



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, May 2, 2020
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Central

Fellows Present:

Jimmy Adams, DO, West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Jim Andriole, DO, Past President, AAOE; Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Molly Biehl, DO, Montana Board of Medical Examiners
Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, Vice President, AAOE; Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline
Jim DiRenna, DO, Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing
Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO, Hawaii Medical Board
Dana Shaffer, DO, Past President, AAOE; Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure
Scott Thomas, DO, Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure
Anna Hayden, DO, Past President, AAOE; Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Gary Hill, DO, Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Ron Januchowski, DO, South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners
Karen O'Mara, DO, Illinois Division of Professional Regulation
Geraldine O'Shea, DO, Past President, AAOE; Osteopathic Medical Board of California
Samir Pancholi, DO, Nevada Osteopathic Board of Medicine
Hemesh Patel, DO, Osteopathic Medical Board of California
Joel Rose, DO, Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Otto Sabando, DO, New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners
Sandra Schwemmer, DO, Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine
Jill Shaw, DO, Oregon Medical Board
Amit Shelat, DO, New York State Board for Medicine (Licensure)
Barby Simmons, DO, Georgia Composite Medical Board
Ryan Smith, DO, Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure
Scott Steingard, DO, Chair, FSMB; Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery
David Tannehill, DO, Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing
Barbara E. Walker, DO, Immediate Past President, AAOE; North Carolina Medical Board
Michael Wieting, DO, President, AAOE; Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examiners
Andrew Yuan, DO, Connecticut Medical Examining Board
Joseph Zammuto, DO, Osteopathic Medical Board of California
Jan Zieren, DO, Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examiners

Non-Members/Observers Present:

Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, President & CEO, Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)
John Gimpel, DO, President & CEO, National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME)

AOA Leaders/Staff:

Ronald Burns, DO, President

Kim Kuman, Executive Assistant, State Government Affairs

Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs

- I. AAOE President J. Michael Wieting, DO called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.
- II. Dr. Wieting presented the agenda; Anna Hayden, DO made a motion to adopt the agenda; seconded by Jimmy Adams, DO; approved unanimously. Final February 29, 2020 meeting minutes were presented as informational.

III. FSMB Candidates, Committees and Workgroups – J. Michael Wieting, President, AAOE

- a. Candidates presented as informational:
 - i. Chair-elect: Kenneth B. Simons, MD – Wisconsin
 - ii. Board of Trustees (*at least 1 non-physician must be elected):
 - 1. Jeffrey D. Carter, MD – Missouri
 - 2. Katie L. Templeton, JD – Oklahoma Osteopathic
 - 3. Barbara E. Walker, DO – North Carolina
 - 4. Richard A. Whitehouse, JD – Kentucky
 - 5. Sherif Z. Zaafran, MD – Texas
 - iii. Nominating Committee (*at least 1 public member must be elected):
 - 1. Alexander S. Gross, MD – Georgia
 - 2. Reverend Janet Harman – West Virginia Medical
 - 3. John “Jake” M. Manahan, JD – Minnesota
 - 4. J. Michael Wieting, DO – Tennessee Osteopathic
- b. Committees and Workgroups
 - i. AAOE Fellows encouraged to become involved and serve on FSMB committees and workgroups.

IV. Affiliate Partners Update

- a. **Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Update** – Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, President & CEO, FSMB and Scott Steingard, DO, Chair, FSMB
 - i. Humayun Chaudhry, DO discussed FSMB’s Response to COVID-19:
 - 1. Mobilized data and advocacy resources to assist states and territories to quickly increase health care workforce
 - 2. Free access to FSMB Physician Data Center (PDC) to enable hospitals to quickly/accurately verify medical licenses
 - 3. Creation of Ad Hoc Task Force on Pandemic Preparedness (later renamed Pandemic Response) - February 25, 2020
 - 4. Development of a COVID-19 website with state-by-state details on waivers of license renewal requirements/deadlines & other resources
 - 5. Released recommendations for license portability during pandemic
 - ii. State and Territorial – Response to COVID-19
 - 1. States increasing flexibility by temporarily waiving/modifying medical licensure requirements to meet the needs of their population:
 - a. 49 states - modified medical licensure requirements and/or renewals for out of state health care professionals
 - b. 45 states - modified in-state medical licensure requirements for telehealth from other states

