



EDPAC Board of Directors Meeting

October 16, 2015

Minutes

The EDPAC Board of Directors met on Friday, October 16, 2015, at 10 a.m. at the Hilton Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel, New York, New York. The following members were in attendance: Drs. Joel Friedman, Chair; Michael Breault, Vice Chair; Joseph Caruso, Treasurer; Mark Bauman, Secretary; District Chairs: Raymond Flagiello (2); G. Kirk Gleason (4); William Karp (5); Neal Levitt (7); Albert Granger (N); Viren Jhaveri (Q); Paul Hertz (B); At-Large Members: Drs. Robert Doherty (9); Steven Gounardes (2); Amarilis Jacobo (B); Maria Maranga (S); John Nasca (8) and James Soltys (7); Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Chad Gehani, ADA Second District Trustee; and Dr. Lauro Medrano- Saldaña, Chairman of NYSDA's Council on Governmental Affairs. Also in attendance were: Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Dr. Brendan Dowd, NYSDA Board of Trustees Liaison; Ms. Stella Stavrou, ASDA Guest; Mr. Roy Lasky, Consultant; and Ms. Beth Wanek, Administrative Director.

Dr. Friedman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He welcomed the members of the Board and called the roll. Absent were Drs. Lawrence Volland (8), Immediate Past Chair; James Doundoulakis (NY); Robert Giannuzzi (6); Stephen Stratton (8); Kerry Lane (S); David Shipper (NY); Howard Warner (6); and Richard Andolina (7), ADPAC Trustee.

Adoption of 2014 Meeting Minutes: Dr. Friedman called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 14, 2014, Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were adopted without edit.

Dr. Friedman reviewed the 2014-2015 Capitol Club/Honor Roll Comparison Report (attached) and noted that contributions increased over \$30,000 this year, despite the fact that NYSDA membership continues to decline. He reminded the Board that it should make every effort to ensure that its component leaders are members of the Capitol Club, ideally contributing at one of the higher levels.

He commended the Seventh District for once again leading in overall contributions collected by a component for the 10th straight year. He also recognized the Fourth District for its efforts, resulting in a \$10,000 increase over 2014. He reported that the follow-up solicitation sent via email to all NYSDA active and life members brought in an additional \$5,500 in Capitol Club revenue.

Dr. Friedman reported that he attended several fundraisers in the New York Metropolitan area this year. He would like to see EDPAC strengthen its grassroots efforts and feels it is important that Board members and component leaders attend fundraisers in their areas.

Dr. Friedman directed the Board's attention to the report of NYSDA Member Renewals (attached) and noted that 638 members to date opted not to support EDPAC this year via their NYSDA membership dues.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Caruso gave an overview of the political contributions made this year. He reviewed the Cash Flow Statement and Budget v. Expense Report noting that the committee is within its projected expenditures for 2015 (attached). He said he would send the Board a final year-end Budget v. Expense Report in early January 2016. He also discussed the periodic reports submitted by EDPAC to the NYS Board of Elections. And he reviewed the proposed budget for 2016 (attached) and reported that it is in keeping with budgets from previous years. After discussion, Dr. Friedman called for a vote to adopt the budget. A motion to adopt was presented by Dr. Levitt and seconded by Dr. Breault. The budget was adopted unanimously.

Report of the NYSDA Council on Governmental Affairs: Dr. Medrano-Saldaña gave an overview of Council activities this year and reviewed NYSDA's 2015 legislative report (copy attached). Dr. Friedman thanked Dr. Medrano-Saldaña for his comprehensive report.

Consultant's Report: Mr. Lasky provided an overview of this year's political activity in Albany, an analysis of the past year's donations and an historical overview of EDPAC's contribution to NYSDA's government relations efforts over the years. He emphasized the continuing need to improve our grassroots efforts to involve more dentists in political activity at the local level.

