

**Minutes of the Trustee Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 23**  
**7:00-8:00**

Attendees at the meeting:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>President</b>	Kim Key
<b>President-Elect</b>	Diana Falsetta
<b>Vice President</b>	Pete Lisowsky
<b>Vice President-Elect</b>	Jenny Brown
<b>Vice President-Finance</b>	John Barrick
<b>Vice President-Finance-Elect</b>	Hughlene Burton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tracy Noga
<b>Secretary</b>	Stacie Laplante
<b>Trustees-Finishing 2019</b>	James Chyz
	Katharine Drake
	Casey Schwab
<b>Trustees-Finishing 2020</b>	Stephanie Sikes
	Bridget Stomberg
	Ryan Wilson
<b>JATA Editor</b>	Connie Weaver
<b>JLTR Editor</b>	Blaise M. Sonnier
<b>Past President</b>	Ben Ayers
<b>Past Past President</b>	LeAnn Luna
<b>Long-range Planning Chair</b>	Lynn Jones
<b>Annual Meeting Chair</b>	Kirsten Cook

President Kim Key called the meeting to order at 7:04 AM on February 23, 2019, offering a brief welcome.

1. Secretary Stacie Laplante asked if there were any revisions or modifications to the minutes of the August 5, 2018 Trustees and Officers meeting. None were offered. After a motion and a second, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
2. Treasurer Tracy Noga distributed and provided an overview of the ATA Mid-Year Meeting Report, including the Statement of Operations, Balance Sheet noting and ATA Membership trends. Tracy observed that our section is particularly strong relative to other AAA sections. She said that Deloitte committed to continue supporting the ATA through 2021. KPMG also committed to continue supporting the Ph.D. Consortium through 2022.

Tracy noted that overall membership numbers were down slightly in 2018-19 relative to 2017-18 (by two in total), but did not feel it was a problem.

3. Vice President Pete Lisowsky provided a report on the ATA Midyear Meeting. He reported 291 overall attendees this year and noted that this number is consistent with most years except last. He reported 70 attendees to the Teaching Symposium, and 54 attendees signed up for the Doctoral Consortium. All four of the Big 4 firms participated in the presentations at the meeting, and the Hoops Tax Institute sponsored the ATA Midyear Early Career Development Breakfast, saving the ATA resources.

Pete reported that the changes to this year's meeting that had the goal of keeping people at the sessions the whole time, such as starting earlier in the day, compressing the schedule, ending earlier on Saturday appear to be working well. These changes did not appear to affect the number of quality papers or discussions/discussants and will save approximately \$25,000 over the prior year's meeting because Saturday's break and lunch were discontinued. After a brief discussion, the trustees decided to examine the feedback from the meeting to see how the changes were received before recommending them next year.

4. VP of Finance John Barrick reported his attempts to reacquire a lost sponsor. This particular sponsor failed to provide *money* in 2017-2018, and he followed up with them with no response from the firm. After discussing whether to proceed with seeking support from the Big 4 accounting firms only, Hughlene Burton agreed to follow up with more senior officials from the former sponsor to see if they would continue support.
5. Sean McGuire, head of the Doctoral Consortium, provided an update on this year's meeting. He reported attendance by 36 students and 16 faculty. He also said the four international students, three from Germany and one from Hong Kong, attended this year and were among the most engaged students. He reported that all were grateful for support from the ATA and felt that it might not have been possible for them to attend without the support. A brief discussion ended in agreement that we should seek ways to advertise the consortium more broadly to international students.
6. President Kim Key provided a brief update of this year's Teaching Curriculum conference saying that there was an excellent turnout and the good momentum that started last year continued.
7. JATA Senior Editor Connie Weaver provided an update of this year's JATA conference and journal. Partially due to the compressed schedule, the conference contained four papers this year instead of five, but that is consistent with the number in many prior years. Connie also said that submissions to the journal are slightly lower this year when compared to the same time last year, but it was not necessarily a problem because she had a backlog to fill the publication. Finally, Connie reported that her biggest challenge was working with the AAA in terms of the submission system and general cooperation, such as help in navigating the system and processing submission.
8. JLTR Senior Editor Blaise Sonnier provided an update of this year's JLTR conference and journal. He said that the conference went smoothly and he received tremendous help from Janie Whiteaker-Poe, Chair of the Legal Research Committee. He also indicated problems with the AAA in terms of unenthusiastic and lacking staff support that is hindering his ability to get manuscripts turned around promptly. He has taken on tasks that the AAA should be handling to expedite manuscript turn-around. A big challenge that JLTR is facing is competition with the Law Reviews because the competing system allows authors to submit a manuscript to multiple law journals simultaneously, making it more efficient for authors to submit to various law reviews than to JLTR.
9. Annual Meeting Chair Kirsten Cook reported on preparations for the annual meeting. Overall submissions are down slightly due to fewer behavioral submissions. It was suggested that authors might be submitting to the ABO section or devoting resources to the annual behavioral conference that takes

