

1 **March 18, 2021**

2 Web Conference

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4 **Call to Order**

5 The AAO's 2020-22 president, Paul R. Rennie, DO, FAAO, welcomed the members to the 2021 AAO  
6 Convocation and called the annual business meeting of the AAO to order at 12:32 p.m. Central time.

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8 **Invocation**

9 AAO Trustee Millicent King Channell, DO, FAAO, gave the invocation.

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11 **Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment**

12 Dr. Rennie led the members in the Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment.

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14 **Approval of Agenda**

15 Dr. Rennie entertained a motion to accept the agenda for the March 18, 2021, annual business meeting of the  
16 AAO's members.

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18 **Motion** *It was moved to approve the March 18, 2021, agenda of the AAO annual business*  
19 *meeting as presented.*

20 **Seconded** **Carried by consensus**

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22 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

23 Dr. Rennie entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the AAO's March 12, 2020, annual business  
24 meeting.

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26 **Motion** *It was moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020, annual business meeting*  
27 *of the American Academy of Osteopathy as presented.*

28 **Seconded** **Carried by consensus**

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30 Dr. Rennie entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the AAO's February 17, 2021, special  
31 membership meeting of the AAO.

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33 **Motion** *It was moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021, special membership*  
34 *meeting of the American Academy of Osteopathy as presented.*

35 **Seconded** **Carried by consensus**

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37 **Greetings from the American Osteopathic Association**

38 Dr. Rennie welcomed American Osteopathic Association (AOA) President Thomas L. Ely, DO, FACOFP,  
39 FAAFP, and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD, to the meeting. Dr. Rennie invited Dr. Ely to  
40 provide an overview of the incredible activities of the AOA.

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42 Dr. Ely stated that he brings warm greetings from AOA President-elect Joseph Giaimo, DO, and from the rest  
43 of the AOA Board of Trustees. He indicated that one of the first organizational priorities of his presidential  
44 year has been AOA membership where he sees a future that every single DO belongs to a specialty society, a  
45 state association, and the AOA, and that every student belongs to the Student Osteopathic Medical  
46 Association and to the AOA. He stated that starting in 2017, the AOA has experienced a decrease in  
47 membership where currently about 28% of the osteopathic physicians in the United States (US) are AOA  
48 members. He indicated that in the last three years there has been an increase in the percentage of new  
49 members and that the AOA has a concerted effort to identify, and to clearly inform and educate DOs on the  
50 value of professional membership. He explained that the osteopathic profession has grown almost 300% in

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT – continued

51 the past three decades which currently represents 11% of the physicians in the US with osteopathic students  
52 representing 25% of all the medical students in the US. He added that by the end of this decade, the number of  
53 osteopathic physicians is projected to represent 20% of the physicians in the US. He encouraged the members  
54 to remain connected to the osteopathic family, and to be an active member in the AOA, in their state  
55 osteopathic medical association and in their specialty society so that the leaders of these organization can  
56 truly represent their interests and needs because these are the organizations that work for and provide support  
57 to the osteopathic profession.

58  
59 Dr. Klauer stated his appreciation of Dr. Ely, Dr. Rennie, and of Ms. Quarles for the opportunity to speak  
60 about the value-added benefits that come from AOA membership. He indicated that the AOA is making  
61 certain to identify and implement a value proposition for each one of the AOA member categories for every  
62 member along the professional life cycle of the osteopathic physician to give those members what they  
63 expect, deserve, and need. He stated the AOA believes that having a professional community is incredibly  
64 important to the osteopathic profession to stay strong together, to represent DOs, to be able to speak to the  
65 distinctiveness of osteopathic medicine, and to provide the resources to do so.

