Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2015
New Orleans, LA

I. __________ Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by President Brett Bence.

II. __________ Approval of Agenda
MOTION 15-10-01 MSC To approve the agenda as presented.

III. __________ Appointment of Parliamentarian
Dr. Brett Bence appointed Dr. Fred Soto to serve as Parliamentarian.

IV. __________ Minutes of Previous Meeting
MOTION 15-10-02 MSC To approve the minutes of the 2014 Business Meeting as written.

V. __________ Report of the President
Dr. Bence reported on the activities of the Board during the last year.

- The Board developed a process for the acceptance for Fellowship points of scientific work presented at other meetings.
- The Academy became part of the Inter-Org Communications and Cooperation Committee (IOCCC), representatives of the five major optometric organizations.
- The Academy Board will have a co-located Board meeting with the American Optometric Association (AOA) in April 2016.
- Dr. Michael Twa will become OVS Editor-in-Chief, effective January 1, 2016.
- OVS will be online only, effective January 1, 2016.
- At this Annual Meeting the Academy is hosting an inaugural Joint Symposium with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, titled “Amblyopia and Beyond: Current Evidence-Based Pediatric Eye Care.”
- Dean A. VanNasdale, OD, PhD, FAAO was awarded the Career Development Award for 2015.
- The Academy appointed an Annual Meeting Task Force.
- The Academy will hold a tribute to Dr. Holden during the Annual Meeting’s Australia Party.
- The Academy now has nine Sections and six Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
- There are now 142 active Diplomate candidates.
- The Academy has continued to increase its membership, with a current membership count exceeds 10,000.

Dr. Bence thanked many for their support during this year: The Academy Board of Directors, Ms. Lois Schoenbrun and the staff of the Academy, and the American Optometric Foundation, OVS Editorial
Board and staff, Committee Chairs and Members, Section Leaders, Special Interest Group Leaders, and the membership in general.

VI. Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Schoenbrun welcomed everyone to New Orleans. She noted that the last time we were scheduled to be in New Orleans was 2006 when we moved the meeting at the last minute after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

Ms. Schoenbrun reported there were 6,323 attendees two days prior to the Business Meeting, and 7,449 at the time of her report. This is the largest Academy meeting ever, and possibly the largest optometric meeting in the world.

As of this report, there are 4,341 Optometrists (including residents) in attendance. They are joined by 1,396 students (excluding residents) and 1,673 others (staff, exhibitors, etc.).

All 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and military stationed overseas are represented. There are 164 companies in the exhibit hall, occupying the largest exhibit hall in Academy history.

Ms. Schoenbrun reported that 175 new Candidates for Fellowship were recruited during this meeting; this is up from 147 at Academy 2014.

She noted that Academy 2020 will be held in Nashville, TN.

Ms. Schoenbrun introduced and thanked the staff, and thanked the Board of Directors, in particular President Brett Bence.

Finally, Ms. Schoenbrun reminded everyone that Academy 2016 Anaheim is just around the corner.

VII. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Caffery reported on the status of membership. Currently, membership exceeds 10,000 members. 4,652 are Fellows. There are 4,292 student members and 1,046 Candidates. This is more student members and candidates than ever before.

Dr. Caffery reported that the FY15 audited financial statements were completed by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and presented to the Board in October. CliftonLarsonAllen issued an unqualified audit opinion.

As of June 30, 2015, the Academy had total net assets of $6,778,486. The change in total net assets for the Academy, including all funds, was a gain of $352,181. The change in unrestricted net assets for FY2015 for the Academy was a gain of $266,030 including $151,016 in net investment earnings.

She shared FY15 financial highlights:

- A 15% increase in Annual Meeting income compared to the prior year.
- Membership income exceeded the prior year by 5%.
- Operating expenses were less than 1% below budget.
- The return on investments for FY15 was 3%.

The FY16 budget, which covers July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016, includes Academy 2015 New Orleans. The assumptions used for FY16 budget were:

- Registration attendees: Denver 2014 actuals with no increase in attendees.
Exhibit revenue 1% over Denver 2014.
Cost for Academy 2015 New Orleans was based on costs for Academy 2014 Denver with a 17% increase in food & beverage costs; other costs based on Denver 2014 actuals.
For Membership, used the mean retention rate for 7 years and applied to 2014 actuals.
Salaries rose by 1.7% for cost of living adjustment and 2% for merit pool.
Benefits were based on FY15 current costs.
General operating expenses were based on FY14 actual expenses and CPI for the Orlando area.

Dr. Caffery asked those present to rise for a moment of silence as she presented the Necrology Report for the year as follows. She noted that the list was particularly long as a result of a clean-up of membership records.

