



**Date:** February 24, 2021

**To:** AOA Board of Trustees

**From:** Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD, CEO

**CC:** AOA Past Presidents  
AOA Senior Leadership Team

**RE:** Minutes of the AOA Board of Trustees General Session Meeting – February 24, 2021  
(877) 369-0926, ID: 972 408 29840#; ZOOM Video Conference

The AOA Board of Trustees and President’s Advisory Council convened via conference call on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The AOA President called the meeting to order at 10:00 am (Central). The following Board members and other individuals were present:

<b>Executive Committee Members</b>	<b>Board of Trustee Members (con’t)</b>
Thomas L. Ely, DO, President	Frank M. Tursi, DO
Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, President-elect	Edith Waskel, OMS IV, <i>Student Member</i>
Ronald R. Burns, DO, Immediate Past President	Bruce A. Wolf, DO
Ernest R. Gelb, DO	Joseph M. Yasso, DO
Robert W. Hostoffer, DO	<b>Officers of the AOA House of Delegates</b>
Teresa A. Hubka, DO	Ray L. Morrison, DO, Speaker
James M. Lally, DO	David L. Broder, DO, Vice Speaker
William S. Mayo, DO	<b>AOA Past Presidents</b>
Robert G.G. Piccinini, DO	Peter B. Ajluni, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Shannon C. Scott, DO	Mark A. Baker, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Richard R. Thacker, DO	John W. Becher, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
<b>Board of Trustee Members</b>	Boyd R. Buser, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Kevin V. de Regnier, DO	Robert S. Juhasz, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Robert S. Dolansky, DO	Martin S. Levine, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
David E. Garza, DO	Karen J. Nichols, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Vanessa W. Halvorsen, DO, <i>Postdoc Advisor</i>	Ray E. Stowers, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Gregory E. Harris, DO, <i>NPIP Member</i>	George Thomas, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Jennifer J. Hauler, DO	Norman E. Vinn, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Caleb B. Hentges, DO, <i>Postdoc Member</i>	Larry A. Wickless, DO ( <i>PAC member</i> )
Emily K. Hurst, DO	<b>AOA Staff Leadership</b>
Timothy J. Kowalski, DO	Dawn Amaskane
Ira P. Monka, DO	Maura Biszewski
Chelsea Nickolson, DO, <i>NPIP Advisor</i>	Nicole Blankenship
C. Michael Ogle, DO	Jed Brinton
Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO	Val Carr
Annie Phung, OMS IV, <i>Student Advisor</i>	Andrea Ciccone
Sonia Rivera-Martinez, DO	Kathleen Creason ( <i>AOIA</i> )
Julianne P. Sees, DO	Rita Forden ( <i>AOF</i> )



Jeff Fraler	Josh Prober
Jamie Free	David Pugach
Priya Garg	Darcy Steinberg-Hastings
Brooke Johnson	Charles "Bud" Templin
Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD ( <i>Exec Committee Secretary</i> )	Lori Wemhoff
Sharon McGill	Tamara Collum ( <i>Recording Secretary</i> )
Mollie Pillman	Denita Adams-Gillard ( <i>Add'l Staff attending</i> )

The osteopathic pledge of commitment was recited, and the meeting participants were asked to keep the AOA's mission and vision statements in mind throughout the call. The President asked the Board to disclose any conflicts or duality of interest regarding any of the agenda topics for discussion and/or action. None were noted or declared.

The following actions were taken by the committee upon motion, duly seconded, followed by an opportunity for discussion:

1. **Adoption of the agenda** for the February 24, 2021 call.

#### Leadership Reports

**President's Report** – The report highlighted the following accomplishments:

- This is the first virtual year with a virtual President.
- The AOA's business is being conducted while remaining cost effective.
- The AOA was restructured; is more efficient and functions better than the former structure.
- The HOD, Special HOD, OMED, and Midyear have all been accomplished virtually. There have been advances in membership, certifying board services, CME, and the transition to the single GME system.
- The match program had a successful rate of 99.29% matching into post graduate training programs.
- The advocacy efforts, virtual meetings with congressional leadership and affiliate leaders have not stopped. While remaining resilient and flexible, the work will continue to move the osteopathic profession forward.

**President-Elect's Report** – The report highlighted the following accomplishments:

- This year has been challenging and yet a learning experience while facing work in several different environments.
- Talks are ongoing with board members and affiliates as we continue to navigate in these conditions moving forward.
- Change has caused movement in a slightly newer direction. Being virtual has allowed us to hear new voices and ideas which can lead to modifications from the way things were historically done.

**CEO's Report** – The CEO addressed the following:

- The governance and operations leaders will share accomplishments today, and so many are deserving of recognition.
- Thank you to all affiliate colleagues and friends for all that is done in support of the profession as work continues towards a successful future.



