

Wyoming Acupuncture Society Meeting

May 14, 2016

Present at meeting:

Soleiana Abernathy - Lander

Taug Boschen - Jackson

Jude Buchanan-Sandoval - Casper

Alisha Bynum - Riverton

Tamara Clauson - Jackson

Whitney Fessler - Jackson

Wendy Gebhart - Lander

Rebecca Hawkins - Jackson

Kate Johnston - Gillette

Carol Mersereau - Jackson

Michael Patty - Sheridan

Barbara Smith - Jackson

Carrie Guschewsky - Lander

Paul Guschewsky - Lander

Traci Wilson – Sheridan

Rebecca (Becky) Hawkins was in charge of running this first organizational meeting.

Members gave brief introductions of themselves.

Becky gave the group a recap of events that have happened thus far in the creation of the Wyoming Acupuncture Society (W.A.S.). The name was chosen because 'Wyoming Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association' is already in use. The Wyoming Acupuncture Society is registered as a non-profit organization with the State of Wyoming.

The group reviewed the proposed bylaws of W.A.S. Bylaws were informally agreed upon, as no one voiced any disagreement.

Becky asked for nominations or individual volunteers for the Board of Directors. Kate Johnston volunteered to be Membership Officer. Traci Wilson volunteered to become webmaster and share some of the duties of the Secretary position. Alisha Bynum also volunteered to take the Secretary position. Paul Guschewsky agreed to assume the position of Treasurer. Jude Buchanan was nominated by Carol Mersereau for the Vice President position and accepted. Whitney Fessler was nominated and accepted the position of President of the Board. All nominations and acceptances were unopposed.

Following these nominations, the several items were decided: Paul will establish an EIN for W.A.S and a bank account (Lander). Traci will get the website and domain name registered, will be up and running before July 1st with PayPal integration for payment of dues. Alisha will contact Mary ? regarding the Montana acupuncture society dues and use of the funds. Becky will contact the Idaho Association regarding the same.

A discussion about the potential expenses for the first year of the W.A.S. activities included potential lobbyists for the Practice Act, lawyer fees and minor miscellaneous. A figure of \$4000 was estimated.

Barbara Smith moved that the Society dues be \$175 per year for members. This motion was seconded by Traci and was approved. Member dues will be due annually July 1st. To assist with the start up costs, Paul and Carrie

Guschewsky will also make a donation of \$1000. Traci is donating webhosting and registration fees for 2 years. It was also discussed, that there may be several individuals who would be willing to donate as 'supporting members' of the Society.

Barbara gave the group a summation of the efforts to pass legislation to regulate acupuncture in Wyoming, from the 1990s to the present. Carol followed this with the progress that has been made on the current version of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Practice Act.

Pertinent to the next steps is discovery of which of the supported State boards would be a willing partner with an Acupuncture Board to share administrative expenses, what these yearly fees might be or if an Acupuncture Licensing Board could affordably be a stand-alone entity.

Michael Patty volunteered to find out more about these issues and will consult with Rosie Berger, from his district.

Whitney will compile a list of bullet points explaining the position of W.A.S. membership regarding proposed legislation for the Practice Act. This will be a common resource for all members to use in discussion with their local representatives.

Members agreed that all information discussed during this initial meeting will be shared with the other acupuncturist in the state who were unable to attend the meeting. And an updated contact list for active acupuncturist in the state will also be sent out to all members.

Also discussed was the frequency of meetings. It was decided by the group to have 2 meetings per year on the 2nd Saturday of May and the 3rd Saturday of October. Becky offered to present continuing education as an option for one of the future meetings. The W.A.S. will meet again on October 15th in Thermopolis, WY.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Wilson
Co-Secretary