Oklahoma Academy of Physician Associates
January 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2026; 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Zoom

Board Members Present: Don Guthrie, Nicole Mason, Keith Plummer, Jeff Burke, Johnnie Gilpen, Helga Price, Christy Niehues, Jeanine Smith, Courtney Patin, Melissa Loftis, Audra Ball, Jennifer Putnam
Board Members Absent: Krista Barnes, Elizabeth DiSalvatore, Student Rep
Others Present: Jan Loftis, Tyler Powell, Susan Thomas, Audrey Poole

I. Call to Order
- Don Guthrie calls the meeting to order at 6:34 pm

II. Approval of Agenda
- **Motion to approve agenda made by Keith Plummer; Helga Price seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

III. Approval of Consent Agenda
1. November 3, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
2. December 8, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes
3. Student Reports
- **Motion to approve consent agenda made by Jeff Burke; Christy Niehues seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

IV. Reports
1. Legislative & Governmental Affairs – Keith Plummer, Jan Loftis
- HRT Grant – Oklahoma received 223 million dollars, the 5th largest amount. Our grant was increased because of the percentage of Oklahoma's rural population and hospitals. The passing of HB2584 secured an additional 8 million in funds.
- The OAPA will be working on a clean-up bill this session. A document was sent to the Board from Jan Loftis showing what the clean-up bill would include. This bill is in the process of being drafted and will be sent to the Board once a draft is available.
- The Lobby team is starting to track bills that could impact PAs in Oklahoma. A tracking list will be sent to the board in the upcoming weeks.

- The Oklahoma Medical Board has requested to decrease the size of the PA Advisory Council in eliminating Program Directors from the Advisory Council.
    - There was a discussion on whether this was beneficial or not. Jan Loftis will go back to Sandra Harrison, OMB Director, to see if there is an option for the program directors to appoint one director to sit on the Advisory Council and serve as a collective vote for all the other directors.
- The Oklahoma Medical Board will be introducing a bill for the permanent PA rules. Sandra Harrison will let the OAPA know if there are any needs we can help with.

2. PAPAC – Audra Ball, Nicole Mason
- PAPAC funds are a little over 48k. We will work with the Gooden Group on promoting a PAPAC push/campaign.
- The Ethics Commission rolled out a new system, and it did not work, reverting them back to the old system. Audrey is working with the Ethics Commission to file our past quarterly reports with out a late fee, due to the new system not working.

3. CME Committee – Christy Niehues, Susan Thomas
- The CME committee has not met for the year. We will plan a meeting and report at the next board meeting.
- 2027 Rover Spirit contract is ready and was sent to the Board for review.
    - **Motion to approve to go back to River Spirit in 2027 made by Keith Plummer; Courtney Patin seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

4. Social Committee – Christy Niehues
- The Social Committee has not met for the year yet. The committee will meet and report back at the next board meeting.

5. PR Committee – Helga Price
- The Gooden Group completed both phases of our campaign push. Results from that campaign were sent to the board for review.
- A question from the PR Committee was asked. *Would we be continuing with Town Hall Meetings?* It was decided that they would be put on hiatus.
- We will be getting with the Gooden Group for a PAPAC push before our contract expires with them.
- Jeff Burke suggested getting with Mega Media and putting together an article on the Rural Health Grant Oklahoma received.

6. Governance Committee – Don Guthrie

- The Governance Committee met on 12/22/2025. There, a timeline for Board Elections was agreed upon. This timeline was given to the Board prior to this meeting to review.
    - **Motion from the Governance Committee to approve the election timeline. All in favor. Motion passes.**
- The committee reviewed potential candidates and went over seat openings for the upcoming election year. (This information was included on the handout given to the board prior to this meeting).
- The Board Retreat will be April 25-26th at Lake Texoma. All board members will have a room, and there will be a meeting room for the retreat.
- Saura Douglas and Jeff Burke seats are coming to an end with the PA Advisory Committee. The Board will need to come up with, up to four potential replacements to give to the Oklahoma Medical Board.
    - Keith Holliman and Alex Garcia would like to be considered. Saura Douglas would like to be considered again.
    - **Motion to submit Keith Holliman, Alex Garcia, and Saura Douglas to be considered for the PA Advisory Committee made by Keith Plummer; Johnnie Gilpen seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

7. Financial Affairs Committee – Krista Barnes
- The board received the budget report prior to this meeting. Don Guthrie presented and discussed the report.
- The OAPA did a money transfer in December to our Merrill Lynch account.

V. New Business
- Audra Ball requested that her name be added for consideration for the PA Advisory Committee.
    - **Keith Plummer amends his motion to add Audra Ball to the list of three to be submitted for the PA Advisory Committee; Jeff Burke seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

VI. Old Business

Adjourn 8:09pm

Keith Plummer motions to adjourn. All in favor.