66  
67 Dr. Klauer elaborated on the AOA's legislative advocacy at the state and national levels on issues that are  
68 important to healthcare physicians, specifically the osteopathic physician and medical student. He indicated  
69 that the AOA also provides professional advocacy on a regular basis by mobilizing its resources and platform  
70 to provide greater awareness and understanding in response to challenges to DO credentials, challenges to  
71 osteopathic medical education, and challenges to the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree. He provided  
72 examples of the AOA's recent activities related to advocacy for the osteopathic profession. He indicated that  
73 the AOA will continue to work with the American Osteopathic Information Association (AOIA) to use its  
74 time, energy, resources, and leadership to develop and to provide the practice resources, education and  
75 webinars which are needed by practicing osteopathic physicians and by osteopathic medical students.

76  
77 The members presented the following questions with associated responses by the AOA leadership.

- 78 • Do you have any information to provide to our resident population towards when AOBNMM will be  
79 moving forward and holding oral and practical portions of boards, given that AOBFP is now planning  
80 to hold OMT practical portions of their respective boards?
  - 81 ○ Dr. Ely indicated that the certifying board services are moving to a remote proctored platform for  
82 ease of application and have looked at multiple options for the practical portions of those exams.  
83 Dr. Klauer stated that he will follow up and provide more information to this specific question.
- 84 • Can you speak to OMT reimbursement and new coding?
  - 85 ○ Dr. Klauer responded that he does not know that new codes or new requirements for codes are out  
86 there but indicated that modifier 25 continues to be an issue and problem on which the AOA is  
87 focused. He explained that when an osteopathic physician is not appropriately reimbursed for  
88 osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) or OMT services, that puts the distinctiveness of  
89 being a DO in the osteopathic profession at risk. He suggested that members review the payer  
90 advocacy portion of the AOA website to make members aware of the issues which are being  
91 addressed by the AOA.
- 92 • What is the AOA doing to welcome or engage those who are interested in fulfilling osteopathic  
93 recognition and practicing osteopathic medicine?
  - 94 ○ Dr. Ely indicated that there are about 50 MDs currently in osteopathic recognized residency  
95 programs and that those physicians will have the opportunity to go through the AOA boards if  
96 they meet the criteria to do so. Dr. Klauer added that the AOA has opened membership to MDs in  
97 its bylaws to welcome them into membership in the AOA but not at the same degree of  
98 membership as a DO. He indicated that if there's something like OMM or a component of that  
99 which the AOA can provide that isn't available in the ABMS world, then the AOA wants to  
100 provide that avenue to those MDs who choose and aspire to practice osteopathically.

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102 Dr. Rennie thanked Dr. Ely and Dr. Klauer for their time and stated he looks forward to continued  
103 collaboration and dialogue in the future.

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**Officers’ Reports**

**President’s Report**

Dr. Rennie summarized his president’s report, stating it has been an incredible year which started with being put in quarantine as soon as Convocation 2020 concluded and then transitioning to a totally virtual world with the AAO adapting to a new platform. He explained that the transition of an in-person Convocation to a complete virtual program has been a growth experience which has provided new opportunities for distributing educational programming. He indicated that the future looks hybrid and that both in-person and virtual have value. He expressed his appreciation of all who have assisted with and provided support in meeting the challenges of this year.

**President-elect’s Report**

President-elect Richard G. Schuster, DO, presented his annual report, stating it has been an interestingly challenging year for the entire Academy. He added that the Academy is in a place where it is able to move forward with new opportunities that were previously unexpected.

**Secretary-treasurer’s Report**

In summarizing her report, AAO Secretary-treasurer Judith A. O’Connell, DO, MHA, FAAO, stated that the Academy made it through the year in the green. She explained that this is due to holding to a very frugal budget and through significant cost cutting by the staff who are to be applauded for those efforts on behalf of the membership. She indicated that there is a need for this to be a super positive year to rebuild the corpus of the investment funds which have been used to support the Academy’s deficit over the last three years. She encouraged the members to support the Academy by attending its programs and by donating to the Golden Ram Society.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sherri L. Quarles provided a short overview of the past year as presented in the annual executive director’s report. She indicated that this year instead of traveling thousands of miles, she has been engaged in thousands of hours in virtual meetings and with various time zones involved, it is important to utilize time and to be as accommodating as possible to the members.

