



2018 ASVA Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 21st – 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Opening Remarks – Aubry Fisher, President

President Aubry Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. She welcomed all attendees. She introduced the current ASVA Board: Sarah Steed, *Treasurer*; Sarah Alemi, *Legislative Liaison*; Stephanie Pina, *Vice President*.

Aubry introduced guests Matthew Stanley, ASVA's lobbyist, and Barry Throne, owner of Golden Needle Online who sponsored the membership meeting dinner.

Committee Reports

Treasury (Sarah Steed) – ASVA currently has \$37,424.72 in checking and \$23,925.63 in CDs. This year ASVA hired Old Town Tax Professionals Inc. to assist with reconciliation of ASVA financials.

Membership (Stephanie Pina) – Stephanie reported that ASVA currently has 68 active members. She reviewed the membership benefits including the addition of Sharps Assure (5% discount for services) and TCMzone (10% for all herbal orders). She encouraged members to run for the Board of Elections. ASVA currently has four open Board of Directors positions.

Legislative (Sarah Alemi) – Sarah reviewed the legislative efforts made by ASVA over the past year and other legislative highlights. These efforts/highlights included:

- Submitting a comment to the FDA regarding their revised Blueprint for Prescriber Education for Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioids
- The release of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) letter to the American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) encouraging them to take proactive steps in combatting the opioid epidemic through the revision of coverage policies for non-opioid pain

treatments. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring signed the letter along with 36 other attorneys general.

- The release of the white paper *Acupuncture's Role in Solving the Opioid Epidemic: Evidence, Cost-Effectiveness, and Care Availability for Acupuncture as a Primary, Non-Pharmacologic Method for Pain Relief and Management*. ASVA member, Dr. Arthur Yin Fan, is a co-author of this paper. The paper was published in several medical journals.
- ASVA members Sarah Alemi, Jodi Knauer, and Dr. Arthur Yin Fan participated in the first national lobby day on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.
- ASVA sent a letter to every delegate and senator in the Commonwealth of Virginia educating him or her on the benefits of acupuncture in the treatment of acute and chronic pain.
- Delegate Chris Peace of the 97th District introduced a budget amendment on ASVA's behalf that would establish an acupuncture pilot program through Medicaid. The pilot program would assess acupuncture's effectiveness in treatment acute and chronic pain patients. The amendment did not pass but will be reintroduced next year.
- ASVA's held its 3rd annual Lobby Day on February 14, 2018. Our volunteers treated 53 individuals including 7 delegates.
- The dry needling regulation introduced by the Board of Physical Therapy is still currently in the regulatory process. The final draft of the regulation has been sent back to the Executive branch to be approved or denied. ASVA will meet with members of the Executive branch to educate them on our concerns with regard to dry needling by undertrained physical therapists.
- The Board of Physical Therapy convened a Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) to review the numerous comments submitted during the last public comment period. The RAP met twice this year, once in June and once in November. Members of ASVA were allowed to participate on the panel.
- The Advisory Board for Athletic Trainers started discussions with regard to incorporating dry needling into their scope of practice. ASVA submitted a public comment opposing this action. ASVA will continue to monitor this situation as it evolves.

Lobbyist Report – Matthew Stanley

Matthew Stanley reported that the legislature was still finalizing a state budget. He reported that Virginia elected a new governor in November. The new governor appointed a new Secretary of Health and Human Resources. He is currently reaching out to these individuals to setup meetings in order to discuss the dry needling regulation.

Matthew encouraged members to reach out to their district representatives to educate them on the benefits of acupuncture and East Asian Medicine. He encouraged members to setup meeting with their representatives in their district offices. Members can find their representative information at:

<http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

2018-2019 Highlights – Aubry Fisher & Stephanie Pina

Aubry reported that ASVA's major goal for the upcoming year is to continue to forge relationships with representatives in Virginia. She also reported that ASVA will continue to educate representatives and the general public on the benefits of acupuncture in the treatment and management of acute and chronic pain.

Stephanie announced ASVA's 2018 fall seminar, Roots & Branches. Roots & Branches is a 2-day, modular seminar with a focus on fertility and practice management. Keynote speaker for Day 1 and 2 will be Lorne Brown of Healthy Seminars. For more information, visit the ASVA website.

Dry Needling: A Long-Term Plan – Aubry Fisher

Aubry reported that the ASVA Board of Directors would like to start discussions about a dry needling long-term action plan. If the dry needling regulation is not defeated in the regulatory process, the next major step is a legal battle. The Board's concerns regarding a legal battle are as follows:

1. A legal battle may bankrupt ASVA leaving ASVA with little to no resources to continue its important advocacy work including public education, forging relationships with representatives, and aiding change at the national level.
2. A legal battle would require a large amount of time and resources. Currently, the Board of Directors has only 3 members who single-handedly do all work for ASVA. Without volunteers, the Board would not be able to keep up with the demands of a lawsuit.

The members and guests present at the meeting had a very healthy discussion about these concerns. Some points of discussion included:

1. Placing an emphasis on educating other health care providers about our training, diagnostics, treatment protocols, etc
2. Reaching out to other health organizations that oppose dry needling by physical therapists for support
3. Including dry needling in our own scope of practice and advertising dry needling services as acupuncturists
4. Placing an emphasis on educating lawmakers about the benefits of acupuncture, especially in the treatment of chronic pain and addiction
5. Create a proposal with regard to the estimated cost of a lawsuit

ASVA will continue to oppose the dry needling regulation. The Board of Directors will explore all suggestions made at the membership meeting.

Give-A-Ways

ASVA raffled off several give-a-ways to members present at the meeting.

The ASVA 2018 Membership Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.