- c. 33 states - expedited licensure for retired or inactive physicians
 - d. 29 states - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
 - e. 11 states - allow early MD and DO graduates to provide care under the supervision of a licensed physician before July 1, 2020
 - iii. New York State Response to COVID-19 – Epicenter
 - 1. 100,000 volunteers answered Governor Cuomo’s call for health care workers to treat NY patients
 - 2. FSMB worked with states and territories to help verify credentials of physicians and PAs using FSMB’s Physician Data Center (PDC)
 - 3. The PDC database (www.DocInfo.org) includes current and historical medical licensure information for every physician and PA in the U.S.
 - a. Name, DOB, Medical Education, Licensure Status and History, Disciplinary History, Specialty Certification Status
 - iv. Coalition for Physician Accountability – April 9, 2020
 - 1. FSMB partnered with leaders of the AMA, AOA, CMSS, AAMC, AACOM, ACCME, ACGME, ECFMG, LCME, NBME, and NBOME to issue a consensus statement:
 - a. “Strengthened efforts must be in place to safeguard the public and... protect our nation’s health care workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic so they remain able to meet the public’s needs.”
 - v. Lessons Learned
 - 1. States and territories need:
 - a. Flexibility to rapidly expand access to quality health care in an emergency
 - b. Accurate/Current Electronic Data & Records
 - i. Along with hospitals, medical boards need the capability to rapidly verify qualifications and credentials of physicians and PAs (through FSMB’s Physician Data Center) who are already licensed in the US
 - ii. Along with medical schools, medical boards need to move beyond paper credentials (“wet” signatures) and transcripts
 - c. Safeguards for the public as well as for health care workers
 - d. Creation of the U.S. Public Health Service’s Ready Reserve Corps under the CARES Act (2020) is timely
 - vi. Scott Steingard, DO acknowledged the hard work that has been done by Dr. Chaudhry and FSMB staff during the pandemic.
- b. **National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) Update** – John Gimpel, DO, President & CEO, NBOME and Geraldine O’Shea, DO, Board Chair, NBOME
 - i. Geraldine O’Shea, DO reviewed NBOME’s mission and an overview of their recent activities
 - ii. John Gimpel, DO presented a review of NBOME’s portfolio across the education, licensure, and practice spectrum
 - iii. Overview of COMLEX exam series
 - iv. Response to COVID-19 and Issues Related to Licensing
 - 1. Exam postponements, self-proctoring and rescheduling discussed

- a. Rescheduling fees waived
 - b. Need to ensure safe testing environments
 - v. UME to GME
 - 1. Resources available for the transition from medical school to residency
 - 2. Reach out to Program Directors
 - a. COMLEX-USA Percentile Score Converter
 - vi. NRMP Match 2020 (first single GME match)
 - 1. 90.7% of DO seniors matched
 - 2. 81% Fellowship match
 - vii. 2020 US Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit
 - 1. Summit has been postponed (TBD)
 - 2. Focus of summit will be defining osteopathic distinctiveness
 - viii. Hospitals have received financial support – COMs at a disadvantage because the majority do not have affiliated hospitals
- c. **AOA Update** – Raine Richards, JD, Director, AOA State Government Affairs
 - i. Goal of the Bureau of State Government Affairs (BSGA) is to develop policy – Dr. Flanders is the current AAOE representative to the BSGA
 - ii. All 50 states slated to hold legislative sessions this year; COVID-19 has caused 20 to suspend/cancel or postpone sessions, and legislation is focused on COVID-19
 - iii. Federal COVID-19 Advocacy
 - 1. Advocating for:
 - a. Financial Relief
 - b. Medical Liability Reform
 - c. Protections to shield physician volunteers from additional liability for services rendered in response to a disaster
 - d. Student Debt Relief
 - e. Non-Profit Support
 - f. Paid Medical Leave
 - 2. Accomplished:
 - a. Financial Relief
 - i. \$175 billion for providers in areas heavily impacted by pandemic
 - ii. Expanded loans for small businesses
 - iii. Financial relief for federal student loan borrowers
 - b. Telehealth
 - i. Medicare:
 - 1. Increased payment rates for telehealth
 - 2. Expanded telehealth flexibilities (i.e. audio-only)
 - ii. A high-deductible health plan with a health savings account can cover telehealth services
 - c. Liability Protections
 - i. Liability protections shielding physician volunteers from additional liability for services rendered in response to a disaster; a future “ask” will be to extend this to non-volunteer physicians
 - d. Funding for Medical Supplies
 - i. Additional funding allocated for shortages in medical supplies (i.e. ventilators, PPE)

iv. State COVID-19 Advocacy

1. Letters

- a. Requested medical malpractice protections for physicians responding to the COVID-19 emergency in nine states
- b. Requested relief from medical malpractice premiums for physicians in solo or small group practices in nine states
- c. Template letter drafted for state affiliates to use to ask their State Opioid Treatment Authorities to request blanket exceptions from opioid use disorder treatment restrictions from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

2. Future Advocacy

- a. Extended workers' comp protections for "essential workers" who contract COVID in the course of their employment
- b. Opposition to Medicaid budget cuts
- c. State medical board flexibility in licensing renewal/CME requirements during the state of emergency

V. AAOE Budget Report – J. Michael Wieting, DO, President, AAOE

- a. The status of FY20 AAOE budget was shared. Currently, the organization is under budget, largely due to the shift in the Annual Meeting to a virtual format.

