



**MINUTES
EDPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2020
7:00 PM**

The EDPAC Board of Directors met on Wednesday, October 28 at 7 pm via conference call. The following members attended: Drs. Michael Breault, Chairman; Richard Andolina, Vice Chairman; Joseph Caruso, Treasurer; Component Chairs: Drs. Robert Peracchia (NY); Geoffrey Gamache (3); G. Kirk Gleason (4); James Wanamaker (5); Howard Warner (6); James Soltys (7); James Hoddick (8); Duraid Sahawneh (9); Michael Shreck (N); Prabha Krishnan (Q); Jimmy Kilimitzoglou (S) and Dr. Joel Friedman (B). At-Large Members: Drs. Betsey Clark-Fortier (6); Raymond Flagiello (2); Chad Gehani (Q) and ADA Past President; Steven Gounardes (2); Maria Maranga (S); and John Nasca (8); Ex-Officio Members: Drs. Matthew Neary, ADPAC Second District Trustee, Paul Leary, ADA Second District Trustee, and Sharon Pollick, Chair of the NYSDA Council on Governmental Affairs. Also attending were Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Dr. Viren Jhaveri, NYSDA Board of Trustees Liaison; Dr. Lawrence Volland, Past ADPAC Second District Trustee, Mr. Roy Lasky, EDPAC Consultant and President of Lasky Government Affairs, Inc., Ms. Oksana Golovina, Counsel to Lasky Government Affairs, Inc., and Ms. Beth Wanek, EDPAC Administrative Director.

Chairman's Report: Dr. Breault called the meeting to order, welcomed the members of the Board and thanked them for their commitment to EDPAC. He said that it has been a most interesting year to say the least, which led to some significant repercussions pertaining to EDPAC. He reviewed Attachment 1 (Contribution Comparison 2012-2020) and noted that this year's contribution level is at the lowest it has been in the last nine years. Only 2% of the membership contributed to the Capitol Club this year, compared to 15% in past years. There are a number of factors which led to this decrease, primarily the pandemic and how it affected our members' practices. Dr. Andolina reiterated Dr. Breault's comments and added that he considered sending out another communication to the members who contributed in past years but not in 2020. Dr. Breault concluded that all in all, EDPAC had a good year despite the decrease in contributions it received in 2020.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Caruso reviewed the 2020 Budget v. Expenses (Attachment 2). He reported that although income is down this year, we were able to keep expenses down as well. Most importantly, the estimate of political contributions was on target (at 80% as of October 21) and noted that this percentage will increase by year end. He also reviewed EDPAC and Capitol Club income this year (Attachments 3&4). Finally, Dr. Caruso gave an overview of the 2021 Preliminary Budget (Attachment 5).

After discussion, Dr. Breault called for a vote to approve the budget. The motion was unanimously adopted. Dr. Breault thanked Dr. Caruso for his excellent service as EDPAC Treasurer.

Consultant's Report: Mr. Lasky gave a review of legislative activities in the past year. He noted that New York is a one-party state (Democratic) state and he anticipates that the Democrats will increase their control in this election. However, NYSDA is bi-partisan and has developed a high profile and good relationship with both Republicans and Democrats.

This year, because of the pandemic, EDPAC has been hosting virtual meetings between legislators and dental leaders in their districts. They have been well received by everyone who participated in them. Mr. Lasky said he looks forward to EDPAC hosting many more of these types of meetings in the future. He said that there is minimal expense to EDPAC while allowing more dentists at the grassroots level to interact with their legislators. He did note that early in the year some successful face-to-face events were held in Buffalo, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Long Island and Suffolk County, to name a few. Ms. Golovina added that she attended fundraisers that included some of the dental students. She noted that the students were remarkable young professionals and it is important that they be included in these events since they are the future of the profession.

Regarding the decrease in Capitol Club this year, Mr. Lasky suggested that the Board not send a second solicitation out to the members. The main goal should be for them to encourage their colleagues to retain their NYSDA membership. It has been a hard year for everyone and first and foremost, NYSDA must remain strong and maintain a strong membership base. All in all, EDPAC continues to be strong and will survive and thrive for years to come.

NYSDA Council on Governmental Affairs Report: Dr. Pollick introduced herself as the new chair of the council and looks forward to working with the EDPAC Board. She gave a detailed overview of her report (Attachment 6A). She noted that the Council will meet in November. She plans to address the stimulus and PPT loans with the council. She discussed the Zoom calls with legislators that she participated in and agreed with Ms. Golovina that students should be involved as much as possible. She also mentioned that the "Advocacy" link on the NYSDA website is very valuable to the membership. It is easy to follow and the status of bills which are of interest to the dental profession is easily obtained here. Dr. Breault thanked Dr. Pollick for her informative report.