Ms. Quarles thanked the members for their attendance and stated that the leadership is excited to present the 2021 virtual Convocation program. She stated that last year’s Convocation had its challenges and that Academy members came together to help face those challenges, as well as to bring the Academy to this point in being able to develop the e-learning platforms. She indicated that this year’s Convocation sessions will be available for an extended period of time and that CME reporting will be conducted by electronic self-attestation.

Ms. Quarles presented the following quotes from Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, with regard to valor as the order of the day in these unprecedented, challenging times.

- Hold your convictions and refuse to change your beliefs or actions. “Let us not be governed today by what we did yesterday, nor tomorrow by what we do today, for today we must show progress.”
- Embrace vulnerability, be authentic, practice compassion for self and others, promote love, belonging. “Help the needy, and deal justly with all.”
- Be undaunted: courageously resolute especially in the face of danger or difficulty. Ms. Quarles expressed her sincere appreciation and provided her virtual hug to every single member of the health care profession, who has put their lives on the line every day during this pandemic.

Ms. Quarles introduced Katie Kowalski as the newest staff member, indicating that she has been working behind the scenes to build the RD Mobile application for this virtual Convocation program, and stated the entire AAO team has been amazing throughout this process. Ms. Quarles thanked the leadership, all of the

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156 members, and the committee chairs; stating that there will be more work to do as the Academy moves from  
157 the virtual world back to in-person meetings.

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### 159 New Business

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#### 161 **Proposed AAO Constitution and Bylaws Amendments**

162 Dr. Rennie presented the proposed amendments to the AAO Constitution and Bylaws, indicating that voting  
163 will be conducted via text message for the two amendments. He stated that the AAO Board of Trustees and  
164 Board of Governors have reviewed these amendments and present them for consideration of the Academy's  
165 membership.

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#### 167 Amendment One: Bylaws - International Affiliate

168 Dr. Rennie presented proposed amendment one to the AAO Constitution and Bylaws, Section B. Bylaws,  
169 Article I. Membership, Section 3, item E, page 4, starting at line 204. He read the proposed amendment, asked  
170 and received a motion and a second, and opened the floor for discussion. He noted the explanatory statement,  
171 stating that the AAO had received a request to define the description of an AAO International Affiliate  
172 member, indicating that this description is a modified version of the AOA's definition of an International  
173 Affiliate Member, which mirrors elements of the AOA's bylaws. He indicated that in accordance with the  
174 AOA's bylaws, the Academy will submit its updated AAO Constitution and Bylaws to the AOA Board of  
175 Trustees in July for review of amendments approved by the Academy members, adding that part of the reason  
176 for some of these changes was to be in compliance with the AOA's structure.

177

#### 178 **Motion**

*It was moved to approve the first proposed amendment to the AAO Constitution and  
179 Bylaws, Section B. Bylaws, Article I. Membership, Section 3, Item E, page 4, starting  
180 at line 204, as stated below:*

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International Affiliate may be granted by the Board of Trustees to those  
182 persons who have made written application who do not meet the  
183 requirements of full membership, ~~who shall pay dues equal to the amount of~~  
184 ~~Full members (plus postage), and who are: graduates of schools of~~  
185 **medicine located outside of the United States on an official list of schools**  
186 **recognized by the AOA, are a member of an approved registry, and hold**  
187 **a license for unlimited scope of medical practice including the authority**  
188 **to prescribe without limitation in their country of practice and who**  
189 **support the goals and objectives of the AAO. Such individuals** have met  
190 the criteria and approval of the Board of Trustees. ~~Such individuals shall be~~  
191 ~~members of an American Academy of Osteopathy @ approved registry,~~ **shall**  
192 **pay dues equal to the amount of full members (plus postage),** and are  
193 entitled to the privileges of full membership except the right to vote or hold  
194 office.

