

IOMSN Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, August 10th, 2018 5PM EST

Roll call:

Patricia Pagnotta
Megan Weigel
Jong-Mi Lee
Cheryl Blaschuk
Connie Easterling
Amy Perrin Ross
Stephanie Agrella
Denise Bruen
Marie Namey
Marie Moore
Carol Chieffe
Maureen Mealy
Marijean Buhse
Rachel Stacom
Iris Vercoe
Yaritza Rosario
Beverly Layton
Heidi Maloni
Therese Burke
Lynn Stazzone
Janet Morrison
June Halper
Leny Almeda

Topic

1) President's Report

Discussion

Aliza Ben-Zacharia was removed as President by 2/3 majority vote by IOMSN elected board members in accordance with the bylaws. A difficult decision was made, but done for the good of the organization. A letter dated 08/10/18 was posted online and in an e-mail blast to the membership. The plan now is to move the IOMSN forward. The Google Group was briefly shut down when Aliza's removal went public due to improper use of the site by a limited number of members. It is now up and running. No one is blocked from use as long as they are members. There will be no changes to current committee appointments made by Aliza. The Wellness Committee was not approved by the Board. It will be considered as a task force by the

Action Taken

The discussion was noted and recorded

Executive Committee. Patricia's goals as president include:

- Enhancing membership involvement
- Increase membership
- Expand educational offerings
- Expand mentorship programs
- Enhance recognition of our membership and their innovative role in improving the lives of those with MS
- Enhance and support MS nursing research

There was general discussion about the manner in which the situation was handled both interpersonally and online. There many posted discussions on the Google Group. Patricia explained the actions of the Executive Committee were guided by counsel:

1. A board meeting of elected officer was held to review the situation
2. A no confidence vote was taken
3. A letter was sent privately to Aliza
4. Aliza posted the private letter as well as a lengthy reply on the Google Group
5. She never replied to the no confidence vote
6. A vote to remove was taken due to Aliza's reluctance to change, communicate with the board, and her public replies to private correspondence.
7. Again, this was guided by legal counsel based on bylaws.

Jong-Mi expressed her concern about the above process. She advised that there is a need for a third party to review financials for transparency. It was pointed out that financials were never an issue. Her comments were in reaction to postings on the Google

Group. She emphasized that there is a widespread impact of how board leadership has opened a "Pandora's Box". This was not done by the board but by Aliza going public on a forum designed for networking and support. Bylaws were deemed important at times throughout the past 8 weeks and were used conveniently but ignored at other times. The real issue was the lack of communication between the voting directors and Aliza, who refused to take corrective action. There was discussion about the need for transparency in all aspects of board function. Some important questions were posted on the Google Group and should be addressed. Patricia's letter to the membership was well-written, fairly well-received and addressed those points. June reminded the board that Colleen Harris, who served as Education Committee Chair for many years was very hurt by her dismissal. June asked that the board reach out to her. Therese Burke acknowledged the painful circumstances surrounding board activities during recent weeks.

Comments noted.

Motion to adjourn made by Megan. Seconded by Stephanie. Meeting adjournment at 6:10PM EDT.