



**MINUTES
EDPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2019
6:30 PM**

The EDPAC Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 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); Kerry Lane (S). At-Large Members: Drs. Robert Doherty (9); Raymond Flagiello (2); Chad Gehani (Q) and ADA President; Steven Gounardes (2); Amarilis Jacobo (B); Maria Maranga (S); Edward Miller (9); John Nasca (8), and Matthew Neary (NY). Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Lawrence Volland, ADPAC Second District Trustee, and Dr. Paul Leary, ADA Second District Trustee. Also attending were Dr. Mark Feldman, NYSDA Executive Director; Dr. Wayne Harrison, NYSDA Board of Trustees Liaison; Mr. Roy Lasky, EDPAC Consultant; Ms. Beth Wanek, Administrative Director and Ms. Karen Miazga, Administrative Assistant.

Chairman's Report: Dr. Breault called the meeting to order, welcomed the members of the Board and thanked them for their time and efforts. He especially was pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Andolina, first-year vice chairman noting that Rick has considerable experience in both national and state affairs. He noted that he plans to have one in-person meeting each year but unfortunately the 2019 meeting which was to be held in conjunction with NYSDA's Advocacy Day in February was cancelled due to inclement weather. He informed the Board that the 2020 meeting will be held on April 21 in conjunction with NYSDA's Advocacy Day.

Dr. Breault reported that he attended several local fundraisers in Albany and surrounding communities with Mr. Lasky, and he saw firsthand how well respected the dental profession and Mr. Lasky are by the legislative representatives.

Of very sad note, Dr. Breault acknowledged that Dr. Mark Bauman, EDPAC Secretary, passed away very suddenly. Dr. Bauman was a close friend, a professional, a gentleman and a role model in the dental profession, who will be greatly missed. He informed the Board that he will not fill the vacancy for Secretary this year, since we are closing in on the end of the year, but will address this issue with the Nominating Committee in January.

He gave an overview of the EDPAC contributions and the yearly breakdown over the past few years (see attachment).

Bylaws Amendment: Dr. Breault proposed an amendment to the EDPAC Bylaws that would establish term limits of two terms of two years each for all EDPAC officers. This would apply prospectively so that any current officer, except the chair who is already term limited, would be eligible to hold two terms of two years each going forward. He feels that it is important to give new faces an opportunity to advance to leadership positions on a regular basis in order to ensure and encourage continued enthusiasm and involvement of all members of the Board. Also, it is the norm in associations to provide for the rotation of leadership positions as such rotation provides an automatic, non-confrontational way to provide for transitions in leadership. He read the proposed amendment to the Board (see attachment). Dr. Feldman noted that all officers at both NYSDA and the ADA are term limited.

Currently, the only officer of EDPAC who is term limited is the Chairman with a restriction of serving two terms of two years each. The Vice Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer all serve one-year terms with no limitation on the number of terms they may serve.

There was extensive discussion on the amendment. Dr. Volland said that he would like to see language included that would require nominees to have served at least two years on the EDPAC Board in order to be eligible for an officer position. He also feels that the Treasurer should not be subject to term limits because the Treasurer's position should have some continuity and not have constant turnover. Dr. Feldman noted and Dr. Andolina concurred that most PACs and advocacy groups have term limits. And, the Nominating Committee and the Board have a responsibility to ensure that unqualified nominees not be considered for these positions.

Dr. Volland presented an amendment to exclude the Treasurer from term limits. After discussion Dr. Breault called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment failed. Subsequently, Dr. Breault called for a vote on the amendment as originally presented. The Board adopted the resolution (by the required 2/3rds vote).

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Caruso gave detailed report of 2019 Income and Expenses. (See attachments). He discussed the decline in contributions. Dr. Andolina noted that this has been the trend throughout the country and not just in New York. Dr. Caruso said that now is the time for component chairs to reach out to their executive directors and study groups to be able to set up an EDPAC table at local meetings. This would incur a minimal expense but would be advantageous and a good opportunity to educate members about the importance of EDPAC. Dr. Shreck suggested that Mr. Lasky prepare talking points for the members of the Board to use to solicit new members. Dr. Breault agreed that this would be helpful.

