

Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2026

The OAPA Board of Directors convened via Zoom. Board members Rotuno, Hart, Meyers, Kohler, Homoki, Wilson, Talboo, Bishop, Keller, E.Brown, Mathur, and Whittaker were present. Board member Mihalek was absent. Also present were Committee Chairs Freado, Gorzitze-Maxey, Mansell, McDiffett, and Schmitz, AAPA Delegates Barmasse, J. Brown, Pagel, Pagliaccio, Richardson, and Thompson, 7 SCSRs, and ED Vanneman.

President Rotuno called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with a roll call. A quorum was present. Attendees were reminded that only the 13 elected board members may motion and vote.

President Rotuno thanked the outgoing elected board members (Hart, Homoki, Whittaker, Talboo, Bishop, and Keller) and AAPA Delegates (J. Brown, Pagliaccio, and Roxas).

Student Representative Whittaker introduced and welcomed the newly selected SCSRs, including Alyssa Pallini (Mount Saint Joseph University), Kyla Columer (University of Findlay), Matthew Meade (Ashland University), and Paige Bailey (University of Mount Union).

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki introduced the January 2026 board of directors meeting minutes.

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

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

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

In President Rotuno's report, he celebrated the recent update to the regional map to better reflect and serve the changing population of practicing PAs and increase in PA programs in Ohio.

Secretary-Treasurer Homoki reviewed the financial narrative, statement of financial position, and statement of activities for the first two months of 2026.

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

Executive Director Vanneman presented the preliminary draft investment policy statement for the board's consideration. Additional discussion is anticipated with a potential adoption of the policy in late 2026.

President-Elect Meyers noted the bylaws requirement to hold an annual membership meeting.

ACTION: Motion to hold a virtual annual membership meeting November 17. The motion carried.

Executive Director Vanneman informed the board of the revisions to the AAPA Affiliation Agreement.

Executive Director Vanneman reminded all volunteer leaders of the obligation to complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement at least annually, and whenever there are any material changes.

President Rotuno described the division of labor for 2026 OAPA Annual Conference planning.

ACTION: Motion to confirm the appointment of Conference Co-Chairs Meyers and Hart. The motion carried. Meyers abstained. Hart was not in attendance during this vote.

Vice President Kohler reminded the board of the upcoming elected office vacancies and terms. The deadline for candidate applications is April 3, although it may be extended. The voting period is set.

Vice President Kohler informed the board that a reduction in AAPA delegate apportionment is expected for 2028. It was determined that the 3 vacancies for AAPA delegates with a starting date of July 1, 2026, should not have the standard 3 year term, to avoid having more elected delegates than needed in 2028.

ACTION: Motion to establish a one-year term (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) for the three AAPA delegates elected in 2026. The motion carried.

Chief Delegate Pagel provided an update on AAPA House of Delegates activities. Ohio has been asked to cosponsor several resolutions but does not plan to do so. Regarding Ohio's resolutions, two bylaws resolutions were withdrawn due to AAPA stating existing policies cover the matters. Other resolutions that

will be presented pertain to recruiting Pre-PAs, supporting ARC-PA, education and advocacy regarding other healthcare professions, monitoring the creation of new healthcare professions, and opposing the use of PA curriculum to develop new healthcare professions. The HOD will be in New Orleans in May.

Discussion briefly returned to the OAPA elections, recruiting additional candidates, and role expectations.

Government Affairs Chair Freado stated that the effort to advance PA title change is ongoing, including recruiting supportive physicians. A PA modernization bill is in final drafting with the Legislative Services Commission and sponsorship is being pursued. There are plans to grow legislative and PAC funds, build more formal governance for the PAC, and engage in Rural Health Transformation funding opportunities.

Conference Co-Chairs Meyers and Hart provided an update on the Annual Conference, August 27-29, 2026 at the Westin Cleveland. Speaker and poster recruitment has begun and content ideas are welcome. The Challenge Bowl will take place on August 28. Sponsorship is already off to a strong start.

President-Elect Meyers previewed the OAPA Leadership Retreat, July 17-18 at The Ohioan. Volunteer leaders are invited to attend various portions of the event. The retreat will cover topics such as OAPA's mission, governance, activities, matters of professional relevance, and more. A preliminary strategic plan will be identified with further honing until November adoption, positioning the plan for funding in 2027.

President Rotuno highlighted the upcoming OAPA activities and appreciated the good work of the committees and volunteers who have put in the effort to plan and execute these events.

Public Relations Chair McDiffett discussed her role on the SMBO's CMHA Advisory Committee and the latest efforts around the launch of the CMHA profession. She invited the group to attend the Ohio Mental Health Summit with a discounted registration and to enhance PA engagement in behavioral health.

President Rotuno thanked all for attending. The next OAPA Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026 from 10-10:45 a.m. both in-person at The Ohioan and virtually via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 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 **Monday, June 29, at 5 p.m.**

The OAPA money market interest rate with Huntington Bank phased out of promotional rates and has been stagnant at less than 1%. The ongoing use of Huntington Bank for operational needs (checking, money market, business credit card) is recommended to avoid unnecessary disruption, but a new solution is needed for securing a higher rate of return on OAPA's excess assets.

We aim to maintain a checking balance of \$15,000-\$25,000 for managing daily operations. The money market account requires an average daily balance of \$10,000 to avoid maintenance fees, although a higher cushion is needed to ensure cash flow. We currently have approximately \$225,000 in assets between the checking and money market accounts, which is well beyond the needed cushion.

Business certificates of deposit (CDs) are being researched at five banks with northwest Ohio branches. The preferred option is one or more CDs with a term of 5-9 months with an APY of 3% or higher at one or more banks not requiring opening a checking or savings account to purchase the CD. Upon CD maturity, the Board will be consulted regarding what to do with the principal plus interest.

MOTION: To move excess funds into one or more business CDs, empowering the President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Executive Director to determine further specifics and take action.

Clayton M Rotuno

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Allyson Whitaker

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Emily Keller

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Madelene A Meyers

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Jay Mihalek

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Emily Brown

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Nathan C. Hoyt, DAC

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Amy Wilson

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Ana Hathur

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Kristin Hunk

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Natalie Talbot

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Emily A Kohler

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Courtney Bishop

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OAPA has been experiencing higher-than-market fees on credit card processing for some time. Efforts to resolve the matter with the current processor (Heartland Payment Systems, now Global Payments) have stagnated. Their customer service has been unhelpful and unwilling to address our concerns.

Payroc is an established industry provider, with representative George Gule having been suggested by both OAPA's software vendor and a respected Ohio-based association.

Payroc can meet our primary goal of obtaining palatable credit card processing fees (likely reducing them by 50-60% relative to our current rates,) along with offering other opportunities to modernize OAPA's payment options.

Additionally, the existing relationship with TCS Software will help to ensure both a smooth transition and ongoing service, with access to a live, Ohio-based representative for any future issues.

MOTION: To partner with Payroc to transition OAPA's payment processing system.

Clayton M Rotuno

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Allyson Whitaker

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Emily Keller

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Nathan C. Hart, DAC

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Jay Mihalek

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Emily Brown

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Madelene A Meyers

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Amy Wilson

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Ann Hathur

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Kristin Hamb

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Natasha Talbot

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Emily A Kohler

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Courtney Bishop

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