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**Seconded**

**Defeated**

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197 This vote was taken by a text message vote with majority disapproval.

198

199 Discussion: The following comments were expressed concerning this proposed amendment.

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- 201 • This particular change in the bylaws would not allow for a distinguishing member category for non-  
202 fully licensed physician international members.
- 203 • Possible editorial changes might be for bifurcation to different levels.
- 204 • This change may have unintended fiscal outcomes.
- 205 • Current non-physician members already under the International Affiliate category may be displaced  
206 into another membership category.
- 207 • Osteopaths from other countries are less likely to apply to the AOA and would be more likely to join  
the Academy because of we practice the hands-on OMM.

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- Reworking the current language of this amendment includes following the process with review by the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and then presentation to the AAO members for approval.
  - Does the AAO have a category for non-US DOs?
  - Do the bylaws have language that describes the status for non-physician international AAO members and do we need to know the quality of their osteopathic training?
  - Defeat the motion and send it to the international affairs group.

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215 Dr. Rennie noted that with the defeat of this motion, the proposed amendment will be submitted to the AAO

216 Bylaws Committee and International Affairs Advisory Council for revisions to the language.

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### 218 Amendment Two: Bylaws – Nominating Committee

219 Dr. Rennie presented the second proposed amendment to the AAO Constitution and Bylaws for additional

220 wording to the paragraph for the Nominating Committee. He explained that this language is to clarify that all

221 names submitted for elective office are to be thoroughly vetted and reviewed by the AAO Nominating

222 Committee before being placed on the AAO ballot for election as per the following nomination process.

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1. The Nominating Committee solicits the AAO members for names of potential members who may be considered for nominations to elected office.
  2. The Nominating Committee reviews and vets the AAO members submitted for consideration to include those names suggested since the last AAO election.
  3. The Nominating Committee contacts and confirms the willingness of AAO members to serve as a candidate for an elected position.
  4. The Nominating Committee finalizes and publicizes the list of candidates for the upcoming AAO officer elections and because a curriculum vitae (CV) contains personal information, it is not published.

233

### 233 **Motion**

*It was moved to approve the second proposed amendment to the AAO Constitution and Bylaws, Section B. Bylaws, Article VII. Committees, Section 3, page 6, starting at line 361, with additional wording, as stated below:*

236 Nomination for any elective position may be presented from the floor by any voting

237 member at the annual business meeting of the Academy **for the next year's election.**

238 **All nominees must be vetted by the Nominating Committee with their**

239 **biography, curriculum vitae, and personal statement received and published**

240 **prior to the election.**

241

**Seconded**

**Carried**

242

243 This vote was taken by a text message vote with majority approval.

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245 Discussion: The members provided the following comments with regard to this proposed amendment.

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- There is a requirement that more and more organizations are needing to vet the candidates and there is not the time at the business meeting to appropriately perform the vetting process – this amendment addresses that issue.
  - Suggested nominees can be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to be considered in the nomination process.
  - Members are asked in late summer to submit names for consideration of nominations, or they may self-nominate; which allows for vetting to occur several months prior to the annual elections.
  - The AAO has adopted moving into a more formalized arena and the appropriateness of the preparation, the knowledge, and the veracity of those individuals in leadership positions becomes very important.
  - The vetting of candidates is to make sure the individuals who are willing to serve have the prerequisites needed to fulfill the roles of each of those elected offices, and the Academy has a responsibility to assure that these are qualified candidates for those positions.

