



## **NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

### **Regular Meeting Location**

#### **South Brunswick Municipal Building**

*540 Ridge Avenue \* South Brunswick, New Jersey*

*P.O. Box 5069 \* Kendall Park, NJ 08824*

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 21, 2026 \* 10 am \* By Zoom**

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1. Call to Order at 10:45 am
2. Salute to the Flag (previously done)
3. Attendance:
  - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Stephen Papenberg, Robert Uhrik, Steve Ember, Jojy Cheriyan, Donna Lisi
  - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — None
  - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
  - Liaisons Present — None
  - Others Present — Sue Nissenblatt, Chester Township BOH, JoAnn Hill, Princeton BOH
  - Excused — Christine Harris, Diana Lachman
  - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
6. President's Report  
President Roman presented his annual report:
  - We are an active member of PHACE
  - We are a sponsor of the NJ Public Health Association
  - We are a sponsor and collaborator for NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (NJCAAP)
  - We work with the NJ Conference of Mayors (NJCM) with an occasional sponsorship
  - We work with Rutgers's University, School of Public Health, both advanced and basic, as a collaborator and as an advisor on boards of health
  - We work with Rutgers's University, Bloustein School on various subjects
  - We worked with the County's Health Rankings and Health Equity Narrative Project where we received \$500 subgrant through Karen Blumenberg from GASP. President Roman reported that their grant has not been renewed.
  - We are involved as a collaborator with the NJ Climate Change Alliance
  - We are working with Sustainable Jersey on an ongoing basis
  - We are working with Early Development Advisors and their Board Membership to the Governor's Program dealing with maternal subjects
  - We are an unofficial advisor to the Opioid Advisory Council; we testified about the Social Equity Excise Fee (SEEF) money
  - We are in collaboration with a couple of groups as a resource and advocacy group for the Tobacco Cessation Project

President Roman reiterated that on March 9<sup>th</sup>, he presented a tutorial for the Public Health Division of the State Dept. of Health on the laws, structure, roles and responsibilities of the Boards of Health to Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Novneet Shau and Assistant Commissioner Shereen Semple, for Public Health Services, along with their staff. The Dept. of Health has restructured their divisions. This can be found online on their organizational chart.



President Roman reported that a judge in Massachusetts has struck down Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s vaccine policies for children on March 16<sup>th</sup>. President Roman reported that our Governor is activity involved in this issue. During her transition, she had not mentioned public health. Dr. Raynard Washington is the new Acting Commissioner of Health, was a county health officer from Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) North Carolina. He also worked in Philadelphia's Dept. of Health. We have not reached out to the Commissioner yet, however, we have been working with Dr. Shau, who will pass on our information. President Roman plans to write a personal welcome letter to Dr. Washington including information about our Association.

President Roman reported that the budget hearings have begun. He reported that the Senate will be hosting two meetings, one live and one virtually. The Assembly is only having live meetings. President Roman signed up for the Senate virtual meeting.

President Roman reported that he had a meeting with Senator Vin Gopal on Monday, March 23, 2026. Senator Gopal is now the Majority Whip and head of the Senate Education Committee. President Roman will be speaking to him on Priority Health Funding and Boards of Health Education. The Senator will craft new Bills on each subject. Senator Gopal's Assembly partner, Dr. Margie Donlon is now Vice Chair of the Assembly Health Committee.

President Roman reported on the Transformation Collaborative. NJACCHO did a survey about a year ago with the health departments, where approximately a third responded. NJACCHO issued their Transformation Report from this survey. They then created a Steering Committee of NJACCHO and State Dept. of Health Leaders to develop a comprehensive plan for the future based on successful programs in Indiana and Massachusetts.

#### 8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

President Roman confired the current balance. He stated that the annual audit was completed by himself and Mr. Papenberg. EXCOM members reviewed and approved the 2026 budget. We do not anticipate receiving grants this year. President Roman stated that he sent out a chart listing past presidents, bank balances and how many BOH were members.

