

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (Bob Orford)**

Allied Membership in AsMA is offered to International Members from low and middle income countries (total of 90 countries as determined by the United Nations) for an annual fee of \$50.00 with free registration to the Annual Scientific Meeting. There was a concern, at the initiation of the program, that the number of Allied Members would incur increased costs to AsMA. As a result, an initial limit or goal was set at 90 and later adjusted to 50 Allied Members. The Allied Members Program was discussed at both the Executive Committee Meeting in March and the AsMA Council, last Sunday. Ultimately it was decided that in view of the relatively small costs involved, it would be reasonable to extend this program indefinitely. The actual numbers during the COVID pandemic were 23 last year and 29 this year.

The International Congress on Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM) will meet in Abu Dhabi this fall. ICASM sponsored by the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) will alternate every other year with the International

Conference in Aerospace Medicine (ICAM). ICAM will be held in Lisbon Portugal from the 3-5<sup>th</sup> of October in 2024.

**REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY (Susan Northrup for Barry Shender)**

Resolution 2022-01: Titled 'Importance of Accredited Training and Board Certification in Aerospace Medicine for the growing Commercial Space Industry', this resolution was approved by the AsMA Council for posting.

Thank you for donating to the Foundation.

The Communications Committee should be acknowledged for elevating our presence in the online world.

**Unfinished Business:** none.

**New Business:** none.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Sventek, MS, FAsMA, CASP, Executive Director  
J. Karen Klingenberg, M.D., MPH, MS, Secretary

## **Abridged Minutes of the 94th Annual Business Meeting** *Tuesday, May 7, 2024, Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL, United States*



Dervay



Sventek

**Call to Order (Joe Dervay):** A quorum of more than 100 members in attendance was met and the meeting started at 12:00 pm CDT on Tuesday May 7, 2024.

**In Memoriam (Jeff Sventek):** Attendees of the Annual Business Meeting paused to reflect and remember those members of AsMA who passed away since the last AsMA conference in 2023.

**Recognition Of Past Presidents (Jeff Sventek):** Past presidents were asked to rise and be acknowledged. Introduction of John Peters, Executive Director and Owen O'Neil, president elect of UHMS.

**President's Remarks (Joe Dervay):** I would like to thank the AsMA Council for the excellent, substantive meeting on Sunday. Also, thanks to the Scientific Program Committee for the tremendous Scientific Program this week. It has been an amazing year. The Reinartz Lecture was excellent and we would have liked to have 45 more minutes for the presentation. The Thursday morning Council Meeting will now be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday to encourage a greater attendance. Please consider donating Honor's Night tickets to AMSRO members to help them attend Honors Night.

**Report of the Executive Director (Jeff 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 very successful. There are many within the Association responsible for this success, including elected officers, AsMA Committees, Constituent Organization leaders, Affiliated Organization leaders, and all who volunteered this past year to help move the Association forward. Thank you for your continued strong support of the Aerospace Medical Association. I'd also like to recognize the Headquarters Office Staff and our journal independent contractors. Please stand as I introduce you so our members can put a face to the name. The AsMA Deputy Executive Director is Gisselle Vargas, who has been employed by AsMA for 18 years. Our Membership Director is Sheryl Kildall, a 23-year employee of AsMA. Managing Editor for the journal is Rachel Trigg, who has been with AsMA for nearly 21 years. Stella Sanchez has been with AsMA since January 2023 and serves as our Assistant Managing Editor for the journal. We also have two outstanding contract employees. Dr. David Newman serves as the Editor-in-Chief for our AsMA journal and Sandy Kawano works as the Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief. All of our employees and independent contractors work hard every day to provide a high-quality scientific journal as well as outstanding customer service and administrative support to our members. Thank you all for your outstanding work.

Speaking of our AsMA Journal, Dr. Fred Bonato stepped down as the AsMA journal Editor-in-Chief on 31 December 2023. The AsMA Council selected Dr. David Newman to replace Dr. Bonato. Dr. Newman assumed the role as Editor-in-Chief of the *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* journal on 1 January 2024. He, along with Sandy Kawano, Rachel Trigg, and Stella Sanchez have not missed a beat in ensuring the AsMA journal remains as a high-quality scientific publication.

The AsMA journal staff have also initiated two additional changes to the AsMA journal this year. You likely noticed we did not provide you a print program for the 2024 AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting as we have done for many years. Rather, we provided you a printed Meeting Activities Brochure with your registration packet and directed you to the digital meeting

app for meeting details. The decision to stop using the March or April issue of the journal for a print program was based upon several problems we experienced on an annual basis with the print program. First, all materials for a March journal publication must be to the publisher by 15 January and all materials for an April journal publication must be to the publisher by 15 February. As you might imagine, many changes are made to the Annual Scientific Meeting schedule after 15 January or 15 February and those are not captured in the printed program issue. Second, all accepted scientific abstracts are submitted to the publisher on the referenced dates. Numerous events impact our presenters and several presenters each year must make the decision to withdraw their approved presentations. Many of the withdrawal notifications to AsMA arrive after materials are sent to the publisher so abstracts are published in the print program journal issue that are not presented during the Annual Scientific Meeting. As a result, the AsMA journal team decided to use one of the summer issues following the annual scientific meeting to publish a proceedings issue that will publish only those presentations that were actually made during the meeting.

