

Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2026

The OAPA Board of Directors convened via Zoom. Present were Board members Rotuno, Hart, Meyers, Kohler, Homoki, Mihalek, Wilson, Talboo, Bishop, Keller, Mathur, and Whittaker. Board member E. Brown was absent. Also present were Committee Chairs Freado, Gorzitze-Maxey, McDiffett, Naples, and Schmitz, AAPA Delegates Bowlby, J. Brown, Pagel, and Thompson, 11 SCSRs, and ED Vanneman.

President Rotuno called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with a roll call. A quorum was present. Attendees were reminded that only the 13 elected board members may motion and vote.

Student Representative Whittaker introduced and welcomed the newly selected SCSRs, including Lucas Stammen (University of Toledo), Taylor Stark (Ohio Dominican University), Sydney Rudolph (Case Western Reserve University), and Courtney Catherine and Erin Storrer (University of Dayton).

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the October 2025 board of directors meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the October 2025-January 2026 interim board actions report.

ACTION: Motion to approve the interim board actions report. The motion carried.

President Rotuno discussed the strategic goals. He praised the success of Ohio PA Advocacy Day and reminded Regional Directors of the available budget for regional events that may advance PA advocacy and build member engagement beyond pharm dinners only. He reviewed the change for 2026 moving to one in-person conference and offering all pharmacology content on-demand only. With the transition to one in-person event, the aim is to grow participation and focus energy on providing one premier annual experience. President Rotuno also announced that the Pre-PA membership category would soon launch.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki reviewed the FY25 year end financials, including a narrative, statement of financial position, and statement of activities. A clarifying question about QuickBooks was answered.

ACTION: Motion to approve the year end financial report. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki reviewed the FY26 proposed budget. Several drafts had been reviewed and commented on by the Ways and Means Committee and Board of Directors prior to the final proposal.

ACTION: Motion to approve the FY26 proposed budget. The motion carried.

Vice President Kohler presented proposed additions to the Elections Manual to accommodate the Student Representative election and clarify both candidate and voter eligibility.

ACTION: Motion to amend the Elections Manual to add *Section VI. Student Representative Election*, with corresponding edits to the Cover Page and Table of Contents. The motion carried.

Vice President Kohler presented proposed changes to the Delegation of Authority to streamline the tiers of decision making, permit electronic payment to the Executive Director, and improve other wording.

ACTION: Motion to approve the revised Delegation of Authority. The motion carried.

Kohler also notified the group of the upcoming elections and listed the positions available for terms beginning July 1. It was noted that OAPA's count of Associates is increasing while the Fellow count is decreasing, which impacts both eligibility for OAPA election and for AAPA delegate apportionment

Chief Delegate Pagel reviewed Ohio's proposed items for the AAPA House of Delegates, explaining that OAPA submits concepts that the HOD later refines into final language. She thanked the delegates for their collaborative work on the proposals.

ACTION: Motion to advance Ohio's proposals to the AAPA HOD. The motion carried.

Pagel also noted that Ohio may lose delegate seats in future apportionment and should plan accordingly. There are efforts underway to encourage Ohio PAs to maintain AAPA membership. There is also a flag at the end of AAPA renewals to direct members to join constituent organizations.

President Rotuno introduced the regional redrawing concept, reviewing current and proposed maps and related data. The board discussed adding regions and how that could affect board composition. A final proposal will be presented after feedback is incorporated.

Zach Holzapfel of Hicks Partners joined the meeting as Government Affairs Chair Freado reviewed recent activity, including Ohio PA Advocacy Day, HB 353 opponent testimony and OAPA's response, work on a PA modernization bill, plans to grow legislative and PAC funds, and the AAPA Advocacy Grant. Holzapfel gave additional context for HB 353 in the House Health Committee, emphasizing the need for strong member engagement, especially from constituents of committee legislators, and the importance of PAC funding ahead of the primaries and general election. He outlined the legislative timeline, noting a summer recess, a possible brief return in early fall, and a busy lame duck session after the November election. He also discussed Rural Health Transformation funding and OAPA's related opportunities.

