

OMA Annual General Meeting

May 5, 2022

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Minutes**OMA Annual General Meeting****May 5, 2022**

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Medical Association was held in person at the Delta Hotel, 2240 Sleeping Giant Parkway, Thunder Bay, Ontario and virtually via Chime on May 5, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Opening Remarks

Dr. Paul Conte, board chair introduced himself and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He informed participants that there were more than 50 members present which constituted quorum under the OMA's by-laws and he formally began the meeting.

The chair noted that it was the first hybrid Annual General Meeting (AGM) and one of the first of meetings featuring a return to in-person. He reported that the meeting would consist of guests and presenters joining the meeting live on site and virtually through the chime platform. Going forward the AGM would take place annually on the first Thursday evening in May. Members were informed that the AGM would be held in a different district each year. Next year the in-person portion would be held in District 1.

The chair acknowledged the presence of the following OMA past presidents who were present at the meeting:

Past-Presidents:

- Dr. Ken Arnold
- Dr. Samantha Hill

The chair remarked that the board also had an engaging education session with local physicians about the unique issues physicians face in Northern Ontario.

1.1 Virtual Meeting Housekeeping and Electronic Voting

Dr. Conte reviewed the housekeeping points including COVID protocols and reported that important steps had been put in place to ensure a healthy environment for all those attending.

He informed members that the AGM materials, including the motions were posted on the OMA AGM 2022 website. To ensure that the meeting was as accessible as possible, the closed captioning feature had been turned on. He provided an overview of the chime app and electronic voting.

1.2 Approval of AGM Agenda

Motion #1

“That the meeting agenda be approved as presented.”

Moved by Dr. Audrey Karlinsky, seconded by Dr. Veronica Legnini

CARRIED

1.3 Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Conte introduced Dr. Stephen Viherjoki who provided the Land Acknowledgement.

2. President’s Address – Dr. Adam Kassam

Dr. Conte introduced Dr. Adam Kassam and informed members that this would be his last formal address as president and thanked him for his service and leadership.

Dr. Kassam expressed that it was a great honour and privilege to serve as president of the OMA. He was optimistic about the future of the OMA as it continues to make strides to improve the organization for members. The new OMA governance structure would act as a framework for future growth, unity and success.

Dr. Kassam thanked his friends and family for their support and also expressed gratitude to members for placing their trust in him and allowing him to be a spokesperson for the organization.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 May 29, 2021 – Annual General Meeting

Motion # 2

“That the minutes of the May 29, 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved”.

Moved by Dr. Cathy Faulds, seconded by Dr. Cynthia Walsh.

CARRIED

3.2 March 27, 2022 – Special Meeting of Members

Motion # 3

“That the minutes of the March 27, 2022 Special Meeting of Members be approved”.

Moved by David Collie, seconded by Dr. Adam Kassam

CARRIED

4. By-law Amendment Ratification

The chair informed members that the next part of the meeting would be the by-law amendment ratification and a presentation would be given by general counsel. Participants would have the opportunity to ask any technical or clarification questions on the content.

Adam Farber, OMA corporate secretary and general counsel, provided an overview of the proposed by-law amendments, including the history of the by-law and why the amendment was required. He then walked everyone through the process required to ratify the change.

The chair opened the floor for discussion.

Motion # 4

“That amendments to section 8:4 of the OMA By-laws (Chair and Vice Chair of the General Assembly) as set out in Appendix A be confirmed”.

Moved by Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman, seconded by Dr. Audrey Karlinsky

CARRIED

5. Finance and Audit Committee

The chair welcomed Dr. Sanjay Acharya, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee to present the Finance Report and Lily Chen, Chief Financial and Operating Officer would then present the financials.

The chair opened the floor for discussion.

5.1 Approval of Audited Financial Statements

5.2 Approval of Auditors

Motion # 5

The Finance and Audit Committee and OMA Board recommend to the membership:

- a) The acceptance of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements
- b) That Deloitte LLP be appointed as the OMA's auditor for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Moved by Dr. Sanjay Acharya, Seconded by Dr. Adam Kassam.

CARRIED

6. Address by CMA President – Dr. Katharine Smart

Dr. Katharine Smart thanked the OMA for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CMA. She presented from Toronto and provided a Land Acknowledgement. She stated the importance of action towards real change that honours Indigenous Peoples.

She reported that the pandemic had exposed long-standing gaps in health systems, health outcomes and health workforce. There was an opportunity to create change and the CMA would like to drive the change through, engagement, accountability, transparency, impact, equity, and diversity.

Dr. Smart provided an overview of the National Physician Health Survey that offered a concerning outlook on the health of physicians. Data showed that more than half of physicians and medical learners have experienced high levels of burnout and were considering reducing their clinical work. Harassment of health care workers has also become an issue, and she applauded the federal government for passing new legislation (Bill C-3) to protect healthcare workers.

She also provided an overview of the Emergency Health Worker Summit and how participants highlighted that now was the time to become tactical about the development and implementation of a nationwide strategy. Key priorities identified include creating a robust data source of health human resources; implementing a multi-disciplinary nationwide health human resource strategy; and committing to transform Canada's health care system for the future.

Dr. Smart thanked OMA member Dr. Forman for her continued work on the CMA Board and Dr. Kassam for his tireless work over the past year as president.

7. Presidential Installation of Dr. Rose Zacharias

The chair stated that the next item was the presidential installation.

