

## Abridged Minutes of the Aerospace Medical Association 87th Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2016, Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ



**Belland**



**Sventek**

**Call to Order (Belland):** A quorum for the meeting was established at 12:10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Dr. Kris Belland, President, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

**In Memoriam (Belland):** The president asked attendees to pause to remember those members who passed away this year.

**Recognition of Past Presidents (Belland):** Dr. Belland invited the Past Presidents of AsMA to rise.

**Report of the President (Belland):** Kris first went over the Rules of Engagement. The theme of the meeting this year is Human Performance and the Year of the Aerospace Medicine Professional. He also went over the top 10 knowledge gaps. We are in our 3rd year of the strategic plan. AsMA members expect governance; opportunities for research; responsiveness to AsMA members; representation to professional, commercial, and governmental organizations; education; and opportunities for professional growth. There is a new ad hoc committee on aerospace medicine legal issues, such as space tourism and missions to Mars. Of note, ExCom met in February and came up with our 2016-2017 initiatives. One of the top priorities is to engage all who fly as well as use our expertise to present aerospace medicine to other medical communities thereby improving knowledge worldwide about aerospace medicine. To underscore our relevance in our professional communities, Phil Scarpa and the Pilot's Mental Health Working Group Paper was referenced 12 times in the German Wings Report.

In his parting shots, Dr. Belland noted that every AsMA initiative has been improved upon. Credit goes to the Executive Director, Headquarters staff, Vice Presidents, committee chairs, and constituent and affiliate organizations. For Governance: we are financially stable; we can go through 2 years of losses on Annual Meetings and still sustain. For Representation and Advocacy: we are making giant strides in developing our presence in social media and our presence with the AMA and AoA. For International Services: we are more engaged than ever, our future is bright. For Member services: we turned around 5-year trend of diminishing membership. And for Education and Research: it was the best AsMA ever!

**Report of the Executive Director (Sventek):** "Mr. President, officers, and members of the Aerospace Medical Association, it is my pleasure to report that this past year was extremely active and highly successful. It is the incredible volunteer spirit of our Association members that sustains our success. Thank you for your continued strong support of the Aerospace Medical Association. I'd like to recognize the Headquarters Office staff and our journal independent contractors. They work hard every day to provide a high quality scientific journal as well as outstanding customer service and administrative support to our more than 2,400 members.

As many of you know, attendance at our Annual Scientific Meetings is affected by the ability of those attending to garner continuing education credits for their participation. This year's meeting is accredited for 24 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ as well as 23.5 Prescribed Credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and 24.0 Category 1-B Credits by the American Osteopathic Association.

Nurses attend our Annual Scientific Meeting for numerous reasons, and a Nurse Contact Hours track was accredited by the Montana Nurses for this year's meeting. The Aerospace Nursing Society accepted the challenge to submit the necessary documentation to the Montana Nurses Association. This is no small task and Nora Johnson, RN, BSN, CCM led the effort to organize and submit the required documents for review. Her efforts resulted in the Nurse Contact Hours track being approved for 22.5 Nursing Contact Hours. Congratulations on this significant achievement.

As of this morning, total registration for this meeting is 1,495, compared to 1,521 at the same time for the 2015 meeting. Of that total, 1,379 were registered in advance of the meeting and 116 attendees registered here on site. This represents a decrease of 26 attendees or 1.7% below the 2015 meeting in Orlando. We extended the Advance Registration rates through April 23 in an effort to provide the US federal agencies more time to make their conference funding decisions. We also worked closely with Mr. Walt Galanty of AIM Meetings and Events and the Harrah's Resort Hotel to provide all attendees per diem room rates. The Harrah's Resort Hotel sold out of rooms four times, and graciously added additional rooms to the AsMA room block. Most of the additional rooms were added at the \$92.00 + taxes/night room rate. However, rooms for the Friday and Saturday nights preceding the start of the 87th Annual Scientific Meeting were added at a rate of \$139 + taxes/night. These rooms normally sold as high as \$399.00 + taxes/night. The Harrah's team did a great job working with us.

