

**American Academy of Audiology  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 25, 2025**

**The Hilton Riverside  
New Orleans, LA**

**Member Summary**

**President:** Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH

**President-elect:** Dave Zapala, PhD, AuD

**Immediate Past President:** Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

**Board Members:**

**Term Ending '25:** Ursula Findlen, PhD, Kaitlyn Kennedy, AuD, Lachelle Lazarus, AuD

**Term Ending '26:** Wafaa Kaf, MBBCh, MSc, PhD, Meagan Bachmann, AuD

**Term Ending '27:** Brenna Carroll, AuD, Maria Pomponio, AuD, Greta Stamper, AuD, PhD

**Ex-Officio:** Lindee Alvarez, SAA Liaison; Patrick Gallagher, MBA, Executive Director

**Guests:** Sarah Betzold, Jamie Bogle, Erica Friedland, Vicki Gonzalez, Anna Jilla, Lindsey Jorgensen, Maggie Kettler, Becky Lewis, Samantha Lewis, Sarah McAlexander, Carrie Meyer, Ginny Milner, Alyssa Needleman, Ethan Platt, Samantha Ramirez, Danny Romero, Tina Stern, Devon Weist

**Staff:** Larry Burner, Stephanie Demian, Anne Poodiack, Erin Reyes, Rachael Sifuentes, Andrew Stafford, Kitty Werner, Joanne Zurcher

- The board approved a consent agenda which included the minutes of the January and February 2025 board meetings, the 2026 program sub-committee chairs, the January 2025 financials, and the evaluation criteria for the Distinguished Fellow program.
- Bopanna Ballachanda, immediate past president and chair of the Nominations Committee, submitted to the board the slate of candidates for the 2025 election. He provided background on the work of the Nominations Recruitment and Nominations committees. The board approved the election slate.
- The board discussed the nominations' process, particularly the value of the blind review aspect and the value of the letters of recommendation. Based on insights offered by committee members and group discussion, the board surmised that sufficient questions exist to revisit those requirements and to consider some other changes to the process. The board charged the Governance Council with re-evaluating the nomination process to see what is most effective for the intended outcomes. Additionally, the board recognized that recruitment should be a year-long effort and not fall just to the Nominations Recruitment Committee. The board will look to council leaders to discuss potential leaders within councils who may need further mentoring or development activities.
- The board reviewed the update from the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAE) and the request for increased staff support for new initiatives. The board will evaluate the ACAE request and new initiatives in budget considerations scheduled for July.
- The board reviewed the update from the American Board of Audiology and approved the proposal for a partnership with the Education Audiology Association to offer a Certificate Holder-Educational Audiology program. The board also recognized that the ABA is working on other areas for program expansion that align with the Academy's strategic priorities.
- The board approved the proposal to offer a discounted membership fee to Lifetime Members. The category of Lifetime is open to members who have been in the Academy for 30 years.

- Joanne Zurcher, VP of Government Relations and Policy, provided a brief political update and the status of efforts to reintroduce the Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act. She recognized the board members for 100% participation in contributions to the Academy's Political Action Committee (PAC). The board discussed the Academy's support of state issues on a range of topics and reiterated the support for working with members and state audiology organizations.
- Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director, reported on the progress of the practice management resource activities to help members amplify their worth. The board identified the need for consideration of the optimal infrastructure within the organization to offer tangible resources and support ongoing work. Consolidation of some committees may be needed to enhance coordinated efforts.
- Anne Poodiack, VP of Meetings, Education, and Business Development, reported on the strong registration, exhibits, and sponsorship for AAA 2025. She noted particularly the nine-fold increase in audiology assistants. The board discussed the environment for conferences and realistic target goals for long-term planning.
- The board approved requests from the councils for adjustments to OKRs and discussed challenges in advancing a couple of specific key results.
- Academy representatives to the Joint Commission on Infant Hearing submitted an update to the board on JCIH activities and requested board guidance on the Academy's level of engagement with future document development. The board requested additional information from the representatives.
- The board approved a request for the Academy to participate in the Hear to Debate program being offered by the Bill of Rights Institute.
- Members of the different councils (including council and committee chairs) joined the board to discuss how to improve the level of recognition and adoption of the Academy's guidelines and strategic documents into practice. The group heard an update on the status of the current work and efforts to solicit topics for new documents. Board member Greta Stamper facilitated group discussion about the obstacles to getting the Academy documents out to audiologists and the strategies for marketing and promotion. Additionally, the group recommended the creation of supplemental resources to help audiologists and students understand how to use the materials within practice.