**Branding Campaign Update:** (*SVP, Communications and Marketing/Dir of Client Leadership, Two by Four/CEO, Two by Four*)

Two by Four revealed the new campaign presentation video for the Board with descriptive detail and focus on the relationship between DOs and their patients. A mixed media outreach will target three areas:

Audience

- External Audience - Women/Men with families searching for a healthcare provider that fits their needs.
- Active Seekers + Status Quo personas.
- Internal Audience - Current AOA members, medical students and/or those on the path to become DOs, and other DOs.

Geography

- Heaviest media presence will focus on the top 10 DO markets.
- National reach achieved through SEM, social, and other channels.

Potential Tactics

- TV/Video
- Podcasts/Audio
- Digital/Print

**AOA Organizational Structure:** (*CEO/Chief of Staff*)

The Board was updated on the governance structure goals, operations interface, and departmental reporting structure.

- Governance and Operational Restructure – Created to better serve the AOA and improve/streamline communications.
- Operations Interface – The operations grid was reviewed to show the alignment between the Board, B/C/Cs, CEO, Department Chairs, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and AOA staff.
- Senior Leadership Team/AOA Department Structure – The structure of the Senior Leadership Team and AOA departments was reviewed.

**Affiliate Relations:** (*Chair, VP, Affiliate Relations*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. Highlights of the new Bureau of Affiliate Relations (BAR) are listed below.

**BAR Objectives:**

- Establish a process and mechanism for affiliate leaders to provide input on critical issues being considered by the AOA BOT.
- Receive and consider affiliate leader input and communicate such information to the President and BOT.
- Participate in the development of an affiliate leader educational program.

**BAR Outcomes:**

- Held two meetings Nov 2020/Feb 2021
- Acknowledged needs of affiliates/discussed affiliate leader educational program.
- Reviewed *Affiliate News* survey data.



Department of Affiliate Relations Update:

- Management resources available.
- Day to day liaison between AOA and affiliates by providing them with information/tools/resources to effectively lead their organizations.
- Eight signature programs geared toward servicing the needs of our affiliates with operational goals.
- Affiliate satisfaction surveys (OMED/Email)
- Collaboration with SOMA – Virtual Advocacy Day, quarterly calls with AOA CEO, strategic planning retreat for 2021-2023, support of medical students during COVID-19 and regular column in *Affiliate News*.

**Business/Finance Affairs:** (*Chair, CFO*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. The goal of the department is to be more efficient in operations of the organization as well as continuing with the financial savings. See updates below:

- AOA Audit Committee – Reports were accepted in October 2020.
- AOA Operating and Capital Budgets – Approved at HOD in July 2021.
- AOA Operating Financial Performance – Financial savings moving ahead and positive revenue.
- AOA Non-Operating Financial Performance – Funds are good, and a move was made to a cash management program. 142 Building renovations are on track. Some changes were made but are within budget.
- AOA Finance Department Operational Improvements – Slight adjustments were made and approved.

**Educational Affairs:** (*Chair, VP, Graduate Medical Education*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. The 2020-21 Bureau of Education (BOE) objectives are highlighted below:

- Governance oversight on issues relating to: Undergraduate Medical Education (UME), Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Continuing Medical Education (CME).
- Governance oversight to the subordinate councils of BOE: Council of OMED, Program and Trainee Review Council (PTRC), and Council on OGME development (COGMED).

Bureau of Osteopathic Education – The role has evolved this year due to governance changes and the conclusion of the transition to a single GME accreditation system.

Program and Trainee Review Council – Continue to accredit programs and monitor resident's completion of training and work collaboratively with osteopathic specialty colleges to ensure programs and residents are meeting AOA GME standards.

Council on OGME Development – Governance oversight with respect to AOA's efforts to expand the number of programs with Osteopathic Recognition. Assist with sourcing of candidates for ACGME appointments.

Department of Educational Affairs:

- Bureau of Osteopathic Specialist (BOS) – Governance oversight on issues relating to AOA board certification and its certifying boards.



- Council of OMED – Governance oversight for OMED.
- Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation – Accreditation of colleges of osteopathic medicine.

**Governmental Affairs:** (*Chair, SVP, Public Policy*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. The Bureau on Federal Health Programs (BFHP) objectives are listed below:

- Provide advice on federal policy issues impacting the practice of osteopathic medicine and AOA members.
- Provide oversight of the AOA's grassroots legislative advocacy program.
- Provide input on engagement with osteopathic state affiliates and specialty colleges.
- Supports the AOA Training in Policy Studies Program (TIPS).

The Council program objectives are listed below:

Council on Economic and Regulatory Affairs –

- Provide advice on issues relating to healthcare business and practice management impacting the practice of osteopathic medicine and AOA members.
- Identify and monitor payer behaviors adversely impacting AOA members.
- Recommend strategies to address payer issues and policies adversely impacting our members.

