Minutes

Members in Attendance: Richard Siska, Sr., NMAA, MIS, BSNM, NCT; Krystle Glasgow, CNMT, NMTCB(CT), NMAA; Robert Henkin, MD, FACNM, FACR; Vicki LaRue, MIS, NMAA; Mark Wallenmeyer, MBA, CNMT, RT(N) FSNMT; April Mann, MBA, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), F; Katie Neal, BS, MS; Kathleen Krisak, BS, CNMT, FSNMMI-TS; Cybil Nielsen, MBA, CNMT, FSNMMI-TS; Darko Pucar, MD, PhD; Cindi Luckett-Gilbert, MHA, CNMT, PET, FSNMTS; Elpida Crawford, CNMT

Staff in Attendance: Sue Bunning, Helen Leonard and Ana Hilton

Administrative Items
Richard D. Siska, Sr., NMAA, MIS, BSNM, NCT, AAC President, welcomed everyone and asked for a brief review of the past meeting minutes for approval.

A motion was made to approve the February 18, 2016 AAC Board of Directors conference call minutes.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the February 18, 2016 AAC Board of Directors conference call minutes.

A motion was made to approve the March 21, 2016 AAC Board of Directors conference call minutes.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the March 21, 2016 AAC Board of Directors conference call minutes.

Membership and Finance Reports
Richard Siska reminded everyone in the fall of 2015, the AAC board of directors had voted and approved the increase in AAC membership dues from $10.00 to $15.00. This change would take effect in 2016 for the 2017 membership renewals. At that time, the AAC board had also voted and approved free AAC memberships to NMAA students, NMT free trial technologist students, free trial residents, and current preceptors. Helen Leonard will make sure the SNMMI membership dept. is aware of this.

NMAA Recognition Criteria Development
Richard Siska briefly explained that during the last AAC BOD meeting the board discussed the need for standard criteria for NMAA recognition. Richard Siska and Vicki LaRue, MIS, NMAA, AAC Vice President, attended a meeting on Thursday, June 9 with leadership members from the JRCNMT, SNMMI-TS, and the NMTCB. There is a need for the NMTCB to develop minimum criteria or standards for NMAA programs to give guidance to schools interested in opening a program. At this time, there is no accrediting body for the NMAA because there is only one educational program. The NMTCB requested a meeting with the other stakeholder groups to assist with evaluating criteria/standards for NMAA programs. Richard Siska stressed the urgency to act now because program accreditation will not happen unless more NMAA programs open. There is a need for physician support and the identification of willing preceptors who are interested in mentoring NMAAs. The group decided to form a coalition/working group to develop the criteria/standards for the NMAA program.
RA Legislation
Vicki LaRue, MIS, NMAA, AAC Vice President, reported that RAs are recognized in the state of Colorado however, Colorado does not have state licensing for imagers. Ms. LaRue will be advocating for the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act (MARCA) on her own and not as a representative of the SNMMI. Sue Bunning, SNMMI Director of Health Policy & Regulatory Affairs noted that the MARCA legislation will most likely not pass on its own, but will need to be a companion bill.

Richard Siska reminded everyone that there were two motions made on the last AAC BOD call: (1) to write a letter in support of RA legislation and (2) request that the NMAA be added to the RA legislation. Vickie LaRue volunteered to draft a letter however, the draft was put on hold.

NMAA White Paper
Richard Siska reported that some of the stakeholders were not comfortable with the wording of the white paper so it will need to be revised. Several of the stakeholders have said that they cannot endorse the white paper at this time such as the ACR, the ABNM, the ACNM, and the JRCNMT. The ABNM decided not to approve or endorse the NMAA Stakeholders Meeting report because it is beyond the professional scope of the ABNM to determine standards for non-physician professionals.

The ACNM can neither endorse or oppose the paper because their board was split. There is a concern by many that nuclear medicine physician jobs will be replaced by other people. The AAC would like to continue to educate people about the NMAA and why it is important.