President Roman reported that we received an individual \$250 donation from Dr. Joseph Balwierzak. He is the Chairman of Madison BOH, which is a paid member. President Roman read his appreciation letter that he sent to Dr. Balwierzak. This was our first individual sponsorship grant. We hope to have many more. President Roman would like to create a charitable donation drive in May and again at the end of the year similar to other charitable organizations. Mr. Uhrik asked if donation information is on our website? President Roman responded that is there is not but will look into having a consistent donation link.

President Roman thanked Mr. Papenberg for his many years of dedication to NJLBHA. A Founding Member, past President and Treasurer as well as Membership Chair for 17 years. He performed all of these duties professionally and with a smile.

#### 11. Committee Reports:

##### A. By-Laws

President Roman reported that the final vote by EXCOM was unanimous to approve the By-Laws final revised version dated March 21, 2026.

##### B. Finance

President Roman reported that we reviewed the annual budget versus expenditures for the past year. He reviewed the budget briefly.



- C. Membership — Mr. Papenberg reported that we have approximately 68 members. President Roman reported we need 100 members to break even.
- D. Legislative  
President Roman reported that he had a meeting with Senator Vin Gopal to talk about the Public Health Priority fund, about our education program and sponsorship in grants
- E. Communications  
President Roman reported that Ms. Chelenza's goal to have the *On Board* newsletter out for the April 10<sup>th</sup> blast, followed by reactivating the LinkedIn account
- G. Nominating  
President Roman reported that the Nominating Committee's slate for Officers and At-Large members for 2 year terms beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> are:

**Nominated Officers:**

President – Paul David Roman  
Executive Vice President – John C. Saccenti  
Vice President – Joan Valas  
Secretary – Stephen J. Papenberg  
Treasurer – Steve Ember

The By-Laws automatically provides past Presidents appointment to our Executive Committee. Those not also holding an officer position are:

Christine Harris  
Diana Lachman  
Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

**Nominated At-Large Members:**

Robert Uhrik  
Jojoy Cheriyan  
Donna Lisi  
JoAnn Hill

We currently have two At-Large Member vacancies. Dr. George Diferdinando was previously appointed as Emeritus Member for Life. John Wisniewski, Esq., our attorney is an Ex-Officio member.

President Roman opened the floor other nominations; non were offered.  
The motion to close the floor for nominations: MSP: Cheriyan, Valas

President Roman called for a motion to authorize the Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as proposed; MSP: Ember, Uhrik

The President requested a roll call vote:

*In favor:* Roman, Valas, Papenberg, Uhrik, Ember, Cheriyan, Lisi  
*Absent:* Saccenti, Harris, Stanzilis, Lachman

16. Old Business

Mr. Ember gave an update on the IV therapy parties issue from the Middlesex BOH which has asked their attorney to draft an ordinance for their Boro Council. They are an autonomous board, but feel it will be a stronger impact with an ordinance from the Council. The Council is aware of the issue and supports the board's stance. Per Mr. Ember, brick and mortar shops will be included in the ordinance as well as mobile operations.



*Training Program*

President Roman will begin working on the updates to the orientation manual in about 2 weeks. Once he is done, he will meet with Colleen Wharton to discuss implementing the program through our website.

Dr. Cheriyan reported that he attended the NJDOH monthly meeting. He summarized the topics discussed. Dr. Cheriyan reported that there will be a meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss how the Opioid settlement money will be used. Ms. Hill stated that Princeton's BOH received Opioid settlement funds and will use towards education programs in the Middle School. President Roman commented that 221 municipalities and 18 counties qualify for the funds. Dr. Lisi reported that Franklin just formed an Opioid Settlement Committee as part of their Municipal Alliance group. Dr. Lisi reported that Somerset will host their own Opioid settlement networking meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

**April 11, 2026** at 10:00 am

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93466224975>

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

Dial by your location

929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

Upcoming meeting dates: May 9, June TBA

21. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:48 am: MSP: Ember, Lisi

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie M. Moy*

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Recording Secretary