

Abridged Minutes of the 95th Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA, United States



Orford



Sventek

Call to Order (Jeff Sventek): A quorum of more than 100 members in attendance was met and the meeting started at 12:00 pm EDT on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

In Memoriam (Jeff Sventek): Attendees paused to reflect and remember those members of AsMA who passed away since the last AsMA conference in 2024.

Recognition Of Past Presidents (Jeff Sventek): Past Presidents were asked to rise and be acknowledged.

Recognition Of Past Executive Directors (Jeff Sventek): Past Executive Directors were asked to rise and be acknowledged.

President's Remarks (Bob Orford): It has been an amazing year. I have very much enjoyed writing the monthly President's Pages for the AsMA journal. We had a great meeting in Chicago last year with excellent attendance, over 1700 attendees. However, because of expenses we didn't have a significant increase in revenue. We are very pleased with this year's venue in Atlanta.

We are transitioning from Jeff Sventek as Executive Director to John Peters, who will continue as the Executive Director of UHMS. A Collaborations Committee was established to enhance communications between the two organizations, composed of five members from each organization. The Collaborations Committee approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between AsMA and UHMS and an employment agreement with John Peters as AsMA Executive Director. John was hired as a Consultant from January to June to plan the Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta and prepare for the transition. After 1 July, John Peters will be the Executive Director and Jeff Sventek will be consulting informally as needed. In October 2025 he will become Secretary General of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine.

John Peters will be handling finances and outside communications. The Deputy Executive Director, Gisselle Vargas, will be responsible for much of what Jeff has been doing with respect to member communications, AsMA staff management, liaison with AsMA's Committees, planning of AsMA Council, Scientific Program Committee, and Executive Committee meetings and organization of the Annual AsMA/UHMS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) jointly with John Peters and UHMS staff. John Peters will be responsible for working with the AsMA President, Officers, Executive Committee (ExCom), and Council, AsMA/UHMS Collaborations Committee, Chairs of AsMA Com-

mittees as needed, including the reconstituted AsMA Finance Committee, executive management of AsMA staff and services, AsMA financial management, the AsMA strategic financial roadmap, new product and service development, and member satisfaction and growth.

Several important events occurred, or will occur, in 2024–2026. ICAM 2024 was held in Lisbon, Portugal. ICASM 2025 will be in Singapore October 27–30, 2025. ICAM in 2026 will be in Istanbul, Turkey. The AsMA Council Meeting and Scientific Program Committee, with a new process for abstract review, were held in Alexandria in November 2024. The Council meeting in November 2025 will be virtual this year, while the Scientific Program Meeting will be held in North Palm Beach, where John Peters is located, in late January 2026.

Warren Silberman and I traveled to Orlando, FL, for the SpaceCom convention. I spent a day before SpaceCom at the Kennedy Space Center, and we both joined John Peters and Jeff Sventek (Jeff by Zoom) in North Palm Beach for a Presidential Transition meeting, which was very helpful for all. The AsMA Executive Committee met in Scottsdale, AZ, in early March 2025, preceded a day earlier by an Executive Committee trip to Biosphere 2, which was opened in 1991 north of Tucson as an Earth analog. We met Kai Staats, Ph.D., who developed a Mars analog at Biosphere 2 used for research purposes and highlighted by an annual international Analog Astronaut Conference in late April or early May each year. Kai Staats will be a guest speaker at the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver in 2026.

Working groups in 2024–2025 included one on Mental Health chaired by Dr. Billy Hoffman and Dr Quay Snyder, and another on the FAA Emergency Medical Kits, chaired by Dr Jim DeVoll and Dr Paulo Alves. A report on mental health research in aerospace medicine was published last fall, and the EMK report will be published in our journal soon.

The speaker for the Louis H. Bauer Lecture was Jeffrey R. Davis. The Eugene G. Reinartz speaker will be Mark N. Sirangelo, Ph.D. The Harry G. Armstrong/George B. Hart Memorial Lecture will be a panel chaired by Joseph Dervay with Richard Moon, Michael Gernhardt, Jon Clark, and Mitch Garber.

Report of the AsMA Foundation Chair (Mark Campbell): Mark Campbell thanked the members of AsMA, noting that it is 'your AsMA Foundation' and the work of the Foundation could not continue without the members' support. The Foundation had a very good year in 2024 and increased the managed brokerage account from 660,000 to 870,000. We have managed a 9% return on these accounts for the past ten years. We give 20 awards and scholarships annually to grow the organization. Matching donors of \$2.00 for every dollar donated to the Foundation during the month of June.

