Oklahoma Academy of Physician Associates
General Membership Meeting Minutes
River Spirit Casino Resort, Tulsa, OK
September 17, 2025; 12:15 – 2:00 pm

AGENDA

a. Welcome and President's Message – Don Guthrie, PA

- This year we have a landmark legislative law and PA rules that are unprecedented in PA history in Oklahoma. This will allow us to change the landscape of healthcare in Oklahoma like nothing before.

b. Committee Reports

a. Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee – Don Guthrie, PA, OAPA President, Keith Plummer, PA-C, Chair; Jan Loftis, OAPA Lobbyist, Tyler Powell, OAPA Lobbyist, Matt Latham, OAPA Lobbyist

- The Legislative Committee this year worked with our lobbyist to get HB2584 passed, even with a veto from the Governor. However, both the House and the Senate overrode that veto. The Medical Board has worked diligently to get the emergency rules done and to the Governor. The Governor then signed those emergency rules into law, effective August 29th, 2025.
- The compact licensure legislation was passed a few years ago. That process is now started. Meetings have been scheduled, and the rule-writing process has begun. We can expect that compact license will start to be issued the early part of 2027.
- We are looking into future legislation, and the name change is on that list.
- This year, in 2026, we do have a clean-up bill planned.

b. Governance Committee – Don Guthrie, PA, Chair

- The Governance Committee worked on the slate for open board seats. The voting for that went well.
- We recently joined OKIPA in paying a one-time membership fee. In turn all OAPA members can join their group for $60 a month. They have a vast list of resources, entities, services, and more to help PAs in their practices.

c. CME Committee – Saura Douglas, PA-C, Co-Chair, and Christy Niehues, PA-C, Co-Chair

- We are excited to continue our hybrid format for this year's conference. Thank you to Carlos with V-Cube, our streaming platform.
- Currently, we have around 210 in-person registrations, and 250 people registered for virtual. We have 30 exhibitors with us this year.
- Alexion will be sponsoring a lunch product theater on Friday during conference.
- There are two options for your 1-hour substance abuse requirement this year at the conference.

- Do not forget to complete your session evaluation for CME credit.
- The 2-hour legislative update will be available for members after the conference free of charge. For those PAs who are not OAPA members, they can access the lecture and information for $50.
- The 2026 conference should be held at the Embassy Suites Downtown. We are finishing up the contract for that.
- 2027 will be in the Tulsa area again.
- If you are interested in speaking at the conference or know of a speaker, please reach out to the OAPA. We are always looking for speakers and topics.
- Please fill out the conference survey.

d. Social Committee – Christy Niehues, PA-C, Chair
- Join us for the conference reception, Thursday 18th @ 7:15 pm. Dress up in our beach attire and come and play games, eat, drink, and win prizes.
- Our next Town Hall will be in October in Enid. Location, date, and time will be determined. We will go to Lawton next, after the first of the year.

e. PA Relations Committee – Jennifer Putnam, PA-C, Chair *(Unable to attend. Report Online)*

f. Public Relations Committee – Helga Price, PA-C, Chair
- PR Committee is getting the message out through:
  - Mobile messaging, our text service.
  - Personal calls to PAs for grassroots efforts.
  - We use Mega Media, Lisa Liebl, as our PR firm to get news segments lined up, op-eds out to the local papers.
  - Newsletters
  - Social media posts
- Continue to help with Town Hall meetings

g. Awards Committee – Jeanine Smith, PA-C, Chair
- Not present to give a report.

h. Research Committee – Nicole Mason, PA-C, Chair
- Not present to give a report.

i. Finance Committee – Krista Barnes, PA-C, Chair
- Reviewed the budget that was provided to the membership to view.
- The OAPA will be looking for an OAPA Treasurer for the next fiscal year.

j. PAPAC – Audra Ball, PA-C, Chair
- Our past years' goals were to reach 50K in yearly donations and increase our monthly donors.
- In 2022 & 2023 aveage yearly donations were 14k. In 2024, our average yearly donations were 22k.
- In 2024, we were able to give 31k in campaign donations.
- In 2025, we hope to hit the 50k goal.
- Please reach out to us if you have something to donate as a raffle item.
- We would like to try to get a PAPAC newsletter out more often.

III. Student Affairs Committee Reports

a. Hannah George, NSU PA Program
- Class of 2025 – nearing training completion with only two clinical rotations remaining before graduation. They are also preparing for their board exams and applying for positions.

