**DISTRICT III COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 17, 2016**

**via Conference Call**

**Meeting called to order by Director Aronson at 7:03pm**

**The following members and guests were present on the conference call:**

Patricia Aronson (District Director)

Jim Berry (Secretary)

Ray Davis (Treasurer)

Martin Baker (Past Director)

Jennifer Rheeling (President of DCATA) joined call @ 8:15pm

Gregory Penczek (President of MATA)

Craig Clark (President of SCATA)

Matt Gage (President of VATA)

Vince Stilger (President of WVATA)

Nick Pitruzzella (MATA President-Elect)

Scott Powers (VATA President-Elect)

**Absent:**

Scott Barringer (President of NCATA)

Drew Mason (WVATA President-Elect) - Absent

1. **Honors and Awards announcement**

Director Aronson thanked everyone for encouraging nominations of deserving members from District 3 and also recognized the following winners for 2016:

Service Awards MDAT Hall of Fame

James Bazluki Herb Amato Lori Bristow

John Knaul Martin Baker Ethan Saliba

Dan Lopez Joe Beckett

Maureen Thompson John ‘JJ’ Bush

Jess Vera Cruz Sherry Summers

All of the winners will be acknowledged and recognized during the Honors/Awards Ceremony at the District 3 Meeting in Virginia Beach in May, 2016.

1. **Constitution and By-Laws Update**

Director Aronson reported on the update of the Constitution and By-Laws which was approved in May of 2015 at the last District 3 Members Meeting.

Director Aronson reported that it is going to be necessary to update the MAATA By-Laws to reflect the changes in NATA By-Laws regarding Terms of Office for the District Director. Director Aronson recommended that District 3 amend our By-Laws to reflect the changes in the NATA By-Laws regarding leadership terms.

Director Aronson checked with NATA legal counsel and received an opinion that the District 3 Council could change these By-Laws without a membership vote/approval.

Past Director Martin Baker offered some background and input on the history of the term limit changes that have been instituted by the NATA Board of Directors, since the original language was developed during his term on the NATA Board of Directors. He also feels that this is a good decision for the association and the profession.

President Penczek (MD) noted that the change was necessary if the District was going to mirror the NATA’s By-Laws and suggested that some language be added or amended to the District 3 Constitution and By-Laws that would allow for the District Council to modify the document in the future.

Past Director Baker pointed out that this additional language may not be necessary because there are both national and district issues that may not be dependent upon one another and cautioned about making changes to the By-Laws. He also pointed out that it was probably important to involve the district membership in making the final decision regarding this change.

Director Aronson asked if the Council preferred to take this information to membership for approval at the District Meeting or just make the change as a Council.

Past Director Baker felt that it was important to make the membership aware of the change and ask the membership for input prior to a final decision on the change(s) being made to the By-Laws.

District Secretary Berry suggested that it was important to be transparent and allow the membership to be informed of the change, discuss in May at the District Meeting and then move forward from there based upon the feedback of the membership.

District Secretary Berry suggested that an initial informational piece be put in the February 60 Second News, followed by a more detailed explanation in the Spring Newsletter, and then discussion and a vote during the business meeting in May.

1. **Elections Committee Update**

Director Aronson reviewed and explained the “Consent of Obligation” letter for the upcoming District Director Election. The letter is located in the Dropbox for review.

Director Aronson outlined the election timeline for the District Director Elections. The timeline is as follows (tentatively): July 1 deadline for application, 7-10 days the election committee reviews and screens the applications for Constitution regulations. Successful candidates get Consent of Obligation Letter and return signed by July 18th. Election held in October via electronic ballot.