This is the first time in many years our meeting dates do not include the Mother's Day holiday as is celebrated in the United States. All future meetings will avoid the Mother's Day holiday. Unfortunately, this year's meeting coincides with the Jewish Passover. Thanks to Harriet Lester and the Arrangements Committee for working to provide some kosher food items for those observing Passover.

There are 31 companies exhibiting with us this year using 31 exhibit booth spaces. We very much appreciate our exhibitors and corporate members. They provide our attendees with great insight into the latest technologies and processes to improve the delivery of Aerospace Medicine. We held the AsMA Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall again this year and based upon the positive comments received for that event, we will continue this practice in 2017. This is the second year that we've offered exhibitors the opportunity to provide presentations on their products and services in the exhibit area. We will collect feedback from the exhibitors and determine if we will continue to offer exhibitors the opportunity to provide presentations in future meetings.

Also for the second year, we are offering AsMA Committees, Constituent Organizations, and Affiliated Organizations the opportunity to provide poster presentations on their activities. The poster session for these groups will be Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in the Avalon 18/19 rooms from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please take a few minutes to visit the poster session and see all of the excellent work accomplished by our AsMA Committees, Constituent Organizations, and Affiliated Organizations. You may consider joining one or more of these groups to help them in their mission.

In conjunction with the Wednesday poster presentations in Avalon 18/19, we are offering a Speed Networking opportunity. This initiative has been developed by Dr. Valerie Martindale, Vice President of Member Services, and an active group of volunteers.

There will be 10 networking stations available and each participant will get approximately 5-7 minutes per station. Should be great fun and a wonderful opportunity for folks to network with other AsMA members. The Speed Networking will occur Wednesday, April 27, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in Avalon 18/19.

Finally, I am required to report the Aerospace Medical Association financial status for 2015. I will leave the details to our Treasurer to explain but on December 31, 2015 the Aerospace Medical Association reported excess revenues of \$37,317.00. “

**Journal (Day):** Pam Day, Rachel Trigg, and others worked on the journal redesign. During this process, she submitted and won an Excel Award from the Association Media and Publishing, and she will be accepting the award in June.

**The Scientific Program Committee (Shender):** Barry Shender emphasized the new format for abstracts. He also noted that we will need volunteers to attend the review meeting in Houston in November. Patricia MacSparran will be the chair for 2017.

**Report of the AsMA Foundation (Anderson):** George Anderson delivered the report of the AsMA Foundation. George said the Foundation is doing very well. George thanked the Secretary/Treasurer, Peach Taylor. Jeff Davis is the Vice Chairman. Dr. Anderson said the Board is doing a great job of managing their endowed assets in the Foundation. The principal mission of the Foundation is to receive charitable gifts, to responsibly manage their finances, and to award scholarships and grants. He reported that Rahul Suresh was the recipient of the Stanley R. Mohler, M.D., Aerospace Medicine Endowed Scholarship this year, to be presented on Thursday. Dr. Anderson then told the members that his message is to give to the Foundation. It's easy to do. The Foundation has a booth in the Exhibit Hall and someone will be happy to answer any questions.

**GOVERNANCE (Gradwell):** David Gradwell, VP for Governance, reported that the Strategic Plan should become an ongoing process. In defining metrics for 2016-17, it is important to ensure that our membership database is current. We should strive to beat registration records when we go to Denver next year. The UK just recognized the specialty of Aerospace Medicine as of 1 April 2016. AsMA helped to support this decision process.

**Nominating Committee (Webb):** Jim Webb provided the slate of officers for vote: President Elect, Valerie Martindale; Vice Presidents, Charles DeJohn and Walt Dalitsch; Treasurer, James DeVoll; and Members at Large, Denise Baisden, Eilis Boudreau, Kathy Hughes, Tom Travis. The slate of officers was accepted unanimously.