President-Elect Meyers updated the board on site selection for the 2026 OAPA Annual Conference, noting that prior feedback informed the RFP process and site visits. She reviewed proposed timing, location, and programming. The board discussed a potential advocacy day but agreed to target the first year of the General Assembly (2027). However, the 2026 conference will include advocacy education, along with student-focused content and activities such as the Challenge Bowl.

President Rotuno summarized the meeting and thanked all for attending. The next OAPA Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on March 28, 2026, from 9-11 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

To the OAPA Board of Directors,

On behalf of President Rotuno, your unanimous written consent is requested. Please contact oapa@ohiopa.com with any questions prior to consenting.

Provide your affirmative response by signing here no later than Wednesday, January 21, at 5 p.m.

The Executive Director Policy was adopted in March 2025 to govern the selection and assessment of the OAPA Executive Director by the OAPA Board of Directors.

The proposed revision does the following:

- Notes that the policy was revised in January 2026
- Corrects a numbering typo in a bulleted list
- Adds flexibility pertaining to when a compensation adjustment shall occur

The final bullet is being proposed because the Executive Director contract operates based on contract term dates with an associated monthly retainer amount. Therefore, compensation changes align with the February 1 contract start date rather than the January 1 fiscal year start date. This minor policy adjustment better aligns policy with practice.

MOTION: To approve the proposed revisions to the Executive Director Policy.

Clayton M Rotuno



Jay Mihalek



Emily Keller



Madeline A Meyers



Amy Wilson



Emily Brown



Natasha C. Hart, DAC



Natalie Talbot



Ara Mathur



Kristal Hamik



Courtney Bishop



Allison Whitaker



Emily A Kohler



To the OAPA Board of Directors,

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The 2025 Executive Director Performance Evaluation for Tracy Vanneman was submitted to the OAPA Board of Directors on January 19, 2026, by President Clayton Rotuno.

OAPA contracted with Vanneman for management services for February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026. The document assesses Vanneman's performance relative to OAPA's stated expectations for the ED in 2025.

Vanneman has agreed to extend the contract for the period of February 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, with an approximately 3% increase in monthly retainer over the prior contract. This increase has been anticipated in the 2026 budget. Contract terms are otherwise expected to remain the same.

MOTION: To approve the contract renewal with Tracy Vanneman for management services in 2026.

Clayton M Rotuno

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Jay Mihalick

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Emily Keller

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Margeline A Meyers

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Amy Wilson

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Emily Brown

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Natasha C. Hart, DAC

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Natalie Talbot

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Ana Hathur

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Kristin Homb

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Courtney Bishop

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Allyson Whitaker

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Emily A Kohler

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To the OAPA Board of Directors,

On behalf of President Rotuno, your unanimous written consent is requested. Please contact oapa@ohiopa.com with any questions prior to consenting.

Provide your affirmative response by signing here no later than Monday, February 2, at 5 p.m.

After several months of discussion with OAPA board leadership, including at the January 2026 Board meeting, President Rotuno proposed changes to the OAPA regional map. The new regional designations are intended to balance the regions in terms of number of licensed PAs in the region, count of PA schools in the region, and geographic size of the region. The changes to the regional map will be as follows:

	Current (zip codes beginning with ###)	New (zip codes beginning with ###)
Region 1	440 and 441 (East of Cuyahoga River)	440 and 441 (East of Cuyahoga River), 442, 443, 444, 445
Region 2	440 and 441 (West of Cuyahoga River)	440 and 441 (West of Cuyahoga River), 448, 449
Region 3	439, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447	437, 438, 439, 446, 447, 457
Region 4	430, 431, 432, 433, 437, 438, 449, 456, 457	430, 431, 432, 433, 456
Region 5	434, 435, 436, 448, 458	434, 435, 436, 458

MOTION: To approve the new regional boundaries for OAPA regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Clayton M Rotuno



Allyson Whitaker



Courtney Bishop



Natasha C. Hunt, DAC



Jay Mihalek



Emily Keller



Madelene A Meyers



Amy Wilson



Emily Brown



Kristin Hunt



Natalie Talbot



Anna Hathorn



Emily A Kohler