place in June in Washington DC. Kirsten praised the ATA membership for volunteering as there were more volunteers for reviewers and discussants than needed for the conference.

10. President Kim Key provided an update for the publication committee. Eight people were nominated for the next JATA Senior Editor, and two nominees accepted and are submitting their material for consideration.
11. Leann Luna reported that the AAA is moving up the timeline for the slate of nominations and is planning to adopt electronic voting instead of holding the vote at the annual meeting. The deadline is now prior to our midyear meeting but appears to be arbitrary and was not met this year. No negative implications are expected.
12. Mid-year Meeting Site selection. Lynn Jones reported that midyear site selection was progressing. The committee considered three different sites including Salt Lake City, St. Louis, and Nashville for the 2021 meeting, as well as three different weeks, the last two weeks of February and the first week of March. The 2021 MYM will be held February 18-20 at the Hyatt in St. Louis. The Committee discussed the importance of planning ahead with the AAA and are working on getting the details settled. More information will follow as it becomes available.
13. Long-range Planning Committee Chair Lynn Jones provided a committee update. The Committee is discussing liaising with Australia for a future meeting on the West Coast and for future teaching opportunities in Australia to help expand the potential for ATA membership overseas.

The Committee is also evaluating the role of the ATA Tax Policy Groups as it has traditionally been difficult to get people to serve as Chair and to write timely papers due to lack of incentives. The Committee reached out to Roby Sawyer for guidance on helping to motivate people to write papers. He suggested considering an informal process. The big question that the LRPC seeks guidance on is whether these committees should continue.

Finally, the Committee is also ways to improve ATA interactions with Regions and Regional Meetings. Amy Santos, a member of the LRPC, voiced concerns and recommends sharing the concerns with the AAA.

14. Kim Key reported on the following:

**Why tax?** Kim showed the current years winning “Why tax?” video at the MYM lunch and received positive feedback. Overall submissions were down this year, but she is trying to encourage more people to view the winning video and show it to their classes to increase interest in “Why tax?”

**Operations Manual.** Kim reported that much of the operations manual is outdated and she recommends cleaning it up. For example, outdated categories of membership, such as “emeritus” members, appear in the old operations manual but she is not sure if it belongs in the new one as well. There was discussion around the need and requirements for a membership say in any changes to the operations manual, and it was agreed that a vote must occur to make any changes. Kim is following up with recommendations and will provide more information at the annual meeting.

**Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting.** Meeting participants discussed the need for a business meeting at the annual meeting. The old by-laws require a business meeting, but there appears to be flexibility on the date of the meeting. Currently, the meeting is not an efficient way to convey information to the membership. There was agreement that a meeting is required if the by-laws are changing. There

were suggests to move the business meeting to the MYM lunch or the Annual Meeting lunch. No immediate changes were made, but the discussion will continue.

**Annual Meeting lunch cost.** The lunch at the 2019 annual meeting will cost the ATA \$97 per person, which is more expensive than usual. Given the ATA typically charges members the cost of the lunch, there is concern that members will choose not to attend due to the cost. When the meeting was in New York City, the ATA subsidized the cost by charging members \$70 (about \$25-\$30 less than the cost). After some discussion, there was a motion to charge members \$75 for lunch and have the ATA subsidize \$22, to encourage members to attend the lunch. The charge and subsidy were moved and seconded.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 AM.

Stacie K. Laplante, Secretary  
American Taxation Association