**Bylaws Committee (Baisden):** Denise Baisden thanked her committee and put forward the five motions concerning bylaws changes. The proposed changes to the Bylaws were printed in February issue of *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance*, p. 157. All five proposed changes passed.

**Treasurer's Report (DeVoll):** Jim DeVoll reported that in 2014 we had a net profit of \$50,783; in 2015 we had a net profit of \$33,131. Our 5-yr interim audit in early April showed that our accounts are in order and look good. We had a great meeting in 2015 and an even better one in 2016, so our finances look strong.

**REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY (Ortega):** Joe Ortega introduced the Representation and Advocacy reports. He noted that we are improving the usability of the website and our social media projects are going well. Constituent organizations will be able to collect dues through the new database management system. AsMA now has representation in the European Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems.

**Air Transport Committee (Alves):** Paulo Alves reported that they are working on guidelines for patient transport the will need to meet peer-review requirements for publication. They have a project on development of recommendations of airline medical

kits. Frank Pettyjohn represented our position to the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Note: There were no new resolutions this year.

**EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (Eilis Boudreau):** There are two central themes this year: 1) Supporting the scientific program to create highest quality scientific meeting; 2) providing infrastructure for scientific quality. They are working on a Gap Analysis process. This is a plan to drive research, systematic reviews, interact with stakeholders. Researchers in the UK want to develop a Cochrane group for Aerospace Medicine. Funding agencies look for this and this is how we stake our position in the medical communities.

**Aerospace Safety Committee (Jim Elliot):** They are working on the 3rd class medical certificate, ejection seat training in private jets, and clinical preventive services in FAA medical exam.

**Education and Training Committee (Alex Garbino):** ACOEM will meet before our meeting in Denver. They are working on a joint session with them. They are streamlining our CME process by working with UHMS.

**History and Archives Committee (Walter Dalitsch):** They are working with an aeromedical display at Naval Aviation Museum. The new committee chair will be Mark Campbell.

**Science and Technology Committee (Bill Fraser):** They worked on the new templates for abstracts. They need innovative papers on science and technology to be published in the journal.

**MEMBER SERVICES (Martindale):** Valerie Martindale reported that they are working on marketing and awareness to new members. They are also working to improve services to show increasing value to members. A speed mentoring event was organized for Wednesday (it was a huge success).

**Corporate and Sustaining Membership Committee (Peter Lee):** This is composed of association members to interact with corporate forum. It ensures mutual benefit. Dr Lee explained the evolution from Corporate Affiliate to Corporate Forum. The Corporate Affiliate started in 2000 and was changed to the Corporate Forum this year. Tiered sponsorship was rolled out for better return on investment for corporate members. They are working to support the Bellagio congress which is a corporate-sponsored event. The 2017 congress will be about terrestrial applications of space medicine. (Dr. Sides spoke in depth on this).

**Membership Committee (Joe Dervay):** They are working with the member lists of the American College of Graduate Medical Education which includes nearly 3000 residencies/250K residents. They are trying to get membership info to all of them. The Membership Department at AsMA headquarters sent out 2600 electronic packages to residencies this year regarding our annual scientific meeting and our Association. They are working on contacting medical schools: 131 MD schools and 31 DO schools, representing about 90K students. Additionally, they are looking into working with international schools and residencies on increased membership. They are working on scholarships for travel. They have developed an ad hoc committee on career development.

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (Vermeiren):** The former International Activities Committee has change to the Global Liaison and Outreach Committee (GLOC). They have seven global regions and will focus on increasing international attendance and influence within AsMA. There will be a joint AsMA/ESAM and Norwegian Society meeting this year in Oslo in September. Jim Vanderploeg and Phil Scarpa from the Pilot Mental Health Pilot Committee represented AsMA at the EASA rulemaking meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Jeffrey C. Sventek, M.S., CAsP, Executive Director  
Brian Pinkston, M.D., Secretary