



# U.S. Public Health Service Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC)



## Meeting #236 Minutes, 08DEC20

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### I. Call to Order –CDR Elena Vaouli, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1304 ET.

### II. Roll Call –CDR Jessica Havranek, Secretary/Treasurer

Roll call was performed; a quorum was confirmed.

#### Voting Member Attendance Status: Present, Absent, Excused

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Status	Name of Alternate in Attendance
Bales	David	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Bird	Bill	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Bowser	Travis	CDR	Excused	LCDR Molly Madson
Darr	Charles	LCDR	Present	LT Rachel Forche
Deptola	Matthew	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dittrich	Michelle	LCDR	Present	LCDR Kyle Moller
Erling	Doug	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Frank	Samuel	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Havranek	Jessica	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hunter	Candis	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Kupper	Drew	CDR	Present	LCDR Krista Ferry
McLanahan	Eva	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Merritt	Steven	LCDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Otto	Jessica	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Quinn	Mike	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Smith	Martin	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Valenti	Elizabeth	CDR	Present	Click or tap here to enter text.
Vaouli	Elena	CDR	Present	CDR Erin Evans
Williams	Racquel	CDR	Excused	Click or tap here to enter text.

#### Voting Guests and Attendees Present

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Organization Represented
Butler	Corey	LCDR	Administrative Team

### **III. Chief Professional Officer Report – RADM Kelly Taylor**

- CAPT Chelikowsky, 4<sup>th</sup> CPO for (then Sanitarian) Category passed away
- Monthly Town Hall Topics: Goal is to facilitate better communication between CCHQ and EHOs
  - 15 DECEMBER Modernization – How do I fit in?
  - January Recruitment
  - February Ready Reserve
  - March Retirement
  - April Readiness
  - May Awards
  - June Pay
  - July Deployment
  - August Leave
  - September Training
- 2020 nine new calls for Active Duty
  - LT Richard Dillahunt
  - LT Jeremy Garcia
  - LT Sarah Hughes
  - LT Madeline Lydon
  - LT Samuel Rivera
  - LT Anita Wade
  - LT Keri Walker
  - LT Christina Waters
  - LTJG Shannon McClenahan
- 2020 EHO Retirements
  - CAPT Stephen Berardinelli
  - CAPT Charles Blue
  - CAPT Jeffrey Church
  - CAPT Keith Cook
  - CAPT Alan Echt
  - CAPT Calvin Edwards
  - CAPT Jennifer Lincoln
  - CAPT Lauralynn McKernan
  - CAPT John Smart
  - CAPT Michael Welch
  - CDR Vincent Garcia
- 2020 John C. Eason EHOPAC Award Recipient/USPHS Junior Officer of the Year
  - LCDR Mark Otto

### **IV. Chair Report –CDR Elena Vaouli**

- End of Year Report: Traditions Old & New
  - Passing of the EHOPAC Gavel
    - CAPT David Cramer, EHOPAC Chair 2015
    - CAPT Carolyn Oster, EHOPAC Chair 2016
    - CAPT Jill Shugart, EHOPAC Chair 2017

