

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

Meeting called to order at 6:43 PM.

In attendance: Deirdre Kelley, Christina Ducharme, Catherine Lumenello, April Brumson, 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: Montana made a motion to approve the last BOD meeting minutes from 8/9/21. Deirdre seconded. There was no discussion, and it was approved. April & Scott abstained from voting because they were absent at the last meeting. Four votes (the majority of seven 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 gave a full financial report. There was a \$1,000 transaction in the last month to our lobbyist, \$1250 for our web design, and \$134 on our yearly PO box fee. Otherwise, there were just a few renewals for recurring memberships via PayPal. She shared a report of the finances since the end of March (see below). April has also been helping Beth with updating/transitioning our website and the PayPal platform to the new site. The ASA is leading this transition and the process is ongoing.

VTAA Financial Activity April - Aug 30 2021

Beginning Balances (at end of March)

TD Bank	\$22,210.58
Pay Pal:	\$ 772.60
Total on hand:	\$ 22,883.18

Payments:

TDNecrasson	\$ 5,000.00
Pay Pal fees:	\$ 94.82
UVM event fee:	\$ 375.00
Secretary of State late fee:	\$ 25.00
Refund of accidental dues payment	\$ 100.00 (reported in March, cashed in April)
Total payments:	\$ 5,594.82

Income:

Total income (from paypal, probably all dues)	\$ 2,900.00
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Pending payments:

PO Box yearly fee:	\$ 134.00
Macdragon Webdesign	\$1,250.00
	\$1,584.00

Ending balances:

TD Bank balance:	\$16,576.58
TD Total after pending payments	\$14,992.58
Pay Pal:	\$ 3,577.78
Total funds on hand:	\$18,570.36

- 3) Annual meeting prep (identify seats up for re-election, deciding on our agenda items, possible vote on CEU class, membership benefits review, begin drafting letter to membership)

The seats available for election are VP & board director. Christina sent out an email to the membership calling for nominations for the positions of VP and board director. Christina will not be running for re-election and Catherine is undecided. 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.

Over the next three weeks we agreed to all work via email to create our mailer in time to be sent by Montana on 9/22. Deirdre will draft her letter and begin outlining the agenda items we discussed. The first three agenda items traditionally are a president's welcome, then a secretary and treasurer's report. Other potential agenda items include redefining our sliding scale for membership dues with a goal to have a \$200 average per person:

\$100 – if you are a first year member, retired, part-time practitioner, or someone in financial need/\$200 – the standard rate for most participating members/\$300 – those with established practices or passion for the VTAA who want to sponsor those within the \$100 membership pricing (possible vote), renewing our contract with our lobbyist (possible vote) and inviting Jessica (perhaps at 9:30 AM) to give a legislative update, editing our bylaws to allow for “either” email “or” USPS, not “and” USPS (possible vote) and voting on the board seats (definite vote). The BOD discussed all these items and brainstormed some potential details regarding the value of having a lobbyist this year, accessibility for those without an email address (currently all members have one), and the potential sliding scale for payment. Catherine recommended having committee updates from committees if possible (e.g. fundraising discussing the member benefits and what redefining our dues will do to stabilize our income, etc., legislative updating the group about the Cigna/ASH situation). Scott would also like to craft some language ahead of time to explain the ASH transition and what we have done so far to address member concerns. Deirdre thought it might be good to email the membership ahead of the meeting to ask if there was anything else we might include in our meeting. Montana suggested that we send the mailer to the OPR list of all acupuncturists in the state as a recruitment opportunity, not just to active members. Montana has all the addresses and will oversee printing and distributing the mailer in addition to providing information about the CEU class. Deirdre will write the president’s letter and draft of the agenda timeline for the day that we all can edit as a group. Montana will also gather any possible biographies provided by members interested in running for the BOD.

A discussion was had regarding Montana’s application for teaching this year’s CEU course. She shared her application and the group discussed both the 2-hour and 3-hour option. Montana was leaning towards the 3-hour course so that it was consistent with the hours offered last year and that she wanted to include some short research video presentations within her class. The BOD weighed options and Catherine made a motion to vote for Montana teaching the 3 hour “Research in Acupuncture” CEU class at this year’s annual meeting. Deirdre seconded. The motion passed with a majority vote of five members, except for Montana abstained due to ethical considerations.

The next few BOD meetings will have a larger focus on preparing for the November annual meeting.

- 4) Follow up ASH/Cigna conversation (the change goes into effect next week)

Brendan Kelly was going to work on an email to the membership re: the upcoming Cigna/ASH transition on 9/1/2021. Deirdre reached out to him today and he responded that he has unfortunately been busy and has not had the time to work on this yet, but he intends to potentially reach out to Mori West and the NJ Acupuncture Association. The transition goes into effect this Wednesday, September 1st. Unfortunately, there was limited support for action surrounding this topic. In June, Montana administered and shared the survey results in addition to drafting an informational letter to Cigna. She attempted to facilitate the legislative committee’s action. People would volunteer to help with action items and then did not follow through on those items. Brendan poignantly

said at the last meeting, “No one member should do this alone, it needs to come from the group.” Unfortunately, there has not been adequate engagement and support for this yet, and no further action was taken as a result. The BOD wants to support the membership in this endeavor, however there was little membership engagement. Unfortunately, it might be too late for meaningful changes to occur. This may be a continued topic for discussion.

5) Public Health follow up discussion

This was a short continuation of public health discussion. Deirdre responded to Dalite regarding her concerns and has not heard anything back yet. Montana shared with the group that she spoke to agents at both AAC and CM&F malpractice insurance companies for acupuncturists. Both agents said that they would only cover practitioners who were acting within their scope of practice. That scope does not include recommending ivermectin or discouraging people from getting vaccinated. Acupuncturists who are also medical doctors or nurses might have a different scope and policy. If an acupuncture practitioner were to be sued for malpractice in that specific situation, most likely their malpractice insurance provider would not cover them. A short discussion regarding ivermectin as a therapeutic agent for COVID-19 was had. Scott shared some promising studies and Montana shared current FDA and NIH guidelines. As of now there is not enough evidence to support it from a medical science perspective, but research is ongoing. In any case, it is not within our scope for acupuncturists to recommend experimental western pharmaceuticals to our patients.

6) Mailbox update

Our mailbox was set up for autorenewal (\$134/year) at the Shelburne Post Office. While Charles was not present at the meeting, he updated us via email that he has been checking the box and there was nothing received other than spam. He will keep us posted if any membership dues or other important mail is received.

There was no further new business.

The next VTAA BOD meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27th from 6:30-8pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Montana Burns, VTAA Secretary.