GOVERNANCE (Warren Silberman)

Bylaws Committee: There are no new Bylaw or Policy and Procedures changes reviewed at the AsMA council.

Scientific Program Committee: An excellent report was given yesterday at the opening ceremony by Amanda Lippert. We appreciate Amanda Lippert's report.

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, successful, and laid the foundation for new and exciting opportunities for the Aerospace Medical Association. 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 next AsMA Executive Director, John Peters, the AsMA Deputy Executive Director, Gisselle Vargas, who has been employed by AsMA for 19 years. Our Director of Member Services is Sheryl Kildall, a 24-year employee of AsMA. Managing Editor for the journal is Rachel Trigg who has been with AsMA for nearly 22 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.

AsMA finished 2024 in good financial shape. We were able to meet all 2024 obligations but had to withdraw \$50,000 from the AsMA reserves to meet all obligations. The 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago was very well attended with 1,714 registrations. However, expenses in Chicago were higher than anticipated and excess revenue from that meeting was \$390,434 or \$149,000 less than the excess revenue for the 2023 AsMA meeting in New Orleans. AsMA finished 2024 with net excess revenue of \$28,986. This year's Annual Scientific Meeting registrations are also lower than anticipated. Travel funding restrictions for US government employees and contractors combined with concerns over enhanced screening of non-US travelers at the US borders reduced this year's meeting registrations to 1,775. We anticipated total registrations close to 2,000 since this is a joint meeting with the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society. Post-meeting analysis may require rescoping of future joint Annual Scientific Meetings.

AsMA recently completed the annual financial audit for 2024. 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, 2024 and 2023, 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, 2024 and 2023, 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 stable. As of this report, AsMA membership totals 2,087. That represents a 3.3% decrease from this same time last year. Despite the decrease in membership, AsMA finished 2024 with membership revenues of \$418,285 versus the budgeted amount of \$366,350.

AsMA collaborated with the International Academy of Avi-

ation and Space Medicine (Academy), the European Society of Aerospace Medicine (ESAM), and the Portuguese Society of Aerospace Medicine (SMAPor) in hosting the 2nd International Congress in Aerospace Medicine (ICAM), October 3-5, 2024 at the Aula Magna in Lisbon, Portugal. Registration for the ICAM 2024 was strong and finished with total registrations at 890. Net excess revenue for the ICAM 2024 was €125,493. Each of the four organizations shared the excess revenue equally with each organization receiving €31,373.39 or \$32,595.23.

Planning for ICAM 2026 is now underway. The ICAM 2026 is scheduled for October 1-4, 2026 in Istanbul, Turkey.

As of this morning, total registration for this meeting is 1,775, compared to 1,752 at the same time for the 2024 meeting. Of that total, 1,695 were registered in advance of the meeting and 80 attendees registered here on site. Of the 1,695 total, 1,306 were AsMA registrants, 316 were UHMS registrants, and 146 registered as both. The AsMA registrants plus those who registered as Both totaled 1,452. This represents a decrease of 300 AsMA attendees or 17% below the 2024 meeting in Chicago. Revenue from our Annual Scientific Meetings represents a large portion of our annual operating budget and we thank all participants.

Since 2014, AsMA Staff have been working remotely. In 2014, AsMA Staff worked 3 days per week in the AsMA building located at 320 South Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and 2 day per week from home. This arrangement reduced the number of days each week spent in the traffic congestion around DC and northern VA. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, all AsMA Staff members were directed to work from home. After 2 weeks of this work arrangement, we decided to have one person work from the AsMA building each day. That person would work from the office until the mail was delivered and distributed. Anything urgent would be scanned and sent via email to the appropriate AsMA Staff member. This arrangement worked extremely well and prevented AsMA Staff from being exposed to the COVID-19 virus at work.

Even after the COVID-19 threat had diminished and many people were returning to work at the office, we decided to retain the work procedures. We found that work productivity was maintained and AsMA Staff only had to fight traffic congestion one day per week. As a result, we found the AsMA building in Alexandria to be unnecessary.

AsMA was recently approached by the Alfred Street Baptist Church about the possible sale of the building. The Alfred Street Baptist Church is located across the street from the condo association complex where the AsMA building is located. In recent years, the Alfred Street Baptist Church has purchased several of the business buildings within the association complex. AsMA Executive Committee discussed the potential sale of the AsMA building in detail. Since the AsMA Staff no longer requires a physical office building to conduct AsMA business, the AsMA Executive Committee approved the Executive Director to engage with the Alfred Street Baptist Church on the potential sale of the AsMA building. The AsMA Council reviewed the draft Purchase Agreement with the Alfred Street Baptist Church and approved the AsMA Executive Committee to continue working toward the sale of the AsMA building for \$1.6 million. After closing costs are paid, remaining proceeds from the sale will be invested for use in support of future AsMA mission requirements.

