

**American Academy of Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgeons
Board of Directors Meeting
The Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort - Farmington, Pennsylvania
May 3, 2019
Minutes**

I. Call to Order – 4:35pm

II. Roll Call

Board members present in person were: M. Perlmutter (Chair), A. Bereanu, C. Clark, J. Epstein, R. Mathews, S. Rao, R. Rawson, W. Welch, C. Xeller and L. Zamorano

Others present were: A. Salma, J. St. Ville and N. Rebel

It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting continued.

III. Board Review and Committee Appointments

A. Bylaws pertaining to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board were reviewed. Per the new Bylaws adopted in January of 2018 terms for the Chair and Vice Chair were now two years in length. The second year of the term for Drs. Perlmutter and Zamorano would commence immediately after the conclusion of this year's meeting in Pennsylvania. Unless someone had any issues, no action was necessary to confirm both in their current roles.

B. The existing Board of Directors was reviewed. It was noted that both Drs. Alzugaray and Wren had recently communicated that they had retired. A letter from Dr. Wren was included in the agenda. The Board members present expressed their gratitude to both for their years of service.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to accept the resignations of Drs. Manuel Alzugaray and David Wren with regret.

Further, it was resolved that each should be sent a letter of appreciation for their years of service to the Academy.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the number of Directors required on the Board. The number was determined by the Board and as such it could remain as it stood with Drs. Alzugaray and Wren coming off or other individuals could be appointed to replace them. After due consideration the following was enacted...

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to appoint as new Board Members, Drs. Asem Salma and John Ogden both from Ohio.

C. The composition of the Executive Committee was reviewed. As with the Board of Directors no action was necessary unless someone had an issue with anyone currently holding office.

D. Other Committees were also reviewed. It was noted that with Drs. Wren and Alzugaray resigning, their spots on various committees would need to be filled. Each of the committees were reviewed and volunteers were appointed. An updated list of committees would be posted to the website.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of April 27, 2018 held in Chicago were circulated in advance of the meeting and included in the agenda materials available to all members of the Board. Those present were asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting of April 27, 2018 held in Chicago as presented.

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V. Financial Report

A. 2018 and 2017 Year End Income Statements were included in the agenda and reviewed. It was noted that for all combined activities of the Academy, there was a deficit of approximately \$1,200 for 2018, compared to a gain of just over \$30,000 for 2017. The difference was determined to be almost entirely due to unrealized gains in 2017 and losses in 2018. On the AFMA side of the equation, there was greater certification and re-certification net revenue in 2017 than 2018 by approximately \$13,000. All totaled, Net Assets for all Academy related operations remained fairly unchanged from 2017 to 2018 with the balance being \$421,345 in 2017 compared to \$420,161 at the end of 2018.

B. A 2019 Income Statement through March 31st was presented. Comparatively 2019 was off to a better start than 2018 was with Net Income for 2019 being \$3,515 compared to \$459 in 2018. It was of course too early to tell how the year would end.

C. Cover pages indicating account balances from the Wells Fargo Investments accounts (AANOS, AFMA & Scholarship) as well as the Bank of America checking account and the Capital One savings account were included in the agenda for the Board's information. It was noted that the complete account statements could be downloaded and reviewed by visiting <http://aanos.org/bankstatements/>. Statements were routinely provided to the Academy Treasurer, Dr. Rawson for review.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to accept the financial report.

VI. Membership

A. Membership statistics and a membership roster were included in the agenda and reviewed. It was noted that through April 20, 2019 dues payments were down by approximately 30%. It was noted that the 2018 number was for the entire year and that there would likely still be a fairly significant number of payments received for 2019. Strategies for recruitment were discussed and it was noted that a greater presence was likely required on social media (Facebook and Twitter) in order to provide more visibility for the organization. Younger surgeons were far more likely to utilize this method of communication. Dr. Perlmutter indicated that he had recommended during the ICS business meetings the implementation of a formal Internet marketing campaign through the use of a professional in the field. He also noted that he offered to pay the salary of such an individual for the first year for ICS and wanted to extend the same offer to the Academy.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the Chair of the Board along with the Academy's professional staff investigate options to retain a social media / internet expert to enhance the Academy's exposure through new media marketing efforts with the costs of such a program being supported for the first year by donations from Dr. Perlmutter.

The members of the Board thanked Dr. Perlmutter for his generosity.

B. An update was provided on the written exam revisions made during the past 18 months to the various Boards supported by the Academy. It was noted that in general the number of questions on the exams had been reduced. While an insufficient number of exams have been administered since revision to provide any conclusive data on whether or not they were now any better than before, it was noted that they were likely still too long. The written exam should likely take no more than 2-3 hours. Based on one minute per question, this indicated that exams should probably be no more than 200 questions.

Dr. Clark indicated that he would continue to review the Neurosurgery, Spine and Neurology exams and attempt to reduce their length. He suggested that Dr. Rao and the others who worked on that exam do the same. Dr. Perlmutter indicated that his belief was that the oral portion of the exam was still far more important than the written. Everyone was reminded that these were clinical certifications and not intended to test an applicant's knowledge of basic science.

