

Minutes
Montana Optometric Association
Conference Call Board of Directors' Meeting
December 11, 2018

Call to Order A Conference call meeting of the Board of the Directors of the Montana Optometric Association was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Dr. Joe Vincent, President.

Roll Call and Quorum Board members present on the call were:
Dr. Joe Vincent, President;
Dr. Joseph Steiner, First Vice President;
Dr Abby Thompson., Second Vice President;
Dr. Douglas Creger;
Dr. Niki Henriksen.

Also present were Sue Weingartner, Executive Director; Marti L. Wangen, CAE, Co-Executive Director.

Absent was Dr. Carl Roth, Past President.

Discussion President Dr. Joe Vincent and Legislative Chair Dr. Niki Henriksen informed the board of their legislative plan. The need for a two-year concept to plan for future legislation was discussed and will have more details at the next board meeting.

Board members were asked to encourage members to attend the legislative day on January 16, 2019.

The program for legislative day was also discussed.

An Executive Director's recommendation is attached to these minutes.

Adjourn There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 a.m.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Re: 2019 Legislative Action

It is against the recommendation of your Executive Directors for this association to proceed with introducing legislation in the 2019 session.

We have reviewed the committees that your bill could be heard in:

House Business and Labor

19 members

8 probable votes for optometry

8 never contacted (2 Flathead, 2 Missoula, 1 Bozeman, 1 Eureka, 1 Libby and 1 Crow)

3 very questionable votes

No contact with committee chair from Bigfork

Senate Business, Labor & Economic Affairs

11 members

4 probable votes for optometry

6 never contacted (2 Flathead, Anaconda, Missoula, Bozeman, Poplar)

1 no historical no vote

Favorable committee chair

House Human Services

19 members

9 probable votes for optometry

3 never contacted (Billings, Whitefish, Missoula)

7 questionable votes

Favorable committee chair

Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety

9 members

3-4 probable votes for optometry (two may be shaky depending upon the issue)

2 never contacted (Missoula and Bigfork)

3 questionable votes

Questionable committee chair

These committees have been reviewed with your President and Legislative Chair and it is strongly noted that you do not have a majority of strong contacts in any committee.

Deadlines not being met:

1. Candidate contacts were not made during the campaign periods. Weekly phone calls were conducted where these contacts were reviewed with the legislative committee and the board. Insufficient contacts were made for a favorable outcome with health and business committees.
2. Contacts were reviewed and discussed with your President and Legislative Chair several weeks ago. Strategies were discussed – ie: meet with Sen. Bob Keenan, find out if any optometrists uses Rep. Mark Noland's janitorial service in Kalispell. There has been no information returned that this has been done.

3. Legislative Day program. No program has been arranged for Legislative Day which is only a month away. We are not able to advertise and get members here without a program.
4. It was requested that the MOA Think Tank return information on what they would like to see in a bill. The deadline was noon on Friday, December 7. Only one of five returned comments.

Is there a commitment from the leadership of this organization to work on a bill?

1. During a recent advisory call with AOA, comments were made that eluded to participation burnout from the President and the Legislative Chair. If MOA has a bill – it is imperative there be a commitment from the board and legislative committee that they will remain available and ready to appear in Helena when needed, often on short notice.

What is MOA risking by just trying the bill?

Locally:

1. Members are disheartened with a loss
2. We prove to opponents that we don't have solid contacts or strength so they are emboldened and MOA is vulnerable to attack.

Profession:

3. AOA sees that we didn't know enough about passing a bill that we proceeded without "having our ducks in a row"

Other:

1. Nationally, Optometry has a loss and the opposition has a win and can point to it in other legislative arenas