Dr. Conte noted that in the past, the installation of the president was led by the CMA president. To align with the OMA's governance transformation and to recognize the formal passing of the torch from the outgoing president to the president-elect, the board had approved changes to this process whereby the installation would now be completed by the outgoing OMA president. Dr. Conte then turned it over to Dr. Kassam to perform the presidential installation.

Dr. Kassam stated that he was honoured to be part of this new tradition and welcoming a colleague into this role. He congratulated Dr. Rose Zacharias and welcomed her as the new OMA president.

8. Address by the 2022-2023 OMA President

The chair congratulated and welcomed Dr. Zacharias to deliver her inaugural speech as OMA president.

Dr. Zacharias thanked Dr. Kassam for his service as president and expressed that it was a great honour and privilege to serve as the next president of the OMA.

Dr. Zacharias provided an overview of the three defining moments that had led her to where she was today. She stated that physicians were experiencing a high level of burnout due to the pandemic and the issue needed to be addressed. She encouraged everyone to read the Prescription for Ontario with its 87 recommendations. Physicians must do what they do best by seeing, listening to and caring for people. High quality physician wellness was important and can be achieved through policies and procedures embedded at work. The OMA will continue to work with government and external stakeholders to achieve positive movement on relativity, gender parity and burnout. The Prescription for Ontario is our roadmap and our plan for the future.

In closing, Dr. Zacharias committed to serve the OMA and its members.

9. Organizational Report from the CEO and Board Chair

The chair welcomed the CEO, Allan O'Dette to provide an organization update.

The CEO thanked Dr. Conte, on behalf of the OMA for his service to the organization and having shaped transformative change for members during his term as a board member and chair. He also thanked Dr. Karlinsky for her service in the last year as vice-chair of the board and Dr. Kassam for his time as president.

He began by reaffirming the OMA's mission, vision, and values. Allan O'Dette recognized others in attendance. He extended special thanks to District 10 chair Dr. Stephen Viherjoki, Dr. Eric Touzin, District 10 secretary and Dr. David Mutrie who was the past District 10 board director. He also thanked Dr. Anna Laakso, the president of the Thunder Bay Medical Society, and Dr. Sarah Newbery, associate dean at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).

He acknowledged that the pandemic had been hard on physicians and frontline workers over the past two-years, and expressed concern about the effect of burnout on members, particularly in primary care. This is a major systemic issue in Ontario which was putting both the health care system and physician wellbeing at risk.

He reported that last year, the OMA released a white paper titled “Healing the Healers: System-Level Solutions to Physician Burnout,” a series of recommendations by the Ontario Medical Association Burnout Task Force. Over the course of the last few weeks, the OMA had secured an agreement with the Ontario government on a bilateral working group to address systemic issues in health care which lead to burnout.

Allan O’Dette reported that in March, members voted to ratify the proposed Physician Services Agreement (PSA) and 71.82 per cent voted in favour of the agreement. This marked the first time that members have had a binding vote on a PSA in the OMA’s history and it was a significant milestone in the OMA’s governance transformation journey. He thanked the members of the Negotiations Tasks Force for all their hard work.

He also reported that the OMA had some very big challenges to meet in the months and years ahead. The pandemic had exposed some of the significant gaps in the health care system. In an effort to provide a roadmap to build a better health care system, last year the OMA launched Prescription for Ontario: Doctors’ 5-Point Plan for Better Health Care.

Prescription for Ontario includes five pillars to fix the gaps in our health care system:

- Reduce wait times and the backlog of services
- Expand mental health and addiction services in the community
- Improve and expand home care and other community care
- Strengthen public and pandemic preparedness
- Give every patient a team of health-care providers and link them digitally

In addition to these core pillars, the OMA released Prescription for Northern Ontario, a document focused exclusively on the unique needs of the north.

The CEO shared that the OMA had made significant progress as an association in the last few years. The organization has embraced equity, diversity, and inclusion, accomplished major governance transformation, secured a new Physician Services Agreement (PSA), launched a major roadmap for improving health care in Ontario, and managed through a global pandemic. The perception of the association continues to improve. Government and stakeholders see the OMA as a positive force and are once again taking the OMA seriously and seeking our input.

He thanked physicians for looking after our families, our friends, our neighbours, and our communities. It was truly an honour to represent doctors in Ontario.

10. Panel Discussion with Board

The chair introduced the board panel and invited members to ask questions about the organizational report, the governance report and key committee work.

11. Meet the Incoming Board of Directors

Dr. Conte invited the incoming president-elect, Dr. Andrew Park and director-elect, Dr. Sharon Bal to introduce themselves to members.

12. Evaluation and Closing Remarks

The chair provided the closing remarks.

Dr. Conte informed members that he had been an active OMA member holding various roles including board director and chair and at that the conclusion of the AGM he would be completing his term. He stated that it had been an honour to serve the members and the organization. He was tremendously proud for how far the organization had come and had optimism as to where it would go.

Dr. Conte informed participants that a short meeting evaluation would be sent out and the OMA relies on member feedback to improve future meetings and events and encouraged them to participate.

Dr. Conte thanked everyone for attending and for the warm hospitality that was received in Thunder Bay.

13. Adjournment

Motion #6

“To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved by Dr. Adam Kassam, seconded by Dr. Samantha Hill

CARRIED,

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

P. Conte, Chair

PC/lk