



Texas Academy of Palliative Medicine

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2003 Annual Meeting Minutes April 4th, 2003 @ 5:00p.m.

Call to Order

Outgoing President, Dennis Pacl, MD, called the meeting to order and supervised introductions.

Attendance

General Members: Dennis Pacl; Leigh Fredholm; Kendra Belfi; Darrel Diener; Linda Tavel; Young S. Kim; Mary S. Maxwell; Aaron Malakoff; Marion Primomo; Cheor Kim; R J Crossno.

Associate Members: Suze Miller; Leona Diener; Judy Godinez; Carla Crossno.

Review of minutes

Minutes from last year's conference call meeting (6/26/02) were reviewed. There was also a brief review of the last actual annual meeting (5/5/01). Minutes were approved.

Old Business

The current Executive Director, Carla Crossno, presented a review of the past year's activities. These included the acquisition of a permanent post office box for mailing, a bank account at Citizen's National Bank of Milam County and a web-hosting account through Earthlink, with email and website services (www.tapm.org). An overview of the financial statement was presented, including listing major donation sources and a current bank account statement of \$3289.36 (as of 3/29/03).

A brief review of the bylaws was performed, with no recommendations made for changes.

Membership recruitment activities were discussed, including results of a recent mailing to Texas ABHPM certificants, AAHPM members, and to "medical directors" of all identified hospices within the state. This has resulted in roughly forty new physician contacts and another dozen or so associate contacts. These are still being collated and a full listing will be developed in the near future.

New Business

Dr. Pacl supervised the election of officers for the 2003-2004 term. After nominations and unanimous approval, the new officers are as follows:

R J Crossno – President (elected last year to President-Elect)

Aaron Malakoff – President-Elect (assumes office as President 2004-2005)

Linda Tavel – Secretary-Treasurer

Dennis Pacl – Past-President

Committee chairs will remain the same, pending acceptance of those members of their respective positions:

Marion Primomo – Chair of Ethics & Bylaws Committee

Marcia Levetown – Chair of Education Committee

Darrel Diener – Chair of Membership Committee

Dr. Crossno expressed his appreciation to both the outgoing officers, including Dr. Pacl and Dr. Fredholm.

Discussion then turned to the direction TAPM, as an organization, should take. For the past several years, TAPM has co-sponsored a half-day track at the TMA Annual Meeting on End-of-Life topics. This year's topics during the session immediately preceding this meeting included Advance Directives in Texas, Quality End-of-Life Care and Therapeutic Prescribing of Controlled Substances in Texas. These tracks have always been geared primarily towards the general physician population who has an interest in a palliative or end-of-life topic. Realistically, these are ethics-accredited hours and provide an opportunity for physicians to meet the TSBME requirements. While of interest to palliative physicians, these offerings usually do not offer a great deal of new information regarding the practice of palliative medicine.

A suggestion was offered for discussion that TAPM sponsor a true palliative medicine course for its members on an annual basis. This would be in addition to the half-day track presented in a more general format at TMA. Trying to do this as a stand-alone was recognized as being impractical and likely prohibitively difficult, at least for now. "Piggybacking" this along with another current program was suggested. Some of the programs mentioned were Dr. Bruera's annual meeting in Houston, the Chuck Meyer biannual meeting in Austin or the TNMHO annual meeting, which rotates around. Dr. Crossno indicated that he had been contacted by one of the new board members for TNMHO regarding the possibility of doing some sort of track at their next meeting, since there was no physician CME offered at their last meeting in New Mexico. Another program mentioned was the Texas Geriatric Society/Texas Medical Directors Association annual meeting.

Assignments were made to investigate further along this line with Dr. Pacl to discuss possibilities with Dr. Bruera, Dr Fredholm to investigate into the Chuck Meyer program and Dr. Crossno and Dr. Tavel to look further into the TNMHO prospects.

Adjourn

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made and carried to adjourn. The date and location of the next annual meeting is not set, depending on the direction our programming takes in the next few months.



Carla L. Crossno
Executive Director