

Wyoming Acupuncture Society

Meeting Minutes 10.15.16

1. Introductions & Member Information Update

- a. Members signed in and introductions were made.
- b. In attendance were Soleiana Abernathy, Alisha Bynum, Jude B Sandoval, Traci Wilson, Whitney Fessler, Kate Johnston, Shelly Wolfe, Wendy Gebhart, Roger Andrews, Tim Sheehan, Michael Patty, Dwayne S. Borgstrand, Barbara Smith, Carol Mersereau and Kirsten Olson Peckham.
- c. Members were asked to approve personal information for the W.A.S website

2. Treasury Report:

- a. A bank account was created at Wyoming Community Bank with a current balance of \$4,770.00
- b. No checks have been issued
- c. We are designated a Wyoming Non-Profit
- d. It was proposed that with the newly established bank account, it would be pertinent to have an online payment option for members and supporting members
 - i. To note, nominale fees will my be applied by PayPal
- e. Membership fee will be tax deductible for members as a business write off but not for supporting members

3. Secretary Report:

- a. Minutes can be found online at www.wyoas.org/
- b. The Mountain and Sunburst Logo was selected as the final logo

4. Membership Report:

- a. Would like to address the SEO capabilities of www.wyoas.org/, Kate asked visitors to please visit site more in an effort to attain higher rankings
- b. Motion to have Paul Guschewsky's office in Lander as the permanent address of record; seconded and passed.
- c. Motion to have Paul Guschewsky add the location to Google Business listing; seconded and passed.
- d. Motion to have Kate Johnston use her phone or create one as our permanent number; seconded and passed.
 - i. Membership Drive: Kate Jonhston gave an account
 1. Main goal is to have a united group to support bill
 2. Issues of concern:
 - a. Senator Scott of Natrona does not support nor want other bills of practice.
 - b. There is also a group of libertarian that may oppose the bill.

- c. Jude Sandoval gave a report on Terry McCormick who was reported to have given up his NCCAOM certificate per an NCCAOM associate. He is also reported to have DUIs on record.
 - d. Question was asked on how to address any possible Ayurvedic practitioners
3. Handouts:
- a. List of non-members and members was handed out
 - i. Goal: Need to connect with non-members
 - b. Letter of Acupuncture assault case in Cheyenne was handed out and Tim Sheenan gave his account of the accused assault trial. He reported that he was a witness.
 - c. A letter of verbiage for practitioners to use to communicate with patients and public about the bill.
 - d. A video was presented by Kate that was used by the Kansas Acupuncture group to pass their practice act
 - e. Kate Johnston presented a list of possible incentives that could be offered through industry partnerships i.e. journal discounts, supply discounts etc. Garnering said partnerships could then be used to attract new members.
 - i. Journal of Chinese medicine made an offer of discounted membership for \$57 or 40% off
 - ii. Proposal of possible online meetings was suggested in order to make it easier for member to attend and be involved.
4. Political points of discussion:
- a. Representative Eric Barlow and Senator Ray Peterson are our Bill sponsors. Mid January is timeline of action on bill.
 - b. Nov. 19th is when committees and elections will be solidified
 - c. Charlie Scott needs to be elected first, if he doesn't get elected things could change
 - d. PT regulation of dry needling is only in their rules not in law
5. NCCAOM Proposal: Jude Sandoval has contacted the NCCAOM and is working on drafting a proposal in which we will ask for funds that will be used to aid in passing our bill. Motion was made to ask for \$15,000 in order to pay for the lobbyist fee; seconded and passed.

5. Adjourned at 1:00 for a 20 minute break

6. A thank was mentioned owners of the home where the meeting took place

7. Our lobbyist were introduced: Laurie Urbigkit & Sherlyn Kaiser

- a. Laurie has worked with Eric Barlow to go over the bill

- b. Action points for our group were discussed. We were advised to know and meet our legislators, to network and to become familiarized with our specific county constituents
 - i. STEPS:
 - 1. Find legislator or candidate in your county: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>
 - 2. Meet them and present our case
 - 3. Convey any accounts or information gained to Laurie Urbigit & Sherlyn Kaiser
 - a. l@wyoming.com is Laurie's email
 - b. sherlynkaiser@gmail.com is Sherlyn's email
 - 4. Ask Eli to be a Co-Sponsor, find Co-Sponsor in each area
 - 5. Ask Loyd Larson of Fremont to be a Co-Sponsor and those acupuncturists in Fremont County need to connect with him
 - 6. Identify 14 against practice bill and reach out to them, want to move any opposing opinions up the scale from negative to positive
 - 7. Ask Eli to have Acupuncturist of the day
 - 8. Plan on doing an Acupuncture demonstration at the Capitol
 - 9. Identify and notify our constituents of possible opposers
 - 10. Upcoming Political timeline was discussed:
 - 11. House and Senate will have huge turnover, proposing to start the bill in the Senate
 - 12. Eli Bebout will be the house leader
 - 13. January 8-9th is when the government in action
 - 14. Bill will be in Dec. 1st
 - ii. Marketing Needs were addressed:
 - 1. Need to create common, concrete messaging and talking so that we present a united message
 - 2. Possibly create a flyer to hand out to patients
 - 3. Gather email addresses of folks, family and patients that are willing to support, lobbyists can and will send them an email blast when needed
 - 4. Find Patient testimony?
 - 5. Pro-Acupuncture message to be compiled of these points:
 - 1. Health and Public safety
 - 2. Economic Growth > Health is the number #1 growing industry
 - 3. Pain management and reduced opiate use
 - 4. Accessibility:
 - a. Financial accessibility through insurance coverage
 - b. Physical accessibility through a licensed state that encourages acupuncture throughout our rural communities
 - iii. Creation of Board was discussed.
 - 1. Costs compose of paying board members, hour rate for state staff to administer needs, possible cost range could be from \$1250 - \$700 a year in the beginning

2. Most trade associations are a 501.C6 so that monies can go to lobbying efforts
 3. Need to talk to an accountant to access this need
 4. Identify what other surrounding states our doing
 - a. Montana has had a licensing act 1974, under the Medical Act board
 - b. Other states are mainly under practice board
8. Contract for the Lobbyists' services has been acquired
- a. First payment will be accessed in January
 - b. \$15,000 was the contract cost for 1 year
 - c. NCCAOM proposal was set to ask for \$15,000 in order to pay for this fee
 - i. If declined, would like to ask NCCAOM for assistance with a nationwide membership drive
9. Wendy Genhart has volunteered to explore a 401.6C non-profit application.
10. Whitney Fessler will work on incorporation papers.
11. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
12. Minutes submitted by Secretary, Alisha Bynum.