- Class of 2026 – in their final semester of didactic studies. Getting hands-on experience with point-of-care ultrasounds and working in the simulation lab. Our class looks forward to our white coat ceremony in December.
- Class of 2027 – they will be welcomed into the program this October. Over the summer, we had a meet and greet.

b. Sam Simmons, OU/OKC PA Program
- Class of 2025 – finishing up their final rotations and set to graduate early next month.
- Class of 2026 – has completed their didactic education and are currently participating in their clinical orientation.
- Class of 2027 – is in their 2nd semester and in the didactic phase. They received their whit coats in August.
- The program has a new home in the recently remodeled O'Donoghue building.

c. Abigail Rupp, OCU PA Program
- First-year students are a little over halfway through with their didactic year, and are currently in our MSA block.
- Class of 2026 - are over halfway through their clinical year.
- We are planning a Golf Tournament that will take place on October 4th. All proceeds will go to Hill Top Clinic in OKC.

d. Halle Hannon, OSU PA Program
- Class of 2027 – joined us in late June and are in their 2nd semester of didactics.
- Class of 2026 – started their clinic rotations in August.
- Class of 2025 – will graduate late October. They are finishing up with workshops and board prep.

e. Brendan Reiman, OU/Tulsa PA Program
- Class of 2025 – finishing up their last clinical rotations and preceptorships. Many are on the hunt for jobs or have jobs already lined up.
- Class of 2026 – are a quarter of the way through their LIC clinical phase. Students are beginning to take their first shelf exams.
- Class of 2027 – are working through their 2nd semester of didactic courses.

IV. PA Program Updates

a. Shannon Ijams, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director, OU School of Community Medicine
- The Tulsa program is getting ready to graduate our 16th cohort.
- Our most recent graduating class had 100% pass rate.
- Over the last year, we were busy with accreditation and had a focus site visit, and had great results back.
- We recently changed the clinical phase curriculum into something called the LIC, which stands for Longitude Integrated Clerkship. The students are on all subjects at once over a 12-month period.
- Please sign up as a preceptor.

b. Mark Perdue, PhD, PA-C, Program Director, OU Health Sciences Center
- In just a few weeks, we will be graduating the 53rd cohort.
- The program will be moving into our own space in the O'Donoghue building.
- Program continues to benefit from the HERSA Grant. This allows our students to get out to rural areas.
- We are increasing our clinical rotation sites.
- Our program has received a record application number for the upcoming cohort, with a 20% increase. We are hiring 3.5 principal faculty.

c. Rebecca Stephen, MHS, PA-C, Associate Program Director, OSU Center for Health Sciences
- The programs 3rd class is graduating in October.
- We are currently recruiting our 6th class.
- We send students all over the state for clinical rotations.
- Thank you to all of our preceptors.
- We are currently going for our continued accreditation.

d. Jayme Myers, MHS, PA-C, Interim Program Director, Northeastern State University
- Thank you to OAPA for hosting.
- Our program was placed on probation by the ARCPA as of March 2025. The majority of our citations were due to insufficient documentation. We are hopeful we will be coming off probation after our site visit in October 2026.
- We are continuing to improve student success and outcomes. Our most recent graduating class had a 95% PANCE pass rate.
- Thank you to our faculty and preceptors. We need more preceptors.

e. Jennifer Boyett, PA-C, Program Director, Southern Nazarene University
- We are about half way through working through the accreditation process.
- Our application is due in January 2026. If all goes well we should have out first class in January 2027.

f. Christina Hanson, MPAS, PA-C, EdD, Program Director, Oklahoma Baptist University
- We are looking to enroll our first class in January 2027.
- We are looking to focus on underserved areas of Oklahoma. If you are working in rural areas, please reach out.
- Our curriculum will be in a slightly different model. We plan to be in a hybrid model. Our students will have the opportunity to take classes from wherever they are and come to campus once a term for a weeklong intensive lab experience.
- Our goal is to reach students where they are.

g. Bobby Bosse, PhD, PA-C, Program Director, Oklahoma City University
- In January 2026 will mark the 10th year the OCU program as matriculated students.
- In May 2025, we graduated our 8th class.
- We have approximately 274 practicing PAs out in Oklahoma or the surrounding states.
- Are students graduating and getting jobs quickly? 90% of students have jobs in the first month, with 100% getting jobs within 3 months.
- Every program needs preceptors. Please reach out to us to become a preceptor.

V. New Business

a. AAPA House of Delegates Report– Saura Douglas, PA-C
- This year was busy with 50 resolutions and 11 policies scheduled.
- The resolutions covered a wide variety of topics, including governance, education, clinical practice, care of patients, and PA burnout.
- One of the topics up for discussion was using AI in professional and scholarly works.
- Another topic was the terminal degree of the PA profession. While some thought it should be the Doctorate degree, others felt it would be too costly for the PA programs. The house agreed that it will be a continuation of the master's degree as the terminal degree.
- AAPA is in good shape financially and looking to increase membership.
- Many states continue to join the compact agreement.

VI. Membership Questions and Closing Remarks – Don Guthrie, PA, OAPA President

- None

VII. There was no further business; the meeting adjourned.