The second AsMA journal initiative is related to the AsMA archived journals (1930–2002) hosted by Mira and the current online journals (2003–Present) hosted by Ingenta Connect. Members and subscribers must move between these two hosting services to access the desired journal issue and articles. Each hosting service offers different user interfaces and search capabilities, making it a bit frustrating when searching for specific topics. The AsMA Council approved a proposal from our publisher, Sheridan, to migrate all issues of the AsMA journal (1930–Present) from the two current hosting services to the Sheridan PubFactory service. That migration process is nearly complete and we anticipate having all AsMA journal issues in one place soon. PubFactory will offer our members and subscribers a modern and sophisticated user interface. It will also offer all issues of the AsMA journal in one location to facilitate easier access to journal issues and articles as well as one-stop shopping for searching the journal. You will be notified when the migration process is complete and the new PubFactory website is open for business. By the way, you will continue to access the PubFactory website in the same way you have accessed the Mira and Ingenta Connect websites. You will log into the Members Section of the AsMA website and select the PubFactory website to gain access to all years and issue of the AsMA journal.

AsMA finished 2023 in good financial shape. We were able to meet all 2023 obligations without withdrawing money from the AsMA reserves. The 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans was very well attended and excess revenue from that meeting was \$539,284. AsMA finished 2023 with net excess revenue of \$112,070. Following this year's Annual Scientific Meeting, the AsMA Treasurer and I will recommend an amount to the Executive Committee to move from the AsMA bank account into the AsMA investments as we continue to move our AsMA investments toward the \$1 million goal.

AsMA recently completed the annual financial audit for 2023. The published audit report provides the auditors' opinion.

"We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Aerospace Medical Association (the Association) (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and 2022, the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Aerospace Medical Association as of December 31, 2023, and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

AsMA membership is experiencing a slow growth. As of this report, AsMA membership totals 2,158. That represents a 2.5% increase from the same time last year. As a result of the increase in membership, AsMA finished 2023 with membership revenues of \$405,000 vs. the budgeted amount of \$357,000.

AsMA is collaborating with the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (Academy), the European Society of Aerospace Medicine (ESAM), and the Portuguese Society of Aerospace Medicine (SMAPor) in hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress in Aerospace Medicine (ICAM) scheduled for October 3–5, 2024, at the Aula Magna in Lisbon, Portugal. A Memorandum of Understanding between the four organizations has been signed and is very similar to the agreement used for the ICAM 2022 in Paris, France. Registration for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAM is open with very reasonable registration fees. As of this meeting, there are 123 registered for the 3-day Congress. There are also currently six 1-day registrants and seven accompanying persons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAM is offering four Technical Visits with two occurring prior to the start of the Congress, 1 occurring in conjunction with the Congress, and 1 occurring after the Congress. The Congress is also offering two workshops. The scientific program is being developed by a joint group from all four organizations and currently has approved 70 presentations for the Congress. The deadline for submitting an abstract for consideration is 19 May.

As of this morning, total registration for [the 2024] meeting is 1,752, compared to 1,612 at the same time for the 2023 meeting. Of that total, 1,675 were registered in advance of the meeting and 77 attendees registered here on site. This represents an increase of 140 attendees or 8.7% above the 2023 meeting in New Orleans. Revenue from our Annual Scientific Meetings represents a large portion of our annual operating budget and we thank all participants.

**Report of the AsMA Foundation Chair (Kim Broadwell):** Dr. Broadwell is the outgoing chair. The new chair will be Mark Campbell. A new position on the AsMA Foundation Board will be an AMSRO member on the board. The Foundation has great ambitions that are focused on the next generation. "The Need for Speed"—to go farther, faster, together with an endowment goal of \$5 million by the AsMA Centennial in 2029. Dr. James Vanderploeg donated a \$25,000 matching contribution to "The Need for Speed" campaign. You can donate in many ways, including during registration for the AsMA Scientific Meeting. Dr. Broadwell reminded members, if you have donated to the AsMA Foundation, you can wear a ribbon on your badge.

#### **GOVERNANCE (Robert Orford)**

The theme for the next year will be Innovation: Journey to the Future. Dr. Orford presented the current status of the collaboration with UHMS and plan for John Peters to become Executive Director of both AsMA and UHMS in June 2025. The background is that AsMA was established in 1929, UHMS was established in 1967 and became an AsMA constituent organization in 1974. The organization merged with Hyperbarics in 1990. A working group designated during the Executive Committee developed an MOU with the following concepts and steps: keep

the identity and culture of AsMA and UHMS; single executive director of both AsMA and UHMS; CME will be continued to be managed by UHMS; larger role to senior staff within AsMA and UHMS, Giselle Vargas will be the Deputy Executive Director; MOU collaboration committee build guidelines for a more collaborative relationship with the AsMA and UHMS staffs; June 30, 2025, Jeff Sventek will retire and Jeff Peters will be Executive Director of both UHMS and AsMA; pre-hire John Peters in July of 2024 through December 2024 at no cost to AsMA organization; Consulting payment to John Peters from Jan to June 2024; proposal outlined in MOU accepted by the AsMA council.