ADPAC Report: Dr. Volland and Dr. Neary gave an in-depth report to the Board with regard to the activities and contributions made to ADPAC (see Attachment 7 & 7A). Dr. Volland said, that similar to EDPAC, ADPAC has suffered significant decreases in contributions. But because of the relationships that were built in the past, the Board is confident that ADPAC will survive going forward. He completed his term on the

ADPAC Board in October and is pleased that Dr. Neary has succeeded him as the Board member representing New York. Dr. Neary reported that the ADPAC held fundraisers for several national representatives including Senator Lindsey Graham. He also updated the Board regarding legislation being considered which would repeal the insurance industry's antitrust exemption, under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. Dr. Breault thanked both Dr. Neary and Dr. Volland for their reports and personally commended Dr. Volland for his years of exemplary service on the EDPAC and ADPAC boards.

Election of Officers: Dr. Breault asked Dr. Geoffrey Gamache, chair of the Nominating Committee to present his report to the Board. Dr. Gamache reported that the committee met on September 23 and unanimously approved the following nominations of the officers whose terms expire at the end of this year.

- Dr. Michael Breault, Chair (Term 2021-2022)
- Dr. Raymond Flagiello, Secretary (Term 2021-2022)

These nominations as presented by Dr. Gamache were unanimously adopted.

Nomination of 2021 Component Chairs: Dr. Breault presented the following nominations for 2021 component/district chairs:

- New York County – Dr. Robert Peracchia
- Second District – Dr. Valerie Venterina
- Third District – Dr. Geoffrey Gamache
- Fourth District – Dr. G. Kirk Gleason
- Fifth District – Dr. James Wanamaker
- Sixth District – Dr. Howard Warner
- Seventh District – Dr. James Soltys
- Eighth District – Dr. John Tibbetts
- Ninth District – Dr. Duraide Sahawneh
- Nassau County – Dr. Michael Shreck
- Queens County – Dr. Prabha Krishnan
- Suffolk County – Dr. Dimitrios (Jimmy) Kilimitzoglou
- Bronx County – Dr. Joel Friedman

The slate of component/district chairs was approved as presented.

Election of At-Large Board Members: Dr. Breault presented the following recommendations for 2021 at-large Board members:

- Dr. Robert Doherty (9)
- Dr. Betsey Clark-Fortier (6)
- Dr. Chad Gehani (Q)
- Dr. Steven Gounardes (2)
- Dr. Maria Maranga (S)
- Dr. Edward Miller, Jr. (9)
- Dr. John Nasca (8)
- Dr. Lawrence Volland (8)

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

**Board nominees are subject to ratification by the NYSDA Board of Trustees and the slate will be forwarded to the NYSDA Board for consideration at its next meeting.*

Election of 2021 Executive Committee: Dr. Breault announced his recommendations for the 2021 Executive Committee:

- Dr. Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou (S)
- Dr. James Soltys (7)
- Dr. James Wanamaker (5)

The recommendations were approved as presented.

New Business: Dr. Soltys asked Mr. Lasky to review the issues NYSDA will be focusing on during the 2021 Legislative Session. Mr. Lasky said that the biggest concern is the Budget. NYS is facing the worst budget crisis in history. Medicaid will be the number-one priority. There is a possibility that the legislators may not meet in person because of Covid. Mr. Lasky concluded by telling the Board that if they have questions or concerns with regard to political issues that they should call or email him and he will be happy to respond. Dr. Feldman reiterated Roy's remarks and added that the Advocacy link on the NYSDA Website is a very valuable resource. NYSDA Counsel will be posting daily updates, noting which bills NYSDA supports and the status of these bills.

There was some discussion regarding whether a Capitol Club solicitation should be sent out in 2021. Mr. Lasky strongly suggested that in lieu of asking for contributions, EDPAC work on an email which would thank the members for their past support. These are hard times for our members and not a time to ask them for money.

Dr. Feldman informed the Board that there will not be an in-person Advocacy Day held in Albany this year. Instead, he is arranging phone conferences between the members and their legislators.

Dr. Kilimitzoglou complimented Dr. Feldman for establishing the Advocacy page on the NYSDA Website, noting that it is very useful to the members. He said it would also be useful to have a quick fact sheet to assist him and other members of the Board when creating EDPAC solicitations.

There being no further business to discuss the Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.