ADPAC Report: Dr. Andolina was unable to attend the meeting but submitted an informative report of activities at the national level. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Component Reports:

Second District: Dr. Flagiello reported that he continues to promote EDPAC at component meetings. He said that it is difficult to relay to some of the members why it is important to support EDPAC. He thanked Drs. Medrano-Saldaña and Gounardes for the support he has received from them.

Fourth District: Dr. Gleason reported that the Fourth District had a very successful year raising contributions for the Capitol Club. Drs. Gleason, Breault, Galati and Bauman met at Fourth District headquarters and personalized each of the letters prior to mailing. As a result, the district increased its membership from 42 to 103 this year... an increase of \$9,850. He noted that 23% of the membership in the Fourth District now belongs to the Capitol Club, while other components are at less than 10%, except Seventh District, which is at 19% this year.

Fifth District: Dr. Karp reported that he was appointed by Dr. Friedman to replace Dr. Jonathan Gellert as Fifth District EDPAC Chairman. Dr. Gellert became a member of the NYSDA Board of Trustees this past June, which made him ineligible to serve on the EDPAC Board. Dr. Karp reported that the solicitation to the Fifth District members was signed not only by the Fifth District EDPAC chair, but also by then-NYSDA President John Liang and by Dr. Karp, a NYSDA Board member. Dr. Karp said he looks forward to serving as a member of the EDPAC Board.

Sixth District: Dr. Giannuzzi and Dr. Warner were unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report:

Long-time Senator Libous (Assistant Majority Leader) resigned his office after a criminal conviction. An election will be held this November to replace him. The Democratic candidate is Barbara Fiala, former county executive and New York State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Republican candidate is newcomer Fred Akshar, long-time Broome County Sheriff and currently the under-sheriff. Does the Committee want to contribute?

The Sixth District had a modest increase in its EDPAC membership number.

Is it possible for the staff to give us feedback regarding the success of the second appeal letter? How many members and new dollars were collected after the second appeal?

Does the second request provide adequate income given the cost in postage and valuable staff time? How can we improve the process?

Ms. Wanek said that EDPAC collected \$5,500 from the second appeal. There were no mailing costs to EDPAC since the appeal went out via email.

Seventh District: Dr. Levitt was proud to announce that Seventh District once again led in Capitol Club contributions collected this year. However, he commended the Fourth District on a job well one. Seventh District continues to personalize its Capitol Club mailings and with the help of Dr. Andolina and Dr. Soltys, goes one step further sending personalized thank-you notes to contributors. He reported that the Seventh District continues to hold political events for legislators, noting that it had a very successful reception for a Senate candidate who was running against an incumbent and subsequently won the election. Assemblyman Joseph Morelle was honored at a Seventh District Awards Dinner and was made an honorary member of the society, in addition to being given its meritorious award.

Eighth District: Dr. Stratton was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Nasca informed the Board that Dr. Stratton had resigned after several years of dedicated service on the EDPAC Board. He looks forward to working with his successor, Dr. Charles Travagliato.

Ninth District: Dr. Doherty paid tribute to Dr. Robert Gabrielle, long-time Board member who recently passed away. Dr. Doherty noted Dr. Gabrielle's many years of dedicated service on the EDPAC Board. Dr. Gabrielle was loved and respected by the members of Ninth District and, some of his colleagues in the Ninth District made contributions to EDPAC in his memory. Dr. Edward Feinberg will succeed Dr. Gabrielle in 2016 as district chair from the Ninth District. Dr. Doherty said he is confident Dr. Feinberg will be a great asset to the EDPAC Board of Directors.

Nassau County: Dr. Granger reported that this year he will man an EDPAC Capitol Club exhibit at Nassau County's local meeting in an effort to reach out to members personally, in hopes of increasing participation.

Queens County: Dr. Jhaveri reported that he attended the ADA Washington Leadership Conference this year. It was a good learning experience. He said he was disappointed in contributions received from Queens County. He suggested that the chair of EDPAC visit a QCDS membership meeting to promote EDPAC. And he is looking into the possibility of

publishing information about EDPAC on the Queens County website and in its bulletin. He also reported that he attended some local fundraisers in his area.