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- 259 • The Nominating Committee presents the open positions when it requests names for potential  
260 nominees, as well as the term end dates for officers is listed in the meeting information booklet at  
261 each annual business meeting.
- 262 • The Nominating Committee determines the criteria for each officer’s position based upon the AAO  
263 Constitution and Bylaws, AAO membership requirements, the AAO Manual of Procedures, and  
264 standard leadership positions for a non-profit organization.  
265

266 Dr. Rennie thanked the members for their comments with regard to this amendment. He indicated that the  
267 Academy’s primary means of communication is the member newsletter and notifications about nominees will  
268 be presented in that format. He encouraged the members that if they have an interest or know of someone that  
269 might be interested to contact the AAO office to indicate their willingness to volunteer with the Academy.  
270

### 271 **AAO Component Societies**

272 Dr. Rennie announced that the following component societies, in accordance with the AAO Constitution and  
273 Bylaws, have submitted annual reports to the Academy’s Board of Trustees and have met the requirements to  
274 be recertified:

- 275 • American Academy of Pediatric Osteopathy
- 276 • Arizona Academy of Osteopathy
- 277 • Delaware Valley Academy of Osteopathy
- 278 • Florida Academy of Osteopathy
- 279 • Indiana Academy of Osteopathy
- 280 • Iowa Academy of Osteopathy
- 281 • New Jersey Academy of Osteopathy
- 282 • Northern California Academy of Osteopathy
- 283 • Northwest Academy of Osteopathy
- 284 • The Osteopathic Cranial Academy
- 285 • Presque Isle Academy of Osteopathy
- 286 • Resident American Academy of Osteopathy
- 287 • Rocky Mountain American Academy of Osteopathy
- 288 • Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation

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290 **Motion** *It was moved to recertify the above-listed component societies of the American*  
291 *Academy of Osteopathy.*

292 **Seconded**

**Carried**

293  
294 This vote was taken by a text message vote with majority approval.  
295

296 Dr. Rennie called for a motion to recognize and certify a new chapter of the Student American Academy of  
297 Osteopathy component society.  
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299 **Motion** *It was moved to certify the Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic*  
300 *Medicine chapter of the Student American Academy of Osteopathy component*  
301 *society.*

302 **Seconded**

**Carried**

303  
304 This vote was taken by a text message vote with majority approval.  
305

### 306 **Golden Ram Society Donations**

307 Dr. Rennie noted the list of donors presented from last year’s final report and the current donors to the AAO  
308 Golden Ram Society. He thanked those individuals for their contributions stating that these donations help to  
309 support the Academy and its leadership opportunities, to grow the organization and to develop and maintain

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT – continued

310 leadership positions on behalf of the osteopathic profession. He expressed his appreciation that this fund has  
311 exceeded the expected goal and that it has a major impact in the Academy’s infrastructure.

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### 313 **Leadership Service to the Academy**

314 Dr. Rennie stated his appreciation of the members’ volunteer time and effort this past year, indicating that  
315 there has been some great work done and that their contributions make a difference. He asked that those  
316 members who would like to volunteer their efforts on behalf of the Academy to submit an application for  
317 appointment to a committee.

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### 319 **Announcements**

320 Dr. Rennie indicated that the 2021 AAO Convocation is off to a great start with much great information being  
321 shared today and more exciting workshops and lectures in the next few days. He expressed his appreciation of  
322 all the efforts that have gone into making this program, stating that although each of the attendees may be in  
323 different places, he feels the spirit, that they are all connected and unified through this virtual platform.

324

325 Dr. Rennie announced that the 2022 AAO Convocation will be held Wednesday, March 23, through Sunday,  
326 March 27, at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida, stating the Convocation program is tentatively  
327 titled “*Trauma: an osteopathic perspective of body, mind and spirit,*” with Shawn R. Kerger, DO, FAOASM,  
328 as the program chair.

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330 Dr. Rennie reminded the members that the Academy’s next business meeting will be held Thursday, March  
331 24, 2022.

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### 333 **Adjournment**

334 With the Academy’s business concluded, Dr. Rennie asked for a motion to adjourn and declared the meeting  
335 adjourned at 2:18 p.m.