Finally, this report to membership will be my last as the Executive Director for the Aerospace Medical Association. It has been an absolute honor and a privilege to serve our Association for

more than 15 years. I am confident that John Peters and Gisselle Vargas will pick up the executive leadership roles and move the Association to new and greater heights in the years to come. I will continue to participate in the Aerospace Medical Association as a member, but it is time for me to step aside and relax. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director.

Nominating Committee Report (Susan Northrup): The Nominating Committee meets several times per year and does a tremendous job. The slate of officers is: President-Elect: Anthony Wagstaff, MB, BCh, BAO, LRCP&SI, DipAvmed, PhD, MBA; Vice Presidents: Eilis Boudreau MD, MPH (2-Yr Term) and Ian Mollan, MBChB, DAvMed (2-Yr Term); Secretary: (2-Yr Term): Amanda Lippert MS; Members-at Large: Jaime Harvey (3-Yr Term), Roger Hesselbrock (3-Yr Term), Brent Klein (3-Yr Term), and Winton Laslie (3-Yr Term). The vote on nominated officers was unanimously approved.

AsMA Treasurer's report (Casey Pruett): 2024 Final Results/ 2025 YTD Preliminary/Highlights: The Year-End view of AsMA's 2024 costs and revenue (pending the annual audit) that shows a positive result for the year slightly better than predicted. Also presented, when relevant, are the 2025 YTD financial results. The investment data is shown as of 21 May 2025.

2024 Net Income: We had a slight increase of \$3K in revenue for the 2024 Chicago meeting initial results, which is the primary driver of AsMA financial data. Despite Chicago yielding higher than expected revenues. It also had higher expenses. Net Income (including investments) is currently \$29K compared to \$23K budgeted. Membership exceeded its target (which helped offset the higher expenses and withdrawal from the investment account) and Journal revenue is lagging.

2024 Annual Meetings: The AsMA Scientific Annual meeting in Chicago is showing a slightly higher than previously stated positive result of \$390K (was \$388 in November). Not the highest net result, but definitely the highest Revenue – Much to be said about Chicago as a major hub, so we have big hopes for Atlanta.

2024 Membership and Operations: Membership hovers around 2100 (slight increase in 2024, likely due to more attendance at Chicago) dues paying members and remains the second largest contributor to AsMA revenues. 5 Life Members in 2024 is 4 more than the expected one per year and corresponds to an additional \$20K recognized for the year. Chicago did translate into higher membership. However, multi-year and lifetime memberships do result in less overall membership revenue for AsMA long term. We have incurred slightly higher expenses than projected, due to repairs, bank, and IT charges and much higher convention expenses. Importantly, there was a need for \$50K from the investment account, as approved at the November AsMA Council meeting.

2024 Journal: The approved budget accounts for the funding that supplements the journal expenses, though it may appear that the journal operates at a net loss. That is not the case. By the end of each year, the journal typically slightly overperforms in revenue, including open access and classified advertising that were better than expected. One part of AsMA's mission is to educate/publish the journal, so this is part of achieving that mission. However, we are behind expected revenues for 2024 YTD, given a decrease in royalties, subscriptions, display ads, open access, and classified ads. However, there is a significant decrease in expenses since moving primarily to the digital platform. Thus,

the printing costs continue to decrease as we move towards an emphasis for online access. The primary expenses for the journal include staff salaries and as well as printing and mailing costs, both of which are within budget. The journal staff continue to make efforts to cut expenses, particularly with Editorial Manager. Savings are increasing with the cessation of the print journal and continued reduction in printing/mail/handling costs are subsequently recognized.

2024 Income and Expenses by % slide: In 2024 YTD Income – Meeting (62%) is the primary source of revenue, followed by Membership (25%), Journal (6%), then Investment (4%), then Other (rent/web ads/item sales at 3%). = 100%. Expenses – Management (47%), Convention (39%), and Journal (14%) expenses are the primary contributors thus far. = 100%.

UBS Performance 21 May 2025: The highlight here is the increasing trend in our portfolio value, despite the \$50k withdrawal and subsequent volatility.

Return Rates: Rates show a 4.37% rate of return on all the combined accounts since inception in 2010, 4.29% return in the last quarter, 5.48% YTD return, and 3.84% return in the last 30 days.