- CDR Chris Van Twuyver, EHOPAC Chair 2018
  - CDR Mike Quinn, EHOPAC Chair 2019
  - Hail and Farewell
    - New Voting Members
      - CDR Drew Kupper, CDC
      - CDR Erin Evans, ATSDR
      - LCDR Corey Butler, Open II
      - LCDR Krista Ferry, FDA
      - LCDR Steven Galvez, FDA
      - LT Kathryn McNamara, NIH
    - Outgoing Voting Members
      - CDR Elizabeth Valenti, FDA, 3-year term, Training and Events Chair and Marketing & Recruitment Co-Chair
      - CDR Matthew Deptola, NIH, 6-year term, History Chair
    - EHOPAC Awards
      - CAPT Alan Parham, John G. Todd Award
      - CDR Brian Cook, Edward (Ted) Moran Award
      - LCDR Mark Otto, John C. Eason Award
      - CAPT Carolyn Oyster, Thomas E. Crow Award
      - CDR Bryan Christensen, EHO Responder of the Year Award
    - Awards for EHOPAC Volunteers
      - CDR Chris Van Twuyver, USPHS Achievement Medal for exemplary leadership and sustained high-quality contributions to the mission of the EHOPAC
      - LT Sandra Carpio, USPHS Citation Medal for excellence in planning, coordination and facilitating NEHA credential exams at the 2019 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium
      - EHOPAC Mentoring & Orientation (M&O) Subcommittee (SC), USPHS Unit Commendation Medal for outstanding efforts to modernize the EHOPAC M&O SC
        - CAPT Timothy Jiggins
        - CAPT Carolyn Oyster\*
        - CDR Monica Leonard \*
        - CDR Candis Hunter \*
        - CDR Gino Begluitti
        - CDR Donna Gilbert
        - CDR Eun Gyung Lee
        - CDR Michael Quinn
        - CDR Racquel Williams
        - CDR Monique-Rachelle Lester
        - LCDR Charles Darr \*
        - LCDR Kerton Victory
        - LT Rachel Forche
- \*denotes Chairs/Co-Chairs of Subcommittee*
- 2019 USPHS Symposium Planning Committees Teams, USPHS Unit Commendation for successful efforts to plan and execute the 2019 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium held in Minneapolis, MN
    - CAPT Stephen Piontkowski \*
    - CAPT Carolyn Oyster\*

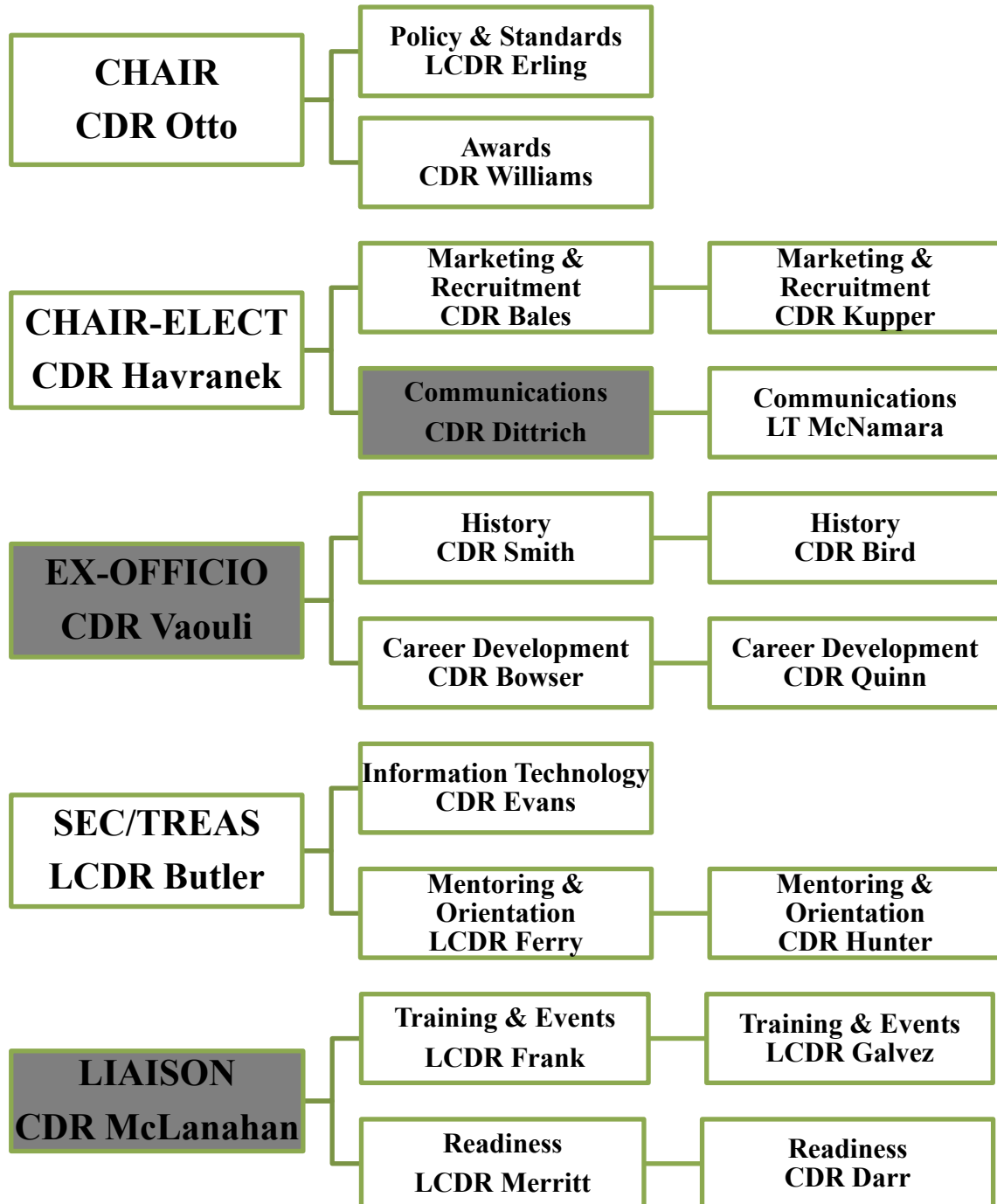
- CAPT Chris Van Twuyver\*
  - CDR Elizabeth Valenti\*
  - CDR Eva McLanahan\*
  - CDR Monica Leonard\*
  - CDR Travis Bowser\*
  - CDR Michael Quinn
  - CDR Elena Vaouli
  - CDR Jessica Pharo
  - CDR William Bird
  - CDR Robert Gibbs
  - CDR Robert Horsch
  - CDR Jamie Mutter
  - LCDR Beth Wittry\*
  - LCDR Laura Annetta\*
  - LCDR Samuel Frank\*
  - LCDR Steven Galvez
  - LCDR Krista Ferry
  - LCDR Steven Merritt
  - RADM Kelly Taylor
- \*denotes planning leads*