April Mann, MBA, CNMT, NCT, RT(N), FSNMMI-TS and Kathleen Krisak, BS, CNMT, FSNMMI-TS, reported that during the SNMMI-TS Executive Board meeting, held on Friday, June 10, 2016, Richard Siska, AAC president, reported that representatives from the JRCNMT, NMTCB, SNMMI-TS and AAC met to discuss the NMTCB request to develop “recognition” standards for NMAA programs. During the meeting, the SNMMI-TS Leadership agreed to participate in a coalition task force that would work to draft recognition standards. The standards, once developed, will be circulated to all of the participating organizational boards for review, comment and approval. During the joint meeting, it was explained that draft recognition standards had been developed by UAMS, and that document would be utilized as a template as the coalition works to develop the document.

In addition, during the Executive Board meeting, the NMAA White Paper was also discussed. While the SNMMI-TS provided comments on this document during the Mid-Winter Meeting, the SNMMI-TS did not vote to approve the final document during the annual meeting. Executive Board members believe that there are many questions surrounding the current NMAA structure and are concerned that with the declining student pool, the lack of new schools opening and the lack of physician support with the NMAA Stakeholders White Paper, that a change in the current model may be necessary. As such, and coupled with the other significant developments (entry level master's programs, incorporation of certification boards within the scope of practice, etc.) within the field over the past year, the SNMMI-TS Executive Board agreed to hold a strategic planning session, in the fall, to discuss, completely, these various areas. Executive Board members agreed that there is simply not enough time during the Mid-Winter or Annual Meeting to fully discuss all of these issues completely.

Following this strategic retreat, the Executive Board will communicate their findings and strategy moving forward to all entities within the SNMMI-TS.

The lack of formal approval of the NMAA White Paper does not translate to non-support. Rather, it is an opportunity for the Executive Board to truly review the current NMAA model and better understand the issues and challenges that currently exist. The SNMMI-TS is taking the NMAA concerns very seriously and looks forward to discussing this, more completely, very soon.

Educational Activities
Richard Siska reported that the call for proposals for the 2017 Mid-Winter Meeting has gone out and the deadline for submission is June 24. Malaika Walton, SNMMI Senior Program Manager in the Education Department has sent an email to Richard Siska and Vicki LaRue explaining the process specific to the AAC session proposals. There was discussion among the board members for a proposed education session on physician and student outreach and the role of an NMAA. Another suggestion was a co-sponsored session with the SNMMI technologist section. Kathleen Krisak agreed to help organize this session. Vicki LaRue suggested co-sponsoring a session with the ACNM and offered to contact Erica Cohen about this session.
Recognition of AAC Officers and Board Members
Vikki LaRue, MIS, NMAA, AAC Vice President introduced the following newly elected Board Members:
- Krystle Glasgow, MIS, CNMT, NMTCB(CT), NMAA
- Cybil Neilson, MBA, CNMT, FSNMMI-TS
- Darko Pucar, MD, PhD

Other Business

- **Revisions to AAC Operating Procedures**
  Richard Siska announced that the AAC operating procedures need to be revised. He suggested selecting a few members from the board to help revise the procedures. SNMMI staff will also work on revising the procedures this summer. Drafts will be sent to the AAC Board of Directors for approval. Once approved, the proposed revisions will be forwarded to the Committee on Councils and Centers (CoCC) for approval and finally to the House of Delegates for final approval. The goal is to have the final operating procedures approved but the 2017 Mid-Winter meeting.

- **AAC Communications (newsletter & website)**
  Richard Siska suggested having more frequent newsletters even if they are short (1-2 pages). He requested that AAC board members submit information for future newsletters to staff for publication in the newsletters that will also be posted to the AAC website.

Richard Siska ended the meeting by reminding everyone about the VA proposal and that comments regarding the proposal are due in July. Sue Bunning reported that the SNMMI is responding to this proposal as well and will keep the AAC president informed of any new developments.

Adjournment
Richard Siska thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.