit. Nothing in writing was found, but the group remembered it has been 2-4 CEUs offered per year in the past. A mailer needs to be sent by September 22nd

to meet our 45-day notice requirement about the annual meeting. We need to include 1) a letter from the president 2) a meeting agenda 3) information about any BOD vacancies or nominations, and lastly 4) information about our CEU offering. Deirdre asked if anyone had a copy of last year's mailer. Over the next month we agreed to all brainstorm potential agenda items in order to craft the structure for the day. The next few BOD meetings will have a larger focus on preparing for the November annual meeting.

4) Email thread/Public Health email/new communication concerns discussion

This was a continuation of our previous email thread discussion in addition to our response with the BOD/ethics committee's public health email. The BOD agreed that this was still needing our attention and our goal is to ensure a safe, respectful, and professional space on our listserv. Deirdre received an email from Dalite expressing concern over Catherine's email to Kelly asking her to stop emailing the thread. Deirdre let Dalite know we would discuss the issue at our meeting tonight. Her hope was to respond to Dalite with an answer from the board. Deirdre will email the BOD a draft of her response. In the meantime, we discussed the importance of distinguishing ourselves as individuals or BOD members in our email responses to the whole listserv. Deirdre asked Catherine if she meant to respond as an individual or as a BOD member. That email request could have been read as authoritative and so we wanted to clarify how we should respond going forward. Deirdre requested that we email the BOD for feedback before responding to the group as a board member. Christina brought up concerns about personal autonomy and that while we are all BOD members, we are also VTAA members with the ability to contribute to the listserv communication. Charles mentioned that it is almost impossible to make everyone happy. This is a hot button issue, and it has been difficult to engage with. All voices are important, and we want to facilitate healthy communication, but also ensure a safe, professional space for dialogue. Online bullying has happened for years in the past with the VTAA, and we want to navigate this skillfully and considerately. Everyone weighed in on the discussion, but our time was cut short, and we may need to continue this discussion at our next meeting.

5) Cigna/ASH discussion with guest Brendan Kelly from our Legislative Committee.

Brendan Kelly joined our BOD meeting at 7:35 PM to discuss the importance of the upcoming Cigna/ASH transition on 9/1/2021. He expressed the potential long-term and pervasive effects this transition might have on our profession not just for those who accept insurance but for all practitioners. If precedence is set with ASH's lower and different reimbursement rates depending on the provider, medical necessity reviews, a system for tiered practitioners and limiting number of treatments this could ripple out to other insurance companies' practices. Deirdre asked what next steps are needed for support. Brendan asked if he could write a draft call for action to the BOD and then with our approval send it out to the listserv to recruit other members to help. The legislative committee were given the survey results as well as a draft letter to Cigna in June. Montana identified next steps as finding a contact person at Cigna to send our letter to, potentially getting help reviewing our letter from a lawyer, and ensuring that the BOD has current D & O insurance to protect us with any risk of liability. Brendan offered to

reach out to the NCCAOM lawyer, Michael Taromina, whom Dalite has spoken to previously about this issue. He also offered to ask Mori West for any further advice. Montana forwarded the legislative committee email thread complete with documents in addition to Michael Taromina's contact information. April might know if our D & O insurance is still valid. Our manual says it is up for renewal in November. Montana spoke to Diana Vachon today who said that this was traditionally handled by the treasurer and that Dianne Barclay had coordinated it in the past.

There was no further new business.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Montana Burns, VTAA Secretary.