The Reading Lists provided to candidates for certification were extremely outdated and required an update. All agreed and several individuals volunteered to compile new lists for the various certification exams.

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Dr. Perlmutter initiated a discussion about the addition of certifications in other specialties such as regenerative medicine, which was not yet recognized by any other certifying body. He indicated that his belief was that increasing the certifications offered and also adding certificates of additional competency would provide a needed enticement for those considering the Academy for membership. Discussion ensued and...

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to direct the Chair of the Board to appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a plan to implement additional appropriate certifications and certificates of additional competency.

Dr. Perlmutter indicated that his goal was to have this completed by the annual meeting next year.

C. Dr. Salma inquired as to whether or not the Academy journal was indexed with PubMed. Mr. Rebel noted that while he believed it was in the past, rules have changed and papers recently submitted were not searchable through PubMed. There were now apparently fees involved as all scientific articles were being published as open source in electronic format. Dr. Xeller, the Journal Editor-in-Chief indicated that he would investigate the status of the Academy's journal and what the fees would be to get them on the PubMed database. While Academy members could be solicited to submit papers for publication, until it was determined if the papers were searchable through an indexed service such as PubMed no one would likely submit anything. It was recommended that as soon as a determination could be made a blast email to all Academy members should be sent requesting that they submit an article. Dr. Perlmutter asked to be kept informed as to which members did not submit a paper so that he might follow up with them as appropriate.

VII. CME

A. An update on 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting was provided. 17 paid members were expected, compared to the 24 that were in Chicago for the 2018 meeting and then 20 that were in Seattle in 2017. The decrease from last year's meeting was consistent with the overall drop in attendance that was experienced for the entire combined meeting. The Academy decrease was actually a little lower than the ICS decrease.

B. It was noted that the ICSUS 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting destination was Providence, RI – April 30 to May 2. Discussion ensued regarding the Academy's interest in holding their 2020 meeting in conjunction with ICSUS. It was noted that due to the relatively small size of the Academy meeting it was not realistic to hold a meeting separate from ICSUS. Since Providence was an easy access destination compared to Nemaquin and had access to several educational institutions the following was adopted...

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to hold the Academy's 44th Annual Scientific Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel in conjunction with the ICSUS 2020 Annual Surgical Update.

Discussion then ensued pertaining to future meetings and the input the Academy had (or didn't) with regard to the destination. It was noted that currently the Academy had the opportunity to provide input regarding meeting destinations through its representatives in the ICSUS leadership. The Academy Chair, Dr. Perlmutter, was a member of the ICSUS Executive Committee and others such as Drs. Zamorano, Clark and Coles were on the ICSUS Executive Council. While this provided an opportunity for the Academy to provide input, the reality was that meeting destinations were either guided by the preference of the ICSUS President or the financial attractiveness of the destination. Dr. Perlmutter would likely be the ICSUS President in the coming years and as such this would be the perfect opportunity for the Academy to have a more active role in site selection.

It was noted that the ICSUS was contemplating either a cruise meeting to Alaska or a meeting in Hawaii. Most of the Board members indicated a cruise meeting was not desirable. A meeting in Hawaii would be better, but still not preferred due to the distance most would need to travel to get there.

A suggestion was made that Dr. Perlmutter should inform the ICSUS leadership that they would like to have Charleston, SC considered for a future meeting. Dr. Perlmutter indicated he would take this request to his colleagues on the ICSUS Executive Committee.

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C. Discussion of program development and planning for the 2020 meeting as well as integration with ICSUS commenced. It was noted that there were earlier deadlines for content submission related to the First Announcement and the Call for Abstracts. Appointment / confirmation of the 2019/20 Scientific Organizing Committee commenced. Dr. Perlmutter indicated that he did not see the need for any changes at this time, but that if necessary he would make them in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Dr. Perlmutter also indicated that he was interested in developing online CME content from the Annual Meeting. He wanted to make this content available to members of the Academy who had been unable to attend a live meeting and as such did not meet their membership commitment of attending at least one meeting every 3 years. Some had concerns about how this might impact future meeting attendance, but most were convinced that it would be a good idea if implemented correctly. Dr. Perlmutter was encouraged to investigate further.

D. A review of Academy's CME Mission Statement was conducted. While not accredited by the ACCME, working with ICSUS as the Academy's educational partner required the Academy to comply with ACCME requirements.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to approve the AANOS CME Mission Statement as presented.

VIII. It was noted that the Academy's Bylaws were available at <http://aanos.org/bylaws>

IX. Other Business

Dr. Perlmutter noted that he had authorized Christmas gifts for the ICSUS staff as the Chair. While it was well within his purview to do so, he wanted the Board of Directors to be aware and to sign off on his decision. He asked that the Board not only approve the 2018 Christmas gifts for Mr. Rebel and Ms. Kearney retroactively, but also approve the 2019 gifts that would be disbursed in December.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to approve Christmas gifts for ICSUS staff retroactively for 2018 and also for 2019 to be made in December.

X. With no further the meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm