

**Board of Governors Meeting Minutes**

**January 16, 2024**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**

Dr. Janine Burkhardt, President  
Dr. Derek Conover, President-Elect  
Dr. Stanley Markiewicz, Secretary  
Dr. Renee Fennell, Immediate Past-President & PDA Trustee  
Dr. Tom Gamba, Financial Officer  
Dr. David Tecosky, Editor  
Dr. Roopali Kulkarni, Governor  
Dr. Nipa Thakkar, Governor  
Dr. Rajvir Jutla, Governor  
Dr. Paul Bahn, Governor  
Dr. Christopher Lai, Governor  
Dr. Lauren Yap, Governor

**STAFF**

Ms. Lisa Gottlieb, Executive Assistant

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Kevin Klatte, Treasurer

Dr. Burkhardt welcomed everyone to the meeting and then installed the new officers and Board members for the Society. Incoming Members included: Dr. Stanley Markiewicz, Secretary, Dr. Kevin Klatte, Treasurer, Dr. David Tecosky, Editor, Dr. Paul Bahn and Dr. Christopher Lai Board of Governors.

**Approval of Minutes** The Board **APPROVED** the Minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting on a Motion by Dr. Markiewicz, seconded by Dr. Gamba.

**Board Reports**

**President**

Dr. Burkhardt thanked everyone serving on the Board for their commitment throughout the year. Dr. Burkhardt advised the board that she has made recommendations for committee appointments. She reviewed the list of committees and assigned 3 committees per governor. She further advised that officers may serve on more committees. The committees that aren't active and being reported on but are listed in bylaws will be added to the agendas going forward.

Dr. Burkhardt provided the plan of the committees going forward and advised that the committee list will be emailed out after the meeting. Dr. Fennell asked if everyone will be waiting for the Chairs to contact the committee members to host meetings - Dr. Burkhardt replied that for the committees that are active, yes meetings will be happening, but some of the committees aren't as active, the goal is to have them back on the Agenda and reporting on them so we don't lose sight of them.

Lastly, Dr. Burkhardt reported that the 70th Anniversary of water fluoridation in Philadelphia is coming up. They will be planning a celebration on May 1, 2024 that will most likely be a component of CE and maybe even an award from the CDC. Dr. Burkhardt further reported that we are already planning content for the Journal and that she wanted to place the event on everyone's radar. Dr. Tecosky inquired if the Public Relations Team should put together a press release about the celebration. Dr. Burkhardt responded that there may already be press releases going out.

**President-Elect – Dr. Conover** - no report

**Secretary**

Dr. Markiewicz advised that the Council of Districts and Board of Trustees will be having a meeting this coming Friday. He further advised that since he will be moving to the PDA Treasurer-Elect position, Dr. Lauren Yap has agreed to be on the Council of Districts for First District. He further reported that the ADA National Signing Day is taking place on 3/20 and encouraged board members to attend the event.

**Treasurer - Dr. Klatte** - No Report

**PDA Trustee**

Dr. Fennell advised that since the next meeting is not until 1/19, she has no official report at this time. She did ask the Board if anyone was nominated for the ADA Delegates. Dr. Markiewicz replied that himself, Dr. Thakkar, Dr. Yap and Dr. Kulkarni were all nominated.

Dr. Fennell also advised that she has been speaking against the new election process for the President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer-Elect for future elections and asked if everyone was aware of what was going on. Dr. Thakkar replied that she'd like to provide a summary and advised that the PDA is assigned 17 delegates to serve as representatives for the PDA to the ADA HOD which has over 400 delegates. PA also has 17 alternate delegate spots and all of those spots are funded. We use different processes on appointing and electing the delegates and alternate delegates and they get the opportunity to visit wherever the ADA event is happening, but it is also a lot of work. The process was modified for the first time this year where it is no longer a popular vote/election and now it is a self nomination process. Anyone who wants to nominate themselves will go online and complete an application and say why they feel they'd like to be a delegate/alternate delegate and that form then gets sent to the Board of Trustees and Council of Districts, then those individuals will review the applications and decide which 34 people should be selected to represent PA.

Dr. Thakkar further advised the Board about the election process as she has run for PDA President-Elect last year and again this year and that the process has been for over ten years now a popular vote. There is a two week period where PDA Members are able to go online and fill out a ballot and cast their vote on who they want to elect. The vote has always been based on popularity (how long you've been around or how well people know you) and now they're trying to evaluate if it should be based on something different. The vote rate right now is less than 10% so they're trying to think of what

is the best way to elect officers of our state. Dr. Thakkar further stated that we've always had great presidents in this state and we've done nothing wrong, but we are always trying to do better.

Dr. Gamba asked if this was the first year of the new format for delegate/alternate delegate selection and both Dr. Fennell and Dr. Thakkar responded yes. Dr. Gamba further inquired if the new process required a Bylaws change and again both Dr. Fennell and Dr. Thakkar replied yes. Dr. Gamba asked if the Bylaws were changed by both the Board of Trustees and the Council of Districts - Dr. Markiewicz replied just the Board of Trustees. Dr. Gamba inquired if just the Board has the power to change the Bylaws and Dr. Burkhardt responded that the Board did meet with the Council of Districts to receive feedback on the changes.

Dr. Gamba asked if Dr. Thakkar and Dr. Fennell thought that this new process is a good idea and also asked if the original officers are automatic delegates. Dr. Thakkar replied that she doesn't know and we will see how it works out. Dr. Fennell replied that yes, Officers are automatic alternate delegates. Dr. Fennell further stressed her concerns that this new format could take away the power of members to choose who is elected and provide the Board of Trustees with all the power. Dr. Gamba agreed with Dr. Fennell and added that this is why the House of Delegates was done away with years ago.

Dr. Fennell finally reported that Dr. Limberakis (the incoming PDA President) would like to host a Vacation CE this year and that they're looking for volunteers to help plan it and she asked if anyone would be interested. Dr. Thakkar replied that she would be happy to volunteer.

### Committee Reports

**Constitution & Bylaws** - no report

**Executive – Dr. Burkhardt** – no report

#### **Administrative**

Dr. Markiewicz advised that Evaluation Surveys will be coming to the Board and to stay tuned for them. We will use them to evaluate staff and the Board.

**Strategic Planning - Dr. Conover** - No Report

### Standing Committee Reports

**Advisory - Dr. Fennell** - No Report.

#### **Finance**

Dr. Gamba provided an update on the switch from Limor Goodman and that the letter was sent via Certified Mail and the process will now begin. We should be transitioned by February 1, 2024. Limor Goodman charged us \$95/hr and Ink will charge \$75/hr.

### Council Reports

#### **Communications / Public Relations**

- **Publications/Editor**

Dr. Tecosky advised that Dr. Lai and Dr. Yi have stepped into the Assistant Editor roles and we have established a timeline for all publications. Everyone is working together and providing excellent content and making the publications very successful. JFM Issue was published a little late due to the

Diversity Dinner being scheduled so soon - originally it wasn't scheduled until the end of March, beginning of April. We held off publishing in order to get the Diversity Dinner details in the issue.

- **Public Relations**

Dr. Tecosky reported that there were no PR concerns noted during the last 3 months. He did propose that with the assistance of the PR staff at the PDA that he'd like to create a media/spokesperson training for interested PCDS Members. He advised that he's been a spokesperson for the AGD for over 25 years and has had training by them and the PDA. He also served as Chairperson of the AGD Council on Public Relations and served on the PDA Public Relations Committee and served as a chairperson there as well. He believes this is something which can benefit our members and the community we serve. With the Board's approval he would be happy to develop a program at no charge to the members of the Society.

- **Website & Social Media**

Lisa reported that the website will continue to be updated for all 2024 events. She asked that if anyone has any social media content to please email her.

### **Education**

Dr. Markiewicz reported that CE Courses for 2024 have all been scheduled and set up - thanks to Rebecca at the PDA. Details on all the courses are listed at the bottom of the Agenda. Dr. Markiewicz advised that the first class for 2024 will take place on Friday, March 15, 2024. CPR Recertification will be on this day at 3:45-5:45 pm. The required Child Abuse course will take place on Friday, December 6, 2024.

### **Membership**

Dr. Thakkar advised that the goal for 2024 is to work more with the Strategic Planning Committee and really establish a "why" people want to be a member. She further reported that many changes will be coming from the ADA that will affect the local societies and that we will look to Dr. Fennell and Dr. Kulkarni to help guide us through those changes and really find our "why."

### **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports**

- **Ad-Ho Events**

- **Diversity Dinner Series**

Dr. Tecosky reported that the Greek Dinner has been planned for Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 6-9 pm at Estia. Dr. Evanthia Anadioti will be speaking. He further advised that the committee is working on obtaining other speakers for other nationalities - if anyone knows of anyone willing to speak, please let us know. Trying to schedule 3 more for 2024. He reported that Lisa applied for ADA Arc Grant funding for the dinners and we will know at the end of the month if we got it.

- **Summer Picnic**

Dr. Jutla advised that the picnic will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Franklin Square Pavilion. We will be using the same catering company this year as we did last year and we are currently working on sponsors to cut the costs down.

- **Ask a Specialist 2.0**

Lisa advised that we will be planning the Ask a Specialist event again for November of 2024. We will start actively planning towards the end of the summer.

- **Outreach**

- Give Kids a Smile
- NCDHM - 4 schools (Loring Flemming Elementary, Oaklyn Public School, Gloucester Township Recreative Pre-K and St. John Nursery School) are set to have dental speakers come in and speak about oral health care and good oral hygiene. Dr. Yap and Dr. Yi are some of the speakers and Dr. Bahn introduced Lisa to the Cooper Pediatric Dental Residency Director who will be setting up residents to visit some of the schools. Lisa ordered promo materials from the ADA for the schools. If anyone on the Board has connections to schools in Philadelphia, please email Lisa and she will work on getting someone out there to visit.

- **Mentoring Committee**

Dr. Lai shared about his experience volunteering with St. Christopher's University pre-dental students.

- **Non-Dues Committee**

Dr. Markiewicz reported that he reached out to Treloar and Heisel and Torch Dental and has not heard back from either. Lisa did provide a report about non dues income for publication advertisements.

- **Scholarship Committee** – No Report

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### **Executive Assistant Report**

Lisa spoke with Intern from Drexel and he will be working on an oral health needs assessment in Philadelphia.

She asked everyone to please check the PCDS Contact list that was sent out to make sure all contact information is up to date.

She provided the date for the upcoming Installation Dinner and details about that.

Check the bottom of the Agenda as all dates for 2024 have been updated.

### **Old Business**

Lisa provided update that the ADA contacted us and they will be providing an additional \$8,000 in Arc Grant funding for the 2023 Liberty Dental Conference.

### **New Business**

Reminder to vote in the PDA Elections next month.

Send well wishes to Dr. Jutla as he is having another baby at the end of the month.

### **Necrology**

A moment of silence was held for Dr. Augustine Chialastri.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Stanley Markiewicz, D.D.S.  
Secretary