- End of Year Accomplishments
  - EHOPAC Vision Statement
    - To be the most visible and valued PAC that successfully empowers EH professionals to be the best PHS Officers they can be.
  - The EHOPAC actualized this vision through:
    - strategic collaborations
    - targeted training
    - active and adaptive advertising, and
    - fostering a knowledge sharing culture
  - Strategic Collaborations
    - JOAG Koop Seminar Series
      - Water Quality & COVID-19 in Navajo Nation
      - EHO presenters: CAPT Troy Ritter, LCDR Scott Daly
    - Combined PAC Chairs Group
      - Model Charter support
      - Support letter for allowing candidates to apply during last year of qualifying program
      - Two PAC award nominations
    - Regular engagement with liaisons
    - AMSUS Support
      - EHO COVID-19 Presenters – CDR Bryan Christiansen, LCDR Beth Wittry
      - EHOs staffing AMSUS virtual booth – Thanks to LCDR Latasha Allen, CDR Horsch
      - JO of the Year – LCDR Mark Otto, EHO
  - Targeted Training
    - Trainings provided

- Indoor Air Quality
  - Safety Officer
  - HVAC & Ventilation
  - EHO & JRCOSTEP Recruitment
  - Food Safety
  - Vectors
- Virtual Training Series
  - 102 certificates issue
  - 418 contact hours
  - 687 poll responses
- VM Support
  - Pop Up Talks
  - Orientation
  - IT APAN Training
- Active & Adaptive Advertising
  - Social Media Use
    - LinkedIn revamped → 4,903 members
    - Facebook → 4,500+ followers, 84 posts, 11% increase in members
  - Town Hall Feedback Surveys
  - EHO Anonymous Feedback
  - The *EHO Assessment* – Kudos to LCDRs Tyler White and Matt Kozler for their leadership
    - 5 issuances, bimonthly
  - EHOPAC website
    - All minutes and PAC products posted through OCT 2020
- Fostering a Knowledge sharing Culture
  - Spotlighting EHOs
    - Officer Leader Profiles – Thanks to CDR Danielle Mills and LCDR Dana Williams for leading this initiative  
(first profile featured in December 2020 *EHO Assessment*)
    - EHO Photo Books – Thanks to CDR Melva Palmer for leadership efforts  
(*in the works for years 2018 - 2020*)
    - Retiree Recognition  
(*volunteer program providing letter and EHOPAC coins to retirees*)
    - OASH Tweets / World EH Day – Thanks to LCDR Katie Bante for assisting with coordination
  - Mentoring Program – Kudos to LCDRs Kerton Victory, Matt Ellis and Phillip Mathis for coordination/organization efforts
    - 48 mentor/protégé matches
  - PAC Meetings
- End of Term Expressions
  - Thank you to the 2020 EHOPAC
  - Welcome and best wishes to 2021 EHOPAC

