

Vermont Acupuncture Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9 am – 12 pm

Open Door, White River Jct, VT

Board members in attendance: Deirdre Kelley, Montana Burns, April Brumson, Misty Williams, Catherine Lumenello, and Scott Moylan.

Members in attendance: Josh Singer, Molly Beverage, Dianne Mallik, Beth Bloomfield, Mitya Schoppe, Christina Ducharme, Rebecca Cariati, Hadley Clark, Pamela Bys, Christel Winkler, Brendan Kelly, Jeanette Moy (Zoom), Darren Maynard (Zoom).

Meeting began at 9:00 am

Presiding Officer: Deirdre Kelley

Attendee Introductions – name, where you practice, specialization.

- 1) President's Welcome – Deirdre Kelley
- 2) Secretary's Report – 54 members are active, 2 new, 1 need to renew before the meeting, 10 need to renew by the end of this calendar year; lost 14 members in 2023, gained 2; lost 23 in 2022, gained 5; lost 17 in 2021, gained 2.
- 3) Treasurer's Report – total funds-on-hand are \$29,175.70. An increase of \$7,565.86 from last year. Our total income was \$13,250. Our total expenses were \$6,951.17.
- 4) Why Join VTAA: Benefits
 - a) Education, advocacy, best practice, community, CEUs, lobby for the profession.
 - b) Former lobbyist: Necrason
 - i) \$12,000/yr for "eyes and ears" - monitoring legislation scope of practice language changes - used previously. \$25,00 for active legislation support.
 - ii) Kirk White, Lic. Ac. and State Rep is currently volunteering as our "eyes & ears."
- 5) BOD Officer & Director Elections
 - a) Presidential Candidate: Catherine Lumenello
 - i) MOTION: by Montana Burns to elect the candidate; motion seconded by Scott Moylan; vote - unanimous "yay".
 - b) Treasurer Candidate: Mitya Schoppe
 - i) MOTION: by Scott Moylan to elect the candidate; motion seconded by

Catherine Lumenello; vote - unanimous “yay”.

- c) Secretary Candidates: None, left vacant.
- d) Director Candidate (1-year Position): Deirdre Kelley
 - i) MOTION: by Catherine Lumenello to elect the candidate; motion seconded by Montana Burns; vote - unanimous “yay”.
- 6) ASA Update - Deirdre
 - a) Li Ming is our representative.
 - b) HR3133 Acupuncture for Seniors (Medicare)
 - i) More information available on the NCCAOM website
 - c) Insurance Billing
 - i) Billing Programs - Mindful Billing, Wholistic Billing, Acuhub.
 - ii) Mori West’s Insurance Billing class has been helpful to members.
- 7) Website Update - Beth Bloomfield, VTAA Webmaster
 - a) MacDragon is the new developer working with ASA to upgrade our websites (states who opt in). VTAA receives design benefits and financial savings by participating in the group (ASA) v. designing and managing our own.
 - b) Our current website includes a practitioner finder, membership renewal, and events calendar.
 - c) Additional features of the new site could expand to include a listserv, CEU library, jobs board, and interstate information sharing (legislation and events).
 - d) \$980 to move to the new platform.
 - i) MOTION: by Catherine Lumenello to spend up to \$2000 on website platform transition in 2024, guided by membership survey; seconded by Misty Williams; vote - 1 “nay”, 18 “yay”. Motion carried.
- 8) Open Discussion
 - a) Updates & Research Opportunities by VTAA Members
 - i) Julie Suarez Cormier - lead acupuncturist at UVMMC Comprehensive Pain Program and the Cancer Center starting PATH program for Medicaid inclusion.
 - ii) Robert Davis - pilot program research study, skin cancer training w/ dermatologist. If people are interested please contact vermontacupuncture@gmail.com.
 - b) VTAA Marketing - NPR advertisement
 - i) Previous ads resulted in increased awareness of acupuncture in the community.
 - ii) MOTION: by Brendan Kelly to spend up to \$2500 for radio ad in 2024 after our website upgrade; seconded by Mitya Schoppe, vote - 1 “nay”, 18 “yay”.
 - c) Education for new practitioners

- i) OPR requirements - some discussion of adding helpful content on our VTAA website.
- ii) Ethics, Conduct, and Inclusion
 - (1) Access to services for marginalized people: Are state funds available?
 - (2) Education on treating marginalized populations: deprogramming culturally ingrained oppressive behaviors.
 - (3) The VTAA issued an Anti-Opression statement in 2020 & we hosted published author & topic expert Catherine Lumenello to teach at our Annual Meeting “Dismantling Oppression with Chinese Medicine” also in 2020. Perhaps more educational programming in the future?
 - (4) An open invitation for members to join our Ethics, Conduct and Inclusion Committee.
 - (5) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is a possible Grand Rounds topic.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Class to follow lunch: Tuina: Evidence-Based Approaches for the Treatment of Head, Neck & Shoulder Class with Scott Moylan (3 NCCAOM PDAs).

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Williams, Secretary