Past Director Baker provided an update to the Council regarding the Election Task Force. He stated that the taskforce is still working on parts of their recommendations and hopes to have final recommendations to Director Aronson within the next 10-14 days. He reported that the taskforce is proposing/studying the following:

1. Providing members some incentive to encourage them to vote. A giftcard, free registration to the annual District Meeting, etc. Some of these would incur a cost to the association while others would not.
2. To make sure that the election is fair and balanced, the task force would like to see the MAATA website enhanced to provide more information to the membership about the candidates running for office. Included as part of this would be a series of 4-5 questions that are relevant to the position, the profession, etc., so members have an opportunity to see where each candidate stands on such issues.
3. The task force is struggling with the 3rd area, which is to what level should candidates be allowed to “campaign” for the position. They are considering several options related to this topic such as asking candidates to link back to the MAATA election website from their personal social media sites, etc. There should be no negative campaigning. The issue is whether or not the candidates should be able to target the membership directly using email, US Mail, etc. The taskforce is attempting to find an acceptable answer to this question before offering a final recommendation to the Council.
4. **MAATA Symposium 2016**

Director Aronson updated the Council on the May 2016 meeting in Virginia Beach. Specifically, there was a suggestion that a camera be purchased for use by the District. The Executive Council does not feel this is necessary right now, as Secretary Berry will use his own equipment. The responsibility of insuring pictures are taken will fall to the District Secretary, so if a future District Secretary wishes for a camera to be purchased, that can be discussed and determined at the appropriate time.

Director Aronson also reported that the Executive Council had recently approved the purchase of a laptop computer for use by the symposium program chair and volunteers for registration and other meeting related activities. This equipment will be the responsibility of the Meeting Chair and will be transferred to the new chair when terms expire.

Secretary Berry reported on the cost of a “Step and Repeat Backdrop” for use at the district meeting and other MAATA events and activities.

**Vince Stilger (WV) moved that the Step and Repeat be purchased. Seconded by Craig Clark (SC). Motion passed unanimously.**

Director Aronson clarified for the Council that the district would not be funding any state meetings at the District meeting. The district will only allocate space for state meetings. What the district will allocate for is if a District Committee Chair or officer wants to meet with district committee representatives.

1. **NATA Update**

Director Aronson provided information to the council on the various activities going on with the NATA.

Regarding the NATA Symposium in Baltimore, President Penczek reported that everything is largely in a holding pattern at the present moment. The Volunteer Website will go live beginning March 1, 2016.

17 District Committee leaders will be attending the Joint Committee meeting in Dallas on January 22nd.

NATA is attempting to phase out the term “Physician Extender”. More info will be shared at the joint committee member meeting.

NATA is asking each district to nominate an individual for the AOSSM Award. Only NATA Hall of Fame members are eligible for nomination. Director Aronson has asked for assistance in recommending a nomination. Recommendation was for Andy Clawson to be nominated.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary Berry summarized the membership info for the council. As of January 1, 2016, about 84% of the membership within District 3 had renewed and he is hoping to reach at least 90% within the next several weeks.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Davis reviewed the different dues classifications for membership.

Treasurer Davis needs to know by May 15th if there will be any dues increases for the following fiscal year.

Treasurer Davis has sent out an email to state presidents requesting a rep for the site selection committee. Needs to have rep names by Feb 20, 2016.

Treasurer Davis requested that any changes in state treasurer’s be reported to him so he can update his records/contacts/etc.

1. **Presidents’ Reports**

Director Aronson requested any reports from the State Presidents.

President Jennifer Rheeling (DC) reported that there is still no licensure in DC currently. They are still working on it.

Director Aronson asked State Presidents to make sure they have their state reports prepared for publication in the District Newsletter in April.

President Matt Gage (VA) reported that their state meeting broke even at their meeting last week.

President Craig Clark (SC) reported that they are requiring all ATs to have NPI number in order to register for state meeting.

President Vince Stilger (WV) reported that they have started requiring their seniors graduating from WVU program to obtain NPI.

President Penczek (MD) stated that he is receiving questions about why the NPI is even necessary since ATs are classified as “technicians” and not as “clinicians”. Director Aronson reported that the BOC has addressed this issue and the NATA is continuing to work with the BOC on this issue.

**The Call was Adjourned at 8:38pm.**