## V. Chair-Elect – CDR Jessica Otto

- 2021 Executive Committee:
  - RADM Kelly Taylor, CPO
  - CDR Jessica Otto, Chair (FDA)
  - CDR Jessica Havranek, Chair-Elect (FDA)
  - CDR Elena Vaouli, Immediate Past Chair
  - LCDR Corey Butler, Secretary/Treasurer (Open II/DOI)
  - CDR Eva McLanahan, EC Liaison (CDC)



\*grey boxes represent Pro Tem/non-voting members

- Volunteer Solicitation:
  - Volunteers timing out must reapply
  - Volunteers may only serve on one subcommittee at a time
  - Solicitation will come out over the Listserv DEC/JAN

## **VI. Ex-Officio/Immediate Past Chair – CDR Michael Quinn**

- End of three-year term with EC; Transition to Career Development Subcommittee Chair
- Combined PAC Chairs
  - Started cross-category subcommittee collaboration initiative.
  - New chair elected in the next week.
  - CDR Jaime Mutter will continue for one more year
- Expanded role as council member on EHAC

## **VII. Secretary/Treasurer Report – CDR Jessica Havranek**

### **Secretary Updates**

- November Minutes Voting Window Closed 03DEC20
  - Yes:15/No:0/Abstained:0/Didn't Vote:4
- Vote to purchase EHOs in Action Photobooks to be presented to Commissioned Corps leadership window closed 20NOV20
  - Yes:19/No:0/Abstained:0/Didn't Vote:0
- For the SC Chairs another reminder to send thank you letters to volunteers this month:
  - Look for the template in email dated 10OCT20, or in APAN in the templates folder
- Voting members verify alternates: Due 15DEC20

### **Treasurer Updates**

- Account Balance - \$1,282.65

## **VIII. Executive Committee Liaison Report – CDR Eva McLanahan**

- Surveys are being distributed monthly via the EHOPAC listserv to gather your feedback for upcoming CCHQ Town Halls. Aim is to have them out around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month with feedback due by the 15<sup>th</sup>. The feedback will be summarized and provided to the Executive Committee and RADM Taylor
- The EHO Anonymous Feedback form is available throughout the year:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDXMFWX>. Responses to anonymous comments are being summarized in the EHO Assessment newsletter. You can also choose to include your name and contact information if you want direct response from the EC

## **IX. Liaison Reports**

### **Commissioned Officers Association – CAPT Jill Shugart**

- Please remember to renew your COA membership!
- Strategic plan under development
- COA award deadline moved to 14FEB21
- Two new awards this year: Local Branch Member of the Year Award and Local Branch Leader of the Year Award
- Additional Award information at: <https://coausphs.org/page/Awards>
- COA hosting a virtual gathering with: VADM (Ret.) Richard Carmona and RADM Brandon Taylor on Monday, 14DEC20 at 1900 ET. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/coagathering](http://www.tinyurl.com/coagathering)