Suffolk County: Dr. Lane was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Maranga reported that most Board members in Suffolk County are members of the Capitol Club. She said there was concern in her district that EDPAC representatives are not being kept aware of the current legislative issues concerning dentistry and there needs to be better communication from NYSDA. Dr. Feldman reminded EDPAC Board members that we can and will provide background material for them, but they are not the spokespersons for NYSDA's legislative program. Components should look to the NYSDA Board of Trustees and their representatives on the NYSDA Council on Governmental Affairs for updates on active issues. He also told the Board that NYSDA will be using Engage, which is the legislative action center used by the American Dental Association to send out action alerts, inform dentists of critical public policy issues, and to put members in contact with their legislators when necessary. Engage will help members be more aware of the issues before the State Legislature that affect dentistry.

Dr. Maranga expressed concern that EDPAC is not asked to participate in ADPAC Day held at the dental schools. She feels that every effort should be made to include EDPAC as part of these programs and that a representative from the EDPAC Board should be available to answer questions. Students need to be made aware that state political action is just as important as the national PAC, especially when starting a practice and addressing issues such as practice laws and licensing issues.

Bronx County: Dr. Hertz said he continues to promote EDPAC at local meetings. Dr. Jacobo added that she has attended many fundraisers for state and local representatives in her district.

Election of 2016 Officers: Dr. Friedman turned the meeting over to Dr. Gleason, chair of the Nomination Committee, who reported that the committee, consisting of himself and Dr. Flagiello, met on September 10 and unanimously approved the following nominations for 2016 officers:

- Dr. Michael R. Breault, Vice Chair
- Dr. Mark A. Bauman, Secretary
- Dr. Joseph R. Caruso, Treasurer

Dr. Gleason noted that no action was necessary regarding the office of chairman because Dr. Friedman is entering the second year of a two-year term as chairman, pursuant to the EDPAC Bylaws. Dr. Gleason moved the adoption of the slate of officers. The slate of officers was adopted as presented.

Nominations of 2016 District Chairs: Dr. Friedman presented the following nominations from component dental societies for 2016 EDPAC district chairs:

- New York County – Dr. James H. Doundoulakis
- Second District – Dr. Raymond A. Flagiello
- Third District – Dr. Gurinder S. Wadhwa
- Fourth District – Dr. G. Kirk Gleason

- Fifth District – Dr. William H. Karp
- Sixth District – Dr. Robert G. Giannuzzi
- Seventh District – Dr. Neal R. Levitt
- Eighth District – Dr. Charles S. Travagliato
- Ninth District – Dr. Edward M. Feinberg
- Nassau County – Dr. Albert L. Granger
- Queens County – Dr. Viren Jhaveri
- Suffolk County – Dr. Kerry J. Lane
- Bronx County – Dr. Paul M. Hertz

The slate of district chairs was approved as presented.

Election of 2016 At-Large Board Members: Dr. Friedman presented his recommendations for 2016 at-large Board members:

- Robert Doherty (9)
- Steven Gounardes (2)
- Amarilis Jacobo (B)
- Maria C. Maranga (S)
- John Nasca (8)
- David Shipper (NYC)
- James Soltys (7)
- Howard J. Warner (6)

The slate of at-large members was approved as presented.

Appointment of 2016 Executive Committee: Dr. Friedman made the following appointments to the 2016 Executive Committee:

- Neal R. Levitt (7)
- Steven Gounardes (2)
- Amarilis Jacobo (B)

Dr. Friedman announced that pursuant to the EDPAC Bylaws, nominees for district chairs and at-large members are subject to ratification by the NYSDA Board of Trustees. He will forward the slate of nominees to the NYSDA Board for consideration at its meeting in February.

New Business: There was no new business presented.

Guest Speaker: New York State Assemblyman Keith Wright, leader of the NY County Democratic Committee and candidate for US Congress in the 13th Congressional District (to succeed Representative Charles Rangel, who will be retiring at the end of his term) was guest speaker. He addressed the Board about legislative activities in Albany.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.