Council on State Health Affairs -

- Provide advice on state legislative and regulatory issues impacting the practice of osteopathic medicine and AOA members.
- Provide recommendations on ways the AOA can support affiliate engagement on state legislative and regulatory initiatives.

2021 DO Day Overview – Keynote speakers on March 7 and 8 with live Q&A sessions. Individualized learning tracks for affiliate leaders, students, and physicians with up to 8.5 hours of CME. New this year are the advocacy awards recognizing excellence in individual and organizational public policy advocacy.

Osteopathic Advocacy Network – Provides participants with increased education and training, including invitations to monthly public policy roundtable discussions with AOA staff.

**Professional Affairs/Membership:** (*Chair/CEO*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. The three Bureaus' 2020-21 objectives were discussed and are listed below:

Bureau of Membership –

- Provide governance oversight with respect to membership services.
- Provide governance oversight with respect to dues structure and fees.
- Provide governance oversight with respect to annual membership renewal processes.
- Recommend specific membership initiatives for aggressive membership growth.
- Develop a mechanism to promote student membership within the COMS.

Bureau of Emerging Leaders –

- Provide governance oversight with respect to interests of osteopathic medical students.



- Provide governance oversight with respect to the interests of osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training.
- Provide governance oversight with respect to the interests of physicians within 10 years of graduation from their college of osteopathic medicine.
- Provide a quarterly report to the BOT, regarding the current issues facing all three BEL categories.
- Publish a monthly or quarterly publication to all BEL constituents.
- Survey the BEL constituents, regarding their various interests, concerns and needs.

Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine –

- Provide governance oversight with respect to expansion of the osteopathic profession internationally.
- Advise the AOA BOT on issues associated with the osteopathic profession internationally.
- Work collaboratively with the Osteopathic International Alliance to support their mission.

**Research and Public Health Affairs:** (*Chair/VP, Research and Public Health*)

The governance structure and operational structure were shared with the Board. The purpose of the Bureau of Osteopathic Research and Public Health (BORPH) is listed below:

- Directs all AOA research and public health activities.
- Identifies key public health initiatives in which the AOA should participate.
- Provides comments on national public health issues, emphasizing the osteopathic perspective.
- Participates in the development of OMED activities such as public health educational programs and the research call for abstracts and poster competition.
- Reviews existing AOA policy and develops new policies for submission to the House of Delegates meeting.

The BORPH Goals were shared with the Board and listed below:

- Create a problem/question-focused research grant program.
- Make recommendations to the AOA BOT for annual public health initiatives of the AOA.
- Considering COVID-19, promote the need to maintain a well-being immunization schedule including influenza.
- Create unique resources defining and addressing healthcare disparities.
- Investigate additional funding sources for osteopathic research funding.

**AOA Affiliate Reports Presentations & Updates**

The Board heard presentations and reports from the following groups:

- Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association, (*President*).
- American Osteopathic Foundation, (*President/CEO*).
- Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors (*President*).
- Society of Osteopathic Specialty Executives, (*President*).
- Student Osteopathic Medical Association, (*President*).
- Osteopathic International Alliance, (*Chair*).
- American Osteopathic Information Association, (*Chair/Executive Director*).
- American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, (*President*).
- National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, (*President/CEO*).
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, (*President/CEO*).
- Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, (*Chair*).



- Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, (*Chair*).

**Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation:** (*VP, Accreditation*)

Virtual COM site visits are going well and have been completed. There has been growth with the COMs and three pre-accreditation applications have been approved with new sites and locations.

The COCA application for renewal has been submitted to the Department of Education and it is on track to be renewed.

**Certifying Board Services:** (*SVP, Certifying Board Services*)

Departmental updates for 2021 are listed below:

- Written and oral exams are moving to remote platforms. Over 50 remote written exams have been administered and the first remote oral exam was administered in January.
- Practical exams have been postponed but various models to reintroduce them are being explored.
- OCC Component 3 transition to NBOME's Catalyst assessment platform.
- Ambassador Program launched on December 28, 2020.
- AOA Reciprocity for ABMS-certified DO's launched communication on November 21, 2020.

**Physician Education and CME:** (*AVP, Physician Education and CME*)

- Since July 2020, 32 internal and external activities have been accredited or are being developed.
- Retiring of the AOA CME Cycle.
- Simplification of the AOA sponsorship program.
- New requirements for AOA accreditation focus on osteopathic content.

**Journal of Osteopathic Medicine:** (*CEO*)

- The January issue launched on time as scheduled.
- The February 10 issue will launch on time as scheduled.
- The March issue has been completed ahead of schedule.
- Our social media response is very optimistic both on the new look and feel of the Journal.

**Closing remarks:** (*President*)

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and their time and mentioned that it is possible that the Midyear Meeting will be face-to-face next year. A motion was received and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:27 pm (Central)