### **Commissioned Corps Headquarters – CDR Robert Horsch**

- CCHQ

- Oracle infrastructure update occurred last weekend and went well. If officers continue to see issues, contact the help desk.
- Ready Reserve application window open
- Medical Affairs
  - Periodic health update. Timeline changed, more information coming out in town hall
  - Medical readiness code is assigned to every officer. Please be aware of your code
- Policy
  - Reviewing policies related to Ready Reserve Officers
- Readiness and Deployment
  - >150 deployed. 2,500 total Officers deployed through response
  - Active requests from NDMS and IHS
  - July readiness was last official readiness available and considered complete: USPHS 97%; EHOPAC was at 100%
  - Actively working on recruiting/onboarding COSTEPS
- Training
  - Incoming EHOs listed above. 1 EHO has attended OBC; awaiting January list. Will continue to have OBC every month virtually
  - Intermediate Officer course planned with information forthcoming
  - Webinars – utilize LMS (>10 to provide updates on policies)

### **American Academy of Sanitarians – CAPT (Ret.) Gary Noonan**

- 3 applicants from USPHS/EHO to the Academy: CDR Otto; CDR Rodriguez; CDR Havranek
  - Credential committee meeting this week to review applications
- Consider reviewing published paper requirement for membership requirement

### **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board – CAPT Carrie Oyster**

- Very successful year for Anti-Harassment Committee due to extremely motivated Working Group members:
  - 4 EHOs on Anti-Harassment Committee:
    - CAPT Shani Lewins (Dentist), CDR Cara Halldin (Scientist), CDR Monica Leonard (EHO), CDR Rachael Lopez (Dietician), CDR Andrea McCollum (Scientist), CDR Renee Shibukawa-Kent (Vet), LCDR Sarah Maynard (EHO), LCDR Emiko Petrosky (Physician), LCDR Amanda Schaupp (EHO), LT Marisa Hast (EHO)
  - Completed projects:
    - Mental Health Memo
    - PHS COVID-19 deployment document
      - Standing by to see how committee can be of help with updating this document, as needed
- Policy workgroup:
  - Anti-harassment policy proposal
    - Committee developed a proposal and submitted 16 OCT 2020 to CCHQ requesting USPHS develop and issue a separate, comprehensive policy on harassment prevention and response
- OBC workgroup:
  - OBC one-pager
    - Working to develop a one-page brochure for OBC attendees on action areas of anti-harassment committee and potential resources for new officers
- Webinar workgroup:



- Anti-harassment webinar
  - Conducting outreach with other advisory groups to coordinate a collaborative webinar for 2021 on harassment, which will potentially engage Corps Care
  - The webinar will aim to highlight resources, policies, and existing trainings – but mainly feature the different advisory groups, including the anti-harassment committee, that can serve as a resource for officers
- Other CCWIAB Committee 2020 activities:
  - Pregnancy Committee
    - PHS Resource Guide for Pregnancy Loss
    - Breastfeeding policy proposal
    - Maintaining Fitness for Pregnancy/Post-Partum Resource Guide
    - Maternal Mortality
    - Post-partum weight standards clarification request
    - Parental Leave White Paper
  - Outreach and Membership Committee
    - OBC Open Houses
  - Health and Wellness Committee
    - Breast cancer resource guide
    - Uniform proposals (Footwear Research, Hair Regulations Policy Proposal, lactation friendly t-shirt)

### **Environmental Health Accreditation Council – CAPT (Ret.) Donald Williams**

- Upcoming elections. 4 academic openings (11 total members) and 4 practitioner openings (10 total members). Additional information found here: <https://www.nehspac.org/>. Strive for gender and ethnic diversity. Short in female category. More information will be distributed via the listserv
  - Primary duties are:
    - Attend NEHA
    - Evaluate self-studies
    - Participate in actual site visits

### **Junior Officer Advisory Group – LT Sandra Carpio**

- Upcoming JOAG GM call-in information: Friday 11DEC20: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1607130933?pwd=eGMwajdsdHdiMHgwVjZQS2pzVHV0dz09>
- Update on [Koop Seminar Series](#) and [Journeyman speaker series](#)
  - Last Koop Seminar Series was presented on 03DEC20 with a panel discussion on the Water Improvement Projects in the Navajo Nations. The Navajo Water Project increased access to water among Navajo Homes and communities
    - Recently featured COVID-19 deployments
  - Journeyman Speaker Series features officership/leadership topics, last one on Award Updates.
  - Can find recorded sessions on max.gov
- Junior officer chronicles- will be published in December
- JOAG published a call for award nominations (attached), we encourage officers to submit nominees.
- Encourage officers to watch AMSUS JOAG Presentation (if attending) - features 5 JOs (including our very own LCDR Beth Wittry) pushing SG priorities forward! [17293 - United States Public Health Service's Commissioned Corps Junior Officer Advisory Group: The Role of the Junior Officer](#)
- Publications recently released
  - 2 on Practicing Wellness and JOAG Tip of the Month on Eyes