Dr. Caruso also discussed a new law that was enacted last January requiring that LLC/PLLC contributions to the PAC need to be reported individually by both EDPAC and the contributors, making the reporting process tedious and lengthy. Mr. Lasky noted that although the new law creates more paperwork for administrative staff it is actually

very good for EDPAC. Over the years LLCs have been able to donate more than an individual. LLCs have been dominating and super ceding PACs. The new law benefits EDPAC and will restore the advantages of traditional PACs.

Finally, Dr. Caruso gave an overview of the 2020 Preliminary Budget (see attachment). After discussion, Dr. Breault called for a vote to approve the budget. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Consultant's Report: Mr. Lasky agreed with the suggestions previously discussed on how to raise money for EDPAC. However, the reality is that there has been a decline in membership. He noted that raising money is always a challenge but he feels that it is important to involve local members in politics. He suggested that members should attend fundraisers held in the component areas. He noted that there have been four or five events held in Buffalo, two in Suffolk County and the Fourth District, one in NY County and the Third District, and Dr. Shreck hosted two events for senators in Nassau County. Last week there was an event in Brooklyn for Democratic legislators and local dentists were invited to attend. This affords them an opportunity to talk with their legislators personally. Mr. Lasky also reported that Dr. Jacobo will be hosting an event in the Bronx for the Bronx Democratic Committee on December 5 which will be attended by the Bronx County leadership, Dr. Breault and Mr. Lasky. He would like to plan events in the Fifth and Sixth District in the near future.

ADPAC Report: Dr. Volland presented a very information report about recent ADPAC activities which is appended to these minutes. He noted that fundraising is getting tougher each year. He said there was very poor participation by New York in the ADPAC Capitol Club this year and it has taken a considerable effort by Dr. Maranga and Dr. Neary who successfully sent out email solicitations which increased this year's Capitol Club contributions. He noted that several NYSDA leaders and even Action Team leaders are not supporters of the Capitol Club. He feels that we should have the ability to dismiss ATLs who do not support ADPAC. Dr. Breault noted that Dr. Volland's points were well taken and critically important.

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, consisting of himself, Drs. Krishnan and Lane, met on August 15 and unanimously approved the following nominations for 2020 Officers for two-year terms:

- Dr. Richard Andolina, Vice Chair
- Dr. Joseph Caruso, Treasurer

Next year Dr. Breault will serve his second year of a two-year term as Chairman and therefore no action by the Nominating Committee was necessary. The slate of officers as presented by Dr. Gamache was unanimously adopted.

Nomination of 2020 Component Chairs: Dr. Breault presented the following nominations for 2020 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. James Hoddick
- Ninth District – Dr. Duraïd 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 2020 at-large Board members:

- Dr. Robert Doherty (9)
- Dr. Raymond Flagiello (2)
- Dr. Chad Gehani (Q)
- Dr. Steven Gounardes (2)
- Dr. Amarilis Jacobo (B)
- Dr. Maria Maranga (S)
- Dr. Edward Miller, Jr. (9)
- Dr. John Nasca (8)
- Dr. Matthew Neary (NY)

*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 2020 Executive Committee: Dr. Breault announced his recommendations for the 2020 Executive Committee:

- Dr. G. Kirk Gleason (4)
- Dr. Prabha Krishnan (Q)
- Dr. Michael Shreck (N)

The recommendations were approved as presented.

New Business: Dr. Soltys requested that the yearly legislative report published in The NYS Dental Journal by NYSDA Counsel Lance Plunkett be made available to the EDPAC Board prior to its publication so that the Board is prepared to answer questions posed by their members.

Ms. Wanek informed the Board that the EDPAC Website is being updated and the new version will be on line in the beginning of December. She will notify the Board when it is finalized. She asked for comments and suggestions from the Board. She also noted that a credit card swiper (the Square) is available for use in processing credit card contributions at local meetings and to contact Ms. Miazga at NYSDA headquarters for information. She added that the Capitol Club solicitation in 2020 will be mailed out electronically in order to save significant mailing costs. If the response is poor then a hard copy mailing will be sent out as a follow up.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.