- Dr. Sidney M. Albert – Clifton, NJ (2010)
- Dr. Robert J. Bray – Cleveland, OH (2003)
- Dr. Sidney Cohen – Pittsburgh, PA (2010)
- Dr. O Doyle Dannenberg – Escondido, CA (2006)
- Dr. Merrill B. DeLong – San Antonio, TX (2001)
- Dr. Robert W. Ebbers – Bartlett, TN (2014)
- Dr. Joseph B. Ebbesen – DeKalb, IL (2014)
- Dr. Albert C. Evert – Maple Heights, OH (2015)
- Dr. Richard Feinberg – Greenbelt, MD (1999)
- Dr. Constantin J. Forkiotis – Orange, CT (2006)
- Dr. Robert F. Friske – Tucson, AZ (2011)
- Dr. James W. Hartzell – Des Moines, IA (2014)
- Dr. Donald P. Hines – Sturgis, SD (2010)
- Dr. Leon Hoffman – Holtsville, NY (2014)
- Dr. Nuel P. Hulett – Great Falls, MT (2009)
- Dr. Leroy Hurwitz – Elkins Park, PA (1997)
• Dr. James F. Koetting – Kerrville, TX (2009)
• Dr. Sydney M. Kramer – Little Silver, NJ (2013)
• Dr. Bruce D. Krutsinger – Jersey Village, TX (2014)
• Dr. Elmer B. Lagg – Salisbury, NC (2015)
• Dr. Clarence Larry – Seattle, WA (2015)
• Dr. William C. Lary – Tuscaloosa, AL (2002)
• Dr. Arthur Layton – Paradise, CA (2012)
• Dr. Stanley J. Lieberman – Scottsdale, AZ (2015)
• Dr. Charles A. Machacek – Coral Springs, FL (1997)
• Dr. James C. Manville – Cedar Rapids, IA (2006)
• Dr. Jack A. Mauro – Rio Rancho, NM (1995)
• Dr. Michael D. Miller – Lynn Haven, FL (2015)
• Dr. Harry C. Morgan – Pittsburgh, PA (2013)
• Dr. James D. Neilson – Morgan Hill, CA (2004)
• Dr. Alfred H. Persson – Newport Beach, CA (2009)
• Dr. John E. Quinn – Beverly, MA (2014)
• Dr. Albert R. Reinke – Honolulu, HI (2005)
• Dr. George E. Rimby – Crisfield, MD (2013)
• Dr. Joseph Robins – Niagara Falls, NY (2006)
• Dr. Alfred A. Rosenbloom – Chicago, IL (2015)
• Dr. Raymond R. Roy – Portland, OR (2002)
• Dr. James E. Rudd – Neosho, MO (2012)
• Dr. Milton W. Schulman – Waterloo, NY (2005)
• Dr. Laurel W. Shockey – Pala, CA (2007)
• Dr. Donald Simpson – Dorsy, IL (2015)
• Dr. Albert I. Singer – Lake Worth, FL (2013)
• Dr. Charles R. Stewart – La Quinta, CA (2015)
• Dr. Gustave Strebel – Westfield, MA (2013)
• Dr. J. Baxter Swartwout – Latham, NY (2013)
• Dr. Don R. Swick – El Paso, TX (1999)
• Dr. Kenneth G. Talbot – Marshfield, MO (2012)
• Dr. Sol Tannebaum – Olympia Fields, IL (2015)
• Dr. Elichi Tsuchida – Berkeley, CA (2005)
• Dr. Ralph L. Vasa – New York, NY (2000)
• Dr. Bernard E. Vodnoy – South Bend, IN (2006)
• Dr. Howard N. Walton – Culver City, CA (2012)
• Dr. Melvin D. Wolfberg – Port Saint Lucie, FL (2015)
• Dr. James F. Woodward – Bismarck, ND (2013)
• Dr. Maurice H. Zaslow – South River, NJ (1986)
• Dr. Donald Simpson – Dorsy, IL (2015)

VIII.  Old Business

There was none.

IX.  New Business

Dr. Bence reported on a proposed amendment to the bylaws, adding a new category of “Retired Senior Fellow.”

MOTION 15-10-03 MSC Moved to approve the bylaws amendment as stated below, adding a new category of “Retired Senior Fellow.”

REVISED PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

Any Fellow who has reached age 65 may apply for and be granted Senior Fellow status. Any Fellow who has reached age 65 may apply for and be granted either Senior Fellow or Retired Senior Fellow status. Retired Senior Fellow status is reserved for Fellows who are no longer earning income in the optometric field. Senior Fellows and Retired Senior Fellows shall have all the rights of Fellows, including the right to vote.

Explanation

The proposed amendment would change the Bylaws to create a second category of Senior Fellows, i.e., those who are retired and no longer working in the optometric field. Dues and annual meeting registration fees would continue to be established pursuant to current policies and procedures.

X.  Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.