- JOs contact me if interested in learning more or want to be involved in JOAG. We still have leadership positions available
- 2021 Call for Award Nominations
  - The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) is requesting nominations for two awards to be presented at the annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium to be held in Glendale, AZ, from June 21-24JUN21
    - VADM C. EVERETT KOOP JUNIOR OFFICER AWARD to acknowledge and encourage outstanding service and exemplary leadership, this award recognizes junior officers who emulate the commitment, contributions, and character of the 13th Surgeon General of the United States, VADM C. Everett Koop
  - Nomination Deadline EXTENDED: Wednesday, 16DEC20
    - **The JOAG Excellence Award recognizes a** non-voting junior officer at the rank of O-4 or below in the USPHS Commissioned Corps, who is an active participant of JOAG, for demonstrating outstanding, dedicated effort, leadership ability, and commitment to JOAG through active committee or workgroup participation. *Self-nominations welcome*. Nomination Deadline: December 30, 2020
    - The JOAG Junior Officer of the Year Award recognizes an active duty junior officer at the rank of O-4 or below in the USPHS Commissioned Corps who has made a significant contribution to the overall mission of the United States Public Health Service. *Self-nominations welcome*. Nomination Deadline: 30DEC20

### American Industrial Hygiene Association – CAPT Bradley King

- AIHA Named Awards are given to industrial hygienists and other occupational and environmental health and safety professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in contributing to the growth and development of the profession. Deadline for nomination is 15JAN21 <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/open-calls/aiha-named-award-nominations>
- Registration for the 2021 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo (AIHce) opens 7DEC20. The conference, scheduled for 24–26MAY21, is planned to be held in-person in Dallas, TX, but all General Sessions, education sessions, poster sessions, and the Exhibit Hall will also be offered virtually <https://www.aihceexp.org/2021/register-2021>
- AIHA launched a new website, <https://oehscareers.org/>, with free resources for students, teachers and counselors interested in learning more about industrial hygiene. The site features videos of young professionals discussing their jobs, a list of universities that offer a degree in OEHS, and additional resources
- AIHA continues to update their “Back to Work Safely” website, <https://www.backtoworksafely.org/>, with updated industry-specific guidance for limiting coronavirus transmission amongst workers and consumers

### National Environmental Health Association – Jonna Ashley

- Annual educational conference (AEC) planned for July has been cancelled. Three virtual conferences will be hosted. FEB, Spring, and Summer.
  - Two half-days of educational content focusing on different content areas. Registration will be open once finalized. Able to register for all 3 events or one at a time. Price and content TBD. 1<sup>st</sup> 2 programs on educational content only, CEU certs issued to each attendee. The summer program will include awards, business meetings, and a few networking events.
  - NEHA members can access full library on website. After completing courses, CE automatically added
  - 2020 AEC is still viewable
- Rolling out online applications for CPFS and REHS soon. Only accepting applications in paper at this time – email electronic version to [credentialing@neha.org](mailto:credentialing@neha.org) and request official transcripts sent electronically.
- Working mostly remote through March 2021 – do check mail periodically – so expect some delays

- Testing for credentials is administered through Pearson-Vue. Following local guidelines for testing centers. Most up to date information on scheduling and availability is through PearsonVUE.com website.
  - If interested in testing during COVID times you may have to test further away. Testing centers open in every state. If you become ill or exposed within 24hr of exam, contact PearsonVue, no penalty.
- Reviewing virtual proctoring of exams. Additional information will be forthcoming

## **X. Adjournment – CDR Elena Vaouli**

The meeting was adjourned at 1444 ET.