

DRAFT MINUTES

**BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
General Business Meeting
March 9, 2009 at 3:00pm
Telephone Conference Call
Conference Call Number: 1 - 888 – 808 - 6959
Conference Code: 2454587**

MONDAY, March 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McCann, Chair, at 3:00 pm. Those present for all or part of the meeting included the following:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert McCann, D.O., Chair
Ronald Burns, D.O., Vice Chair
Allan R. Escher, D.O.
Joel Rose, D.O.
James S. St. Louis, D.O.
Tom Najjar, Consumer Member
Rina A. Palladino - Consumer Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

Kaye Howerton, Executive Director
Christy Robinson, Program Administrator

BOARD COUNSEL:

Deborah Loucks, Esquire
Ed Tellechea, Esquire

COURT REPORTER:

For the Record
(850) 222-5491

OPENING REMARKS – Deborah Loucks, Esquire

Ms. Loucks explained that the elections held at the Board's February 2009 meeting were invalid as they were not conducted appropriately. She indicated that the only way to resolve the issue was to hold new elections. She provided instructions for holding the elections on the conference call.

ELECTION OF 2009 OFFICERS

Dr. McCann called for nominations for the Chair position.

Dr. Burns nominated himself for the Chair position with Dr. Rose seconding. By unanimous vote, the nomination was supported.

Dr. Escher nominated himself for the Chair position with Ms. Palladino seconding. By a vote of 4/3 the nomination was supported.

There being no other nominations for the Chair position, the individual members voted by announcing their name and selected candidate. By a vote of 4/3 Dr. Escher was elected as the new Board Chair.

Dr. McCann called for nominations for the Vice Chair position.

Dr. Rose nominated himself for the Vice Chair position with Dr. Burns seconding. By unanimous vote, the nomination was supported.

There being no other nominations for the Vice Chair position, the individual members voted by announcing their name and selected candidate. By unanimous vote Dr. Rose was elected as the new Vice Chair.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Kaye Howerton

Tab 1 - Discussion Regarding Travel Restrictions

Ms. Howerton provided the members with an overview of the new travel restrictions and reiterated that only mission critical travel would be approved by the Department. She indicated that all requests for travel must include a statement explaining how the travel was mission critical and that all out of state requests must be approved by the State Surgeon General. She further noted that the only out of state trips being approved at this time were those that were paid for by associations or national organizations.

Dr. McCann asked staff if the FSMB dues had been paid. Ms. Robinson advised that it was her understanding that the payment had recently been submitted or would be by the end of the week.

No Tab - Appointment of Legislative Liaison

This item was tabled for discussion later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Tab 2 - Discussion Regarding 2009 FSMB Voting Delegate

A member of the audience, Robert Fedor, DO, was recognized to speak on this issue. Dr. Fedor provided historical information pertaining to the Board's previous attendance at the FSMB meetings, based on his experience as a past member of the Board.

Dr. Escher advised that he would attend the meeting at his own expense and encouraged other members to do so.

Action Taken: After discussion, Mr. Najjar moved to reconsider the Board's previous vote appointing Dr. McCann as the Board's voting delegate. Dr. Rose seconded the motion, which failed with a vote of 3/4.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Rose asked for Ms. Loucks to provide an opinion concerning the letter that Dr. McCann submitted at the last meeting relating to his participation on the Board. Dr. McCann announced that he was withdrawing the letter in question and that he would remain on the Board for the remainder of his term.

Dr. McCann passed the gavel to the new Chair Dr. Escher in order to facilitate the following discussion.

No Tab - Appointment of Legislative Liaison

Ms. Howerton asked the Chair to appoint a legislative liaison. She explained that this liaison would assist staff with the analysis of bills that would impact the Board or the Department and provide staff with an opinion as to the Board's support, or non-support, of language. Dr. Rose suggested that staff email any proposed bills to all Board members for their input and comments as each member may be able to provide additional insight relating to their specialty.

Dr. McCann was appointed to serve as the Board's Legislative Liaison.

Ms. Howerton also asked that the Board select an Unlicensed Activity (ULA) Liaison to work with the Department when assistance was needed to determine if particular acts were considered the practice of osteopathic medicine.

Dr. St. Louis was appointed to serve as the Board's ULA Liaison. Ms. Palladino was appointed to serve as the Board's Budget Liaison.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25.