

2020 Virtual NNENS Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM
Leader: Alissa Thomas, MD-President
Recorder: Nancy Solis
Present: Alissa Thomas, Jeff Cohen, R. Tandan, Kathy Martin, Denis McGrath, Tim Lukovits, Stephen Lee, Lara Ronan, Barbara Jobst, Gregory Holmes, Nancy Solis, Lindsay Schommer, Jane Vasquez

1. Congratulation's to Alissa for organizing this meeting during very difficult times.
2. Bi-laws Need Updating
 - a. Membership categories – would like to update them. Currently they are,
 - i. Active (physician neuroscientist)
 - ii. Associate (non-physician neuroscientist) only active members have voting privileges and can hold office
 - iii. Honorary
 - iv. Junior

Would like to amend this so that we could include our active membership nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, other clinical neuro-connected people who may want to be more active in the society.

The committee likes the idea of expanding the definition for associate providers. Would like to add APPs, Social Workers, Neuropsychologists, maybe other broad categories. Important to keep the industry separate – the industry as non-voting members.

- b. Officers of the Society – currently are president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. At the last meeting, we named Nancy Solis as our secretary and treasurer position and the chair to be shared between Dr. Holmes and Dr. Cohen. Bylaws state that except for the secretary, officers are not eligible for immediate reelection, this is reasonable. We need to name new executive members at the 2021 meeting for the odd years. Would anyone like to nominate now?
- c. We are required to have standing committees, they are membership, program, legislation and nomination. At the last meeting, Dr. Thadani was nominated as Chair of the Membership Committee. As far as we know, that is the only active committee we have.
- d. Any member who has not paid dues within one year after billing shall be billed for the preceding year and membership forfeited if they are indebted to the Society for more than 60 days. We would like to amend this. Received motion to approve amendments.

Barbara would like to eliminate the dues – note sure we need to be non-profit. Alisson believes that some of these bylaws make sense, Program Committee for example.

A suggestion was made to shorten the committees to Membership Committee and Program Committee. Would like to make the dues to meeting enrollment. Dues are \$35/year. For a normal in-person meeting we charge somewhere between \$175 to \$195. Making it an incentive to have annual meetings cost less for people who have paid their dues might be a nice way to

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entice people to become active members according to our bylaws. A suggestion was made to make someone an automatic member when they pay the registration fee. Need to discuss this further.

- Alissa will work with a lawyer to draft a new article. For the bylaws to be changed the Executive Committee has to vote on the changes. She will send the updated document to Dr. Holmes and Dr. Cohen for approval.

3. Residents - There were 3 residents signed up for the meeting and two of them pulled out at the last minute. We ended up having only one resident give a presentation. She did a terrific job and we would like to congratulate her by giving her an honorarium.
 - Committee approved.
4. Financial Report - We have converted our accounts to Peoples National Bank. This year the cost of the CME's and the discounts that we gave come in under budget but we have enough in the account to cover. With the extra money, are there things we should look at adding to the program?

A few suggested ideas:

- Research – competitive between Dartmouth and UVM
- Speaker Series
- Resident Award
- Hotel room covered for speaker

5. Virtual Meeting Feedback – This was the first virtual meeting we have had – how do you think it went? I welcome feedback.
 - Great opportunity for more participation.
 - Keep virtual option available during in-person meetings.
 - Had higher resident participation this year due to not having to travel.
 - From the administrative side, it was easy to manage – should incorporate into future meetings – works well.
6. Other Items:
 - Thank you, Dr. Ronan and her husband for their assistance in resolving our tax issues.
 - Think about the future president-elect. Dr. Barbara Nye was recommended. Current committee fully supports.
 - Include active membership to include all clinical practitioners.
 - Would love to see more participation from the Maine neurology group.

Meeting adjourned.