**Bylaws Committee:** There were no new Bylaw or Policy and Procedures changes reviewed at the AsMA Council Meeting.

**Scientific Program Committee:** An excellent report was given yesterday at the opening ceremony by Dr. Ian Mollan. We appreciate Dr. Boudreau's report.

**Scientific Program Committee Report (Eilis Boudreau):** 696 abstracts were submitted and reviewed. There was an 80% acceptance rate and 20% decline rate. That is the sign of a really healthy scientific organization. I served with an incredible Scientific Program Committee Leadership. Please stand to be acknowledged. Additionally, we did expand the poster sessions to seven, allowing us to accept 555 abstracts as poster presentations. They are in video format. There are poster tours, as an experiment this year. We presented the changes for the next year regarding the Scientific Program Committee to the Executive Committee and the AsMA Council. The Scientific Program Committee will have more work to continue making it a straightforward process. We will not be splitting panels and will be providing examples. We are aware that emails from Open Water are not making it through to the author's email box.

**Nominating Committee Report (Jim DeVoll/Joe Dervay):** Jim DeVoll thanked the nominating Committee and outlined the AsMA nominating process. The Nominating Committee meets several times per year and does a tremendous job. He asked the members of the Nominating Committee please stand and be acknowledged. The slate of Officers is: President-Elect: Warren Silberman; Vice Presidents: Fred Bonato, Rowena Christiansen; Treasurer: Casey Pruett; Members-at Large: Roy Allen Hoffman, Thomas Hoffman, Bonnie Posselt, and Annette Sobel. No nominations were received outside of the process.

**AsMA Treasurer's report (Casey Pruett):** We have a very good view of the final 2023 AsMA results (pending audit confirmation). With the higher-than-expected New Orleans meeting attendance yielding a boost to revenues, along with positive membership and investment account contributions. Our overall expenses are in line with budget projections; thus we expect an overall positive net operating income for 2023. New Orleans 2023 has edged out Las Vegas 2019 as the largest revenue generator AsMA annual meeting to date, with its higher attendance than expected. It seems there is a strong appetite to travel and meet in person for events like AsMA's annual meeting. The location also certainly helped. The net positive result of \$539,000 for New Orleans is the best outcome to date, edging out Las Vegas in 2019. In addition, the improving investment accounts contribute to a prediction for a 2023 final result (\$200K NOI) much better than budgeted (\$11k). We continue to recognize cost savings from meetings, printing/mailing the journal, and management activities. There is a concern about declining membership and its associated benefits, which requires more attention.

The UBS Investment Portfolio shows growth (added \$122K year-over-year for the end of 2023, \$108K current YOY), even if it is slower than previous recoveries. Keeping the long-term horizon in mind is always important and rebalance when necessary, as shown in the recent reallocation from Delaware to PIMCO Income Institutional Fund. After 2023 is finally accounted for, we may have the opportunity to replenish funds into the AsMA investment account. By the way, PIMCO continues to show positive growth and emphasizing it was a good decision to change. The 2023 Financial Audit review has completed with zero findings!

**Recommendations:** Reassess ASMA financial position after 2023 accounting finalized and perhaps replenish the investment portfolio to regain our \$1M posture. Increasing Membership is a topic to consider, as well as virtual meetings, incentives, and joining with UHMS. We will also continue to leverage the cost-saving efforts from the membership and journal committees.

**REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY (Anthony Wagstaff)**

**Resolutions Committee:** Have recently brought forth three resolutions that are available in the committee's report.

**Communications Committee:** Is working actively with headquarters to improve our presence in social media. Please look up our social media sites and follow them.

**Air Transport Medicine Committee:** Held their meeting today. It was well attended and is working on several issues on air transport medicine

**EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH (Warren Silberman)**

**Education and Training:** Report regarding Education and Training and their contribution to Resolution to 2022-1, concerning the importance of accredited training and board certification in aerospace medicine. There will be a meeting regarding this topic after the Business Meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP (Susan Fondy)**

**Awards Committee:** The Bauer Award was presented to Dr. Chancellor yesterday because she will not be here Thursday night. The rest of the awards will be presented at Honors Night. **Membership Committee:** Is working hard to expand their services. One of their initiatives is to have local Health Profession Students attend this Scientific Program for one day. There are plans to expand that program for future meetings in Atlanta and Denver to bring in students to give them a vision and dream. Please engage with these students. We are developing a mentorship program with the membership committee and the Associate Fellows Group. If you are an Associate Fellow and think it would be interesting to mold the next generation, please see members of the Membership Committee or the Associate Fellow Group.

**Corporate and Sustaining Membership Committee:** Please come see Susan Fondy, as we need a new leader.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:** none

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 CDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Sventek, MS, CASP, Executive Director  
J. Karen Klingenberger, MD, MS, MPH, Secretary