Annual Financial Statements Audit: As part of AsMA's preparation and verification of its financial statements, each year the treasurer and executive director are required to join a video conference interview. This year's interview focused on revenue recognition, succession planning with the new Executive Director, and management controls. The final results are all positive with zero findings.

Summary: 2024 Preliminary results are positive! [\$29k Net Operating Income]. Very Positive result from Chicago. 2025 U.S. markets charging positive for now. Expect volatility over the next year. UBS Investment Portfolio is AsMA's lifeline. There was a \$50K withdrawal in November – this is the value of having the investment account to weather storms. Despite the withdrawal from the UBS investment fund, we are still gaining towards the \$1M reserve in the UBS investment accounts. We are maintaining a strategy to keep \$1M as backup funding for convention down years due to pandemics or other events. Recommendation to hold steady and maintain the long horizon view, time, discipline, and patience. We hope to replenish some funds into the UBS investment account after the 2024 year-end audit.

Recommendations are to potentially replenish UBS accounts and adjust asset allocation. There is a possibility of selling the AsMA headquarters property in Alexandria. Continue to develop strategies for increased revenue including a Virtual Scientific Meeting and incentives for membership.

REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY (Anthony Wagstaff)

Communications Committee: Chair Diego Garcia, with the social media subcommittee, has worked to develop better task coordination with AsMA Headquarters to ensure AsMA social media has the right content and presentation.

Resolutions Committee: Chair Luis Rivero has three resolutions in process: AsMA Resolution 2024-01–An Integrated Health and Safety Program; AsMA Resolution 2024-02–Establish a New Defense Safety Agency; and AsMA Resolution 2024-03–Equipping Air Carrier A/C for GPS-Based Instrument Approaches to Prevent Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT)

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (Fred Bonato)

Aerospace Medicine Residency: There is a lack of funding for U.S. residency programs in aerospace medicine. We have sent a

letter to Capitol Hill. Amy Kreykes and Fred Bonato will be representatives on any future collaborations on this front.

Scientific Program Committee (Amanda Lippert): The Scientific Program Committee had 133 reviewers completing online review of abstracts. Abstracts that were on the cusp were reviewed in person. Each abstract had an average of 7.2 reviews. The abstracts will now be submitted later, December 31st in alignment with UHMS.

Amanda presented changes to the abstract review process. Abstracts submitted as a panel will only be accepted or declined as a panel. 692 abstracts were submitted this year. We would like to have constituent organization endorsements for 2026. Encourage submission of individual abstracts that can be converted into slide sessions. Timeline has shifted; abstract submission deadline will be December 31 with initial virtual reviews in January and final in person reviews end of January or February. Notifications will go out in February.

MEMBERSHIP (Susan Fondy)

Membership Committee: Chair Sparky Matthews. There is a mentorship program with the majority of the mentees coming from AMSRO and the mentors coming from the Fellows and Associate Fellows Group. Survey for mentors has been distributed. Please sign up to mentor eager young mentees. Associate Fellows will get points towards Fellowship for mentoring. The commitment is for mentoring once a quarter for one year, however, there is no mandatory end.

Why I Love aerospace medicine videos. The format is to talk about how you got into aerospace medicine and why you love it. The videos are being completed in the registration area. Clips to help motivate. Please help with diversity of professions and countries.

Awards Committee: Chair Mark Sheehan and his committee have selected wonderful awardees.

Corporate and Sustaining Membership Committee: Could use additional members to contribute.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Acknowledgement of Jeff Sventek's tenure as Executive Director by AsMA President, Bob Orford. Jeff will be funded to the European Human Factors Symposium in addition to the presentation of a gift at the President's Reception. He plans to become a voting member of AsMA and potentially run for office in addition to being the Secretary General of the International Association of Aerospace Medicine (IAASM).

Motion made by Brent Klein to adjourn. Seconded by multiple members in the meeting. Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 1253 CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Sventek, MS, FAsMA, CAsP, Executive Director
J. Karen Klingenberg, MD, MPH, MS, Secretary

Erratum

Ryder VE, Williams ES. Revisions to limits for propylene glycol in spacecraft air. *Aerosp Med Hum Perform.* 2022; 93(5):467–46.

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.3357/AMHP.6037.2022>

In the above article, in the second paragraph of the section on SMAC Development, the authors stated “Importantly, this value (32 ppm) for pure propylene glycol exceeds the saturated vapor concentration for most propylene glycol/water mixtures being considered as thermal control fluids in exploration spacecraft.” This is inaccurate. The saturated vapor concentration for PG is 171 ppm at standard temperature and pressure, and the vapor pressure increases as water is added to the mixture.

The authors and the journal apologize for this misstatement.