

1/11/22 OCA Board Meeting on Zoom

Present: Drs. Cote, Collins, Allan, Hartwig, Cozzocrea, and Jan Ferrante

1. Call to order at 7:02PM
2. Agenda was approved at 7:05PM.
3. Mr. Smith (legal counsel) was invited but not present
4. Minutes from 1/4/22 meeting were approved unanimously.
5. ED Report: Jan told us that it has been relatively quiet at the OCA since the special gathering. There have been numerous postings on the forum. One new member has joined since the termination of Dr. Saboe. The link to the special gathering will be posted on the OCA website and online forum. It will also be on the ballot.
6. A. Special Ballot: Dr. Cote said he appreciated Dr. Collins's and Jan's efforts in writing the special ballot. Dr. Allan brought up the issue of how the next election will happen if the vote turns out that way. Dr. Cote said to replace the word "election" with "vote" under the "reject" voting option per Dr. Allan's request. The amended ballot was approved.
B. Dr. Saboe stated that he agrees to use the current CPA firm for the upcoming vote. Dr. Cote will request an email from Dr. Saboe so we have his agreement in writing.
7. Following the 12/7/21 OCA Meeting, Dr. Cote reached out to the lobbyist for the Naturopathic and Optometrist Boards among others. The idea to retain the new firm immediately was considered due to the length of time between now and the final vote re: Dr. Saboe's termination. Knowing that the firm has been representing other healthcare industries was taken as a good sign. Dr. Hartwig stated he agreed with retaining the new firm at least on a temporary basis. Dr. Collins stated that he is frustrated with the fear-mongering that has been present in our Association for a long time. He also stated he agrees with retaining the firm for a short-term bridge. Dr. Collins wants to be sure we keep the PAC and fundraising events separate from the lobbying firm. He also reminded us that Dr. Saboe even told us that the upcoming session is likely to be very quiet and that all of the banter recently has been Dr. Saboe trying to build his case. Dr. Collins made a motion for a bridge contract with the new lobbying firm. The motion carried unanimously.
8. PAC protocol and restructure: Dr. Cote wants the legislative committee tied to the PAC to contact us so we can learn where exactly the donations are going and how we can restructure the system. Dr. Cozzocrea said that the PAC contributions have been going directly to Dr. Saboe for at least his time in Oregon (6+ years). Dr. Collins again stated his concern over Dr. Saboe having carte blanche over the PAC and him acting like the legislative committee *is* the PAC. Jan informed us that on April 21, 2016 the OCA board approved a motion that would require the Legislative Committee AND *either* the OCA President OR Executive Director to co-sign any request by the PAC less than \$1,000.00. For amounts over \$1,000.00 the Legislative Committee must approve and either the OCA President or Executive Director AND a second signature from another Board member appointed by either the President or Executive Director. (See the minutes from the April 21, 2016 OCA Board meeting) It was made clear with numerous examples that this protocol has not been followed by Dr. Saboe since this was enacted in 2016.

Dr. Collins wanted the Board to email all current PAC donors a quick message to keep them calm during the turbulence. Dr. Cote requested a motion be made that we are freezing the PAC activities until the vote is final. Dr. Collins read from the bylaws that states that no committee can spend any money without the Board's approval. Dr. Hartwig asked if anyone had Dr. Saboe's comments in writing about the slow nature of the upcoming congressional session. Dr. Allan asked if Dr. Saboe gets reinstated, what will be done regarding the PAC and future spending and is concerned about the pushback from Dr. Saboe in the future. Dr. Cote said that Dr. Saboe will technically have no power to use against the Board going forward if the bylaws are followed/enforced. Per Dr. Cote's request we went in executive session at 8:20PM. Executive session ended at 8:31PM.

9. New Business: None
10. Announcements/Questions/Comments/Concerns: The ballot will be sent to members by Friday 1/14/22 via USPS.
11. Next Board meeting will be on 2/17/22 at 7:15PM. Dr. Cote would like another meeting following the election on 2/4/22 due to the potential of new Board members being elected. After discussion, we decided not to have another meeting prior to the 2/17/22. Meeting ended at 8:38PM.

Minutes by Dr. Todd J. Hartwig.