VI. Appointment of AAOE Secretary -Treasurer – J. Michael Wieting, DO, President, AAOE

- a. Dr. Wieting addressed the vacancy of the AAOE's Secretary -Treasurer position. He asked the Fellows if there was interest in the open position. Hearing none, per the AAOE Bylaws, Dr. Wieting suggested the nomination of Jan D. Zieren, DO, Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examiners.
 - i. A motion was made to nominate Dr. Zieren for AAOE Secretary-Treasurer by Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO; seconded by Barbara Walker, DO.
 - ii. Dr. Zieren was honored to accept the nomination.
 - iii. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Dr. Zieren welcomed to the AAOE Executive Committee.

VII. FSMB Annual Meeting Reports – J. Michael Wieting, DO, President, AAOE

- a. Dr. Wieting presented the FSMB Annual Meeting reports that would be considered during the FSMB meeting later that afternoon.

VIII. AOA 2019 Referred and 2015 Sunset Resolutions – Raine Richards, JD, Director, AOA
State Government Affairs

- a. Ms. Richards provided relevant policies to the Fellows that will be considered before the 2020 AOA House of Delegates. She encouraged review of the policies and solicited feedback.

IX. State Roundtable: Medical Licensing Board Activity Related to COVID-19

- a. The following states provided updates:
 - i. Alabama: Relaxed telemedicine and telehealth requirements; and DEA regulations for practitioners prescribing controlled substances with no history of abuse

- ii. California: Governor relaxed the physician-to-Nurse Practitioner (NP) ratio to 1:4; independent practice for NPs struck down, waiver for CME until pandemic subsides
- iii. Connecticut: Governor mirrored activity in New York and New Jersey to create more access to telemedicine and utilize retired physicians in the pandemic response
- iv. Florida: The Licensure Modernization Act is awaiting the Governor's signature
- v. Georgia: Remote board meetings; relaxing telehealth requirements and license renewal requirements for 2020 and 2021
- vi. Hawaii: Medical Practice Act suspended March 14, 2020; all license renewals are due June 30, 2020; waiting for the Governor's decision
- vii. Illinois: Medical license renewal date extended from July to September. The Illinois Medical Disciplinary and Licensing Boards continue to meet by secure teleconferencing during COVID-19, including the MDB public open meeting. The Illinois Disciplinary Board is holding its informal conferences by secure teleconferencing.
- viii. Kentucky: Executive Order by the Governor; expediting licenses and reaching out to retired physicians
- ix. Maine: PAs granted independent practice; brief respite from the push toward a composite medical board
- x. Missouri: Executive Order from Governor on March 15, 2020; board holding licensing, malpractice and operational meetings virtually
- xi. Montana: No CME requirements above those required by a DO's Certifying Board (if any)
- xii. New Jersey: Executive Order by the Governor for emergency licensure for foreign physicians; retired physicians asked to come back
- xiii. New York: Epicenter of the pandemic; Governor issuing Executive Orders on a daily basis; been liberal with allowing providers to practice without NY licenses; expiring licenses automatically extended for six months; CME is a non-issue as it is audit based; reached out to retired physicians
- xiv. North Carolina: Virtual meetings being held successfully
- xv. Oregon: Virtual board meetings held; CME is audit-based
- xvi. Rhode Island: Board still holding disciplinary meetings; considering field/alternative hospitals
- xvii. South Carolina: Administrative meetings held; no disciplinary activity

X. Announcements/Adjournment

- a. Dr. Wieting announced that the AOA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting has been rescheduled for October 13-14 in Austin, TX. More information about the AAOE Business Meeting that is normally held in conjunction with the HOD will be sent out as it becomes available. AOA event updates can be viewed [here](#).
- b. Support was suggested for FSMB candidates Barbara Walker, DO (Board of Directors); J. Michael Wieting, DO (Nominating Committee); Katie Templeton, JD, Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners (Board of Directors)
- c. Dr. Wieting asked for a motion to adjourn. Otto Sabando, DO made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Walker.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM by Dr. Wieting.