Approved: December 01, 2020

**NMSAAM BOD Meeting 10/20/20**

Zoom meeting began at 7pm, hosted by newly installed president, Yvonne Wylie Walston.

**In attendance**: Yvonne Walston, Bernadette Lujan, Ann Losee, Christopher Whyrick, Amanda Wheat, Caterina Di Palma, John Scott, Steve Malins, Yvette Arellano, Jennifer Rysanek and Tim Walsh.

Steve Malins and Yvonne Walston reported on the **Oct 15 ASA Council Teleconference**, of which both are delegates representing NMSAAM. Both Yvonne and Steve prepared separate reports regarding this teleconference which were sent to all board members. Steven Malins gave a brief history of ASA, and why it came to be in 2016. He stated that the previous organization AAAOM had issues with transparency, and he reported that there is evidence that ASA is in danger of repeating similar mistakes. For example: when voting there was evidence that ‘majority’ was being loosely adhered to, and our delegates who represent NMSAAM are asked to not disclose some information to our NMSAAM board.

ASA reports there are 27,000 Acupuncturists in the United States.

**Path to Medicare inclusion** an important topic. Reported that timelines are in the works but may not pass quickly. Probably after 2021. The goal is to be level with NPs.

Also at the ASA teleconference, David Miller reported that there is disinformation campaign by the PTs calling acupuncture “mystical” and not scientific. Further efforts for public education are needed.

**Approved by board**: Gift and letter of thanks to Dr. Riley for donating his time and expertise at our annual meeting. Yvonne’s suggestion of a Nambe bowl was approved by board.

**Treasurer’s Report** by Steve Malins: Steve reported that NMSAAM currently has $20,741.51 in the bank account. There was some uncertainty regarding an active Directors and Officers insurance policy, which Steve estimated would cost $1200. He stated that he would look into this issue to see if our (perhaps) expired policy could be reinstated.

John Scott reported on the first **Exploratory Committee Meeting** which occurred on October 17th. Some of the items discussed at this meeting were:

* John stated that he spoke with Kelly Murphy, who administers the skills exam. From this conversation, there’s evidence that the RLD knows little about acupuncture, and shows little regard for our medicine. RLD sees our state exam as an obstruction to licensing. RLD has expressed concern that there has been only one administrator of the state exam. NMSAAM is committed to make inroads with RLD.
* NMSAAM and BAOM maintains a positive working relationship
* Temporary Licensure for visiting professors/practitioners: Ehrland Truitt is looking at a proposal to handle this issue
* Licensure by endorsement
* BAOM needs public members to serve on board
* Fundraising
* Dropping the term “oriental”
* Need for lobbyist to serve our profession
* Abolishment of insurance panels

**Continued transitions to new BOD:**

* Bernadette Lujan will be added and John Scott will be removed as signatories to the NMSAAM account at US Bank as per NMSAAM By Laws.
* Yvonne Walston is the Primary Delegate and Steve Malins is the Alternate Delegate to the ASA and ASA listserve.
* Both Jennifer Rysanek and Yvonne Walston have learned how to use mailchimp and access the NMSAAM Facebook page.

As a profession, **more acupuncture case studies need to be submitted**. PTs do this and are organized in this way. David Riley’s presentation at our annual meeting provided us much of the information to do this. Possible link on our NMSAAM page to help with submission.

Yvette suggested a **link on our NMSAAM website to BAOM**.

**Questions and comments from new BOD members**:

* Chris Whyrick posed NMSAAM sponsoring an Injection Therapy Class. Needed in NM for expanded practice, and perhaps a good fundraising opportunity for NMSAAM. John Ross was suggested as a possible course provider.
* Caterina Di Palma addressed the issues many have when contacting the board.
* Suggested that Steve address communication issues directly with the BAOM at this week’s BAOM meeting.
* At the BAOM meeting Steve will also show NMSAAM’s support and approval of the current state exam.

**Committees:**

**Insurance Committee**: Amanda Wheat will chair, with Bernadette Lujan and Caterina Di Palma as committee members.

**Membership Committee**: Jennifer Rysanek will chair, with Christopher Whyrick and Steve Malins as committee members.

**Continuing Education Committee**: Chaired by Chris Whyrick. Chris stated that this is a great tie-in to membership as an added benefit.

**Legislative Committee**: Bernadette Lujan will chair, with Yvette Arellano and John Scott as committee members.

* Bernadette Lujan addressed our need for a lobbyist, and she spoke to Linda Siegal, who stated that the Governor’s office is looking for budget cuts, and this session may not be optimal for us to address Medicaid inclusion.
* It was suggested and agreed on that we budget and plan to hire a lobbyist in 2022.
* A lobbyist would be essential in protecting our scope of practice.
* Linda Siegal is not currently working with PTs
* The going rate for a Lobbyist in the regular session is estimated at $18k-$20k.

**Governance Committee**: Steve Malins will continue as chair. Current members: Bernadette Lujan, Rob Bibeau, Yvonne Walston, John Scott.

* Code of Conduct addressed
* Separate Governance Committee website created: nmsaamgove.github.io/
* Governance committee website creates an institutional memory, that compiles documentation.
* Front page of website has NMSAAM bylaws.
* Steve suggests that all committees have a charter, and each committee can view the ASA website to see how their committee charters are formatted.
* Governance committee should meet at least every 2-3 months, with the next at the end of October.
* Code of Conduct proposed and agreed upon. All must sign.
* Conflict of Interest statements: Need to be signed by each board member and returned.
* Listserve was proposed and approved by board. Steve will manage the Listserve.

Board president Yvonne Walston will assign remaining committees: Public Relations Committee, Website Committee, Communications Committee, as well as the Ad Hoc Committee.

**Next BOD meeting is set for December 1, 2020 at 7pm.**

Submitted for approval by the board, December 01, 2020 by Jennifer Rysanek, DOM Secretary for the New Mexico Society for Acupuncture and Asian Medicine