

ARMENIAN CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Friday, April 15, 2005
Location: St. Gregory's Armenian Catholic Church
Purpose: General Meeting

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| 1. Welcome and attendance list circulation | Susan Karakashian |
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| 2. Introduction of new members
Dr. Minassian welcomed the attendees to the general meeting and recognized the health care professionals who are new to the organization. | Berge Minassian |
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| 3. ACMAO Powerpoint Presentation
Dr. Minassian presented a showcase of ACMAO's projects over the past several years including the dental clinics in Karabagh, the Women's Health Clinic in Stepanakert, medical equipment and supply transfers and nursing educational programs. | Berge Minassian |
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| 4. Nursing Report
Mrs. Sarkissian gave a history of the nursing division's activities to date. The Nurses' group was developed in 2001 and since then has done a needs assessment in the Armenian community to guide their educational programs. They have organized several lectures for the community aimed to increase health awareness and promote wellness. This group has hosted several meetings and continuing education programs for the Armenian Nurses in Ontario as they have also participated in a one-day nursing workshop at the Armenian World Medical Congress in Yerevan in 2003. Most recently, the nursing division organized a successful health fair for the Armenian community. | Sonia Sarkissian |
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| 5. Dental Report
Dr. Sakarya provided a brief financial report that included reporting that, although the dental group has not had a separate bank account from ACMAO, they recently opened a separate account to handle the fundraising proceeds from the Luys Concert last year. The Luys Concert was organized to help raise funds in support of the dental clinics in Karabagh. Currently, there is approximately \$50,000 in this account.
Dr. Ouzounian elaborated briefly about the dental clinics that have been established. There are currently 5 dental clinics in Karabagh including a roaming dental bus that reaches to the remote areas. These clinics are providing free dental care to most of the region. Dr. Ouzounian pointed out that the infrastructure for provide free medical care is now available at these clinics and consideration | Jack Sakarya and Zareh Ouzounian |
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should be given to opening clinics offering different medical services in these spaces.

6. Women's Health Clinic

Avedis Bogosyan

Dr. Bogosyan gave a brief introduction to the Women's Health clinic, stating that it has been open since October 2004 and is now seeing 20 to 25 patients each day. The waiting list to be seen at the clinic is 3 months long.

Dr. Bogosyan also stated that there are several other projects that are being floated around including an Epilepsy Centre, Diabetes Education programs, Hypertension clinic as well as organizing a Medical Conference in Armenia.

7. Financial Report

Cyril Tahtadjian

Dr. Tahtadjian presented the 2002 and 2003 financial statements (as attached). The 2004 statements are not yet finalized, as there are still some outstanding funds from the ACMAO gala. Approximately \$50,000 is now available for ACMAO projects.

8. Announcement re: Charitable number

Berge Minassian
and Berj
Bardekjian

Drs. Minassian and Bardekjian announced that after a very convoluted process, ACMAO has regained a charitable (tax deductible) number and will be able to issue tax deductible receipts for donations.

9. Elections Process

Berge Minassian

Dr. Minassian reviewed the process for upcoming elections. ACMAO consists of 9 board members and we have lists of potentially 200 health care professionals who can be members. Only paid members are eligible to vote. As such, ACMAO will be soliciting memberships over the next several months by distributing information about ACMAO to potential members via mail/e-mail with follow up phone calls and requests for dues payment for individuals who are interested in becoming active members. Ample opportunity will be given to individuals to become paid members prior to elections.

The current board will select a nonnominating committee who is familiar with the work ACMAO does and who will be able to reach out to attract new membership. Elections would then be taking place by a "call in" or "e-mail" vote, as each paid member will be assigned a voting number. A suggestion was made to still have a general assembly in addition to the remote voting process described above, as an opportunity for members to come together.

10. Dues and Membership

Susan
Karakashian

Ms. Karakashian described the various membership categories. Nurses have historically paid \$50 for membership and they will continue to do so. Similarly, student/resident/fellow memberships (aka Associate membership) is \$50 and full membership for all other health care professionals is \$100. The dental group pays

\$600, of which \$500 is used to fund the dental projects and \$100 is the ACMAO membership fee.

11. Open Forum/Questions

All

- A suggestion was made to reduce the student membership to \$25 since many are not employed. The board will consider this at their next meeting.
- Suggestion to consider making a membership card. The board will bring to their meeting.
- Inquiry made as to the methods of needs assessment for determining what types of clinics and projects ACMAO has been taking on. While a formal needs assessment is not usually conducted due to high costs (~\$8000 per year for a scientific based needs assessment), many of the projects are guided based on obvious need e.g the dental clinics. In the case of the Women's Health Clinic, the Ministry of Health in Karabagh had conducted a needs assessment that lead to the development of the clinic. AMIC (Armenian Medical International Committee) hosts a website registry of all medical projects that is intended to help prevent duplication.

12. Adjournment and Member Registration

Minutes prepared by: Susan Karakashian