



# THE FULCRUM

## 2023 Issue-I Spring

### Note from DHPAG Chair - LCDR Jen Eng



As our 2023 operational year has been in full swing and it's already the end of April, I want to thank all of you for your diligence, dedication, determination, and pride you have instilled into our PAG as officers. We are a unique group of officers and a strong branch to the trunk of the HSPAC tree. Earlier in the year I requested a list of strategic goals from each subgroup and what was returned to me was a list of stellar trajectory points to shoot for and

most of our groups have met their goals and have stayed ahead of the game by turning all of these ideas into functionality. I want to encourage you all to stay positive, support one another and step outside of your comfort zone and try something different, lead something bigger than you envisioned yourself leading, grow into the role rather just conform around it proceeding robotically. As a quiet little girl growing up with immigrant parents that were new to this country, I didn't get a chance to participate in soccer, dance, or attend classmate birthday parties- my parents were unaware of these opportunities, so leadership was not innate. Fortunately, I found USPHS and have supportive fellow officer friends that have been pushing me along the way and the opportunities are endless! I encourage all of you to mentor and support one another, share useful information with the good of the whole- empower one another! Thank you!

-LCDR Jen Eng



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#### Save the Date

#### Co-Editors:

*LCDR Tanya Sumner*

*LCDR Melka Argaw*

*LT Sascha Randolph*

# 2023 DHPAG Executive Committee

<b>Chair</b>	LCDR Jen Eng	206-817-5801	Jennie.Eng@fda.hhs.gov
<b>Chair Elect</b>	LCDR Doretha Wilson	760-572-4811	Doretha.wilson@ihs.gov
<b>Secretary</b>	LT Domika Kinman	405-319-7505	Dkinman@bop.gov

## Operations

<b>Awards Chair</b>	LCDR Theresa Chennault	580-354-5143	Theresa.Chennault@ihs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LTJG Courtney Jackson	919-575-3900 ext 6011	c10jackson@bop.gov
<b>Communications Chair</b>	LCDR Tanya Sumner	817-658-4841	tsumner@southcentralfoundation.com
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Melka Argaw	404-454-4825	Melka.Argaw@fda.hhs.gov
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DHPAG Directory Lead	LT Melaku Woldeamanual	916-346-8078	mwoldeamanual@bop.gov
<b>Stakeholder &amp; Community Engagement Chair</b>	LCDR Tiffany Smith	520-464-3060	Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Valerie Favela	512-508-2638	Valerie.Favela@cms.hhs.gov

## Officer Support

<b>Data &amp; Evaluation Chair</b>	CDR Suzanne Redmon	843-746-2990 EXT 21	Suzanne.Redmon@ice.dhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Kelli Shaffer	503-926-3974	kelli.shaffer@fda.hhs.gov
<b>Recruitment &amp; Retention Chair</b>	LCDR Darion Smith	404-718-8454	qzq4@cdc.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Sylvester Smith	919-575-8000 ext7304	s17smith@bop.gov
<b>Technical Readiness Chair</b>	LCDR Keasha Myrick	405-951-3826	Keasha.Myrick@ihs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Cindy Pallack	202-304-8327	Cindy.Pallack@hhs.gov
<b>Training, Education &amp; Mentorship Chair</b>	LCDR Olivia Barrow	907-463-4047	olivab@searhc.org
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Alyssa Rowe	218-983-6441	Alyssa.Rowe@ihs.gov

## Management

<b>Administrative Chair</b>	LCDR Johnna Bleem	814-558-6558	Johnna.bleem@fda.hhs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LCDR Michele Gottshall	570-793-7390	Michele.Gottshall@fda.hhs.gov
<b>Policy Chair</b>	LCDR Doretha Wilson	760-572-4811	Doretha.wilson@ihs.gov
<i>Co-Chair</i>	LT Melaku Woldeamanual	916-346-8078	mwoldeamanual@bop.gov

# SUBGROUP GOALS

See page 2 "DHPAG Executive Committee" for POCs for Subgroups

## COMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Due By COB:

**Newsletter I – Spring: 4/14/2023**

**Newsletter II – Summer: 8/15/2023**

**Newsletter III – Fall: 11/17/2023**

**All:** Ensure to utilize the “2023 DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form” for submissions. Found in “attachments” on this PDF or

**FORM:** can be found on the DHPAG website under the Newsletter Section, which can be accessed below:

<https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/hso/pags-dhpag-newsletters.aspx>

**WANTED:** Want to be more involved? Have great graphic editing or PDF skills? Good at proof reading and identifying grammatical errors? Come join us on the DHPAG Communications Subgroup!

### CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS!

*Ideas for Submissions (Not All Inclusive)*

*DHPAG New Officer Spotlight*

*DHPAG Officer Highlights – Clinical or Administrative positions*

*Volunteer Opportunities and Engagement*

*Community or Athletic Events*

*Tips for Successful PCS*

*Deployment Experience*

*Kudos for promotions and awards*

*Attended a CE? Tell us how it went!*

*COF Highlights*

*RAM Events*

*AMSUS*

**The topics are endless! Have an idea for an Article? Go for it!**

## AWARDS SUBGROUP

1. HSPAC updated the DHPAG Awards website in December 2022 with the new 2023 coversheets in the hyperlinks.
2. Announced awards solicitation over the dental hygiene listserv in December as well, in full award season mode.
3. Informative Q&A Awards session was held on January 17th. Descriptions of 2 awards and what needs to be included in the nomination packets: Candace Jones DH of the Year and Junior DH of the Year.
  - A. Recording of the presentation was sent over the DHPAG listserv.
  - B. You can nominate yourself for the awards. Each packet must include the nomination cover sheet filled out completely, the narrative addressing the 4 criteria, your CV, and a screenshot of your basic readiness for the past 2 years.
  - C. If you are applying for the Junior DH of the Year award, you must submit your billet/position description with your packet.
  - D. Award nominations will be due to on Friday, March 3rd, 2023 by midnight.
  - E. Voting members are not eligible to apply but co-chairs may apply. Please also remember you cannot apply for both awards; please choose one or the other.

If you are selected for either award, please have a pic and bio ready to submit to me to be included in the HSPAC presentation on Category Day at the Symposium.

If you have any questions regarding the awards process, contact LCDR Theresa Chennault at [Theresa.chennault@ihs.gov](mailto:Theresa.chennault@ihs.gov)

## STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBGROUP

1. October's 2nd Annual DHPAG Get Out & Volunteer Month.
  - A. Collaboration with the DHPAG Communication's Subgroup.
    - i. Advertise in the DHPAG newsletters for upcoming event.
      - a. Submit a follow-up article to show pictures of officers volunteering in their communities.
      - b. Participants to receive a COA.
2. Disseminate a State-by-State Clinic Hours Volunteer spreadsheet.
  - A. Include dental and dental hygiene conventions.
  - B. Send an email to [Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov) if you know of any locations in your area to assist other dental hygienists in non-clinical positions to receive their clinical hours.
3. Understanding & Dealing with Promotion Anxiety presentation – pending approval (June or August).
  - A. Relevant presentation for all USPHS officer's up for promotion.
4. RDH Agency-Specific Spotlight presentation.
  - A. Discuss about the agency (e.g., CMS, HRSA, CDC, FDA, etc.) and non-clinical job opportunities available for our fellow RDH.

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# SUBGROUP GOALS

See page 2 "DHPAG Executive Committee" for POCs for Subgroups

- B. Anyone interested in presenting, please contact either LCDR Valerie Favela and/or LCDR Tiffany Smith ([Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Tiffany.H.Smith@ice.dhs.gov)).
- 5. HSPAC Wellness Subcommittee
  - A. Upcoming meeting and will be discussing collaboration opportunities with both the HSPAC subcommittee and DHPAG subgroup.
    - i. Participate in upcoming HSPAC Wellness Subcommittee monthly calendar activities – pending.

## TRAINING, EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP SUBGROUP

- 1. Continue 2023 DHPAG CV review project.
- 2. Initiate and work with HSPAC on the CADTMI mentor program. "If you are interested in participating as a Mentor or simply interested in more details, please email LCDR Olivia Barrow and LCDR Darion Smith. Fall panel discussion on "Things to keep in Mind" when researching an MPH program.

## TECHNICAL READINESS SUBGROUP

- 1. Last DHPAG Technical Readiness & ARP Participants meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 @ 1530 EST.
- 2. FY2023 Goals and Q & A Session for ARP Participants
  - A. ARP RDH program completion: 5; current participants: 10
- 3. Next HSPAC Readiness ARP Lecture Series for 1-hour credit: Friday, February 17, 2023; 1200 to 1300 EST; "When Safety Officers Deploy."

### ACTIONS/DIRECTIVES:

- 1. Did you miss a HSPAC Readiness webinar in 2022? We've got you covered as all four were recorded! Head to MAX.gov at <https://community.max.gov/display/HHS/Readiness+Webinars> to view the 2022 webinars as well as some oldies, but definitely still, goodies!
- 2. If any RDH officers have deployed since January 1, 2023, please, email LT Pallack and myself the role of deployment, number of days, and the city and state.
- 3. Be sure to complete Deployment Preparation Plan by Friday, March 31, 2023.

Next DHPAG Technical Readiness & ARP Participants meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 @ 1530 EST.

## ADMINISTRATION SUBGROUP

Currently working on updating SOPs for the DHPAG subgroups

## DATA & EVALUATION SUBGROUP

- 1. Survey to compile the top 3 topics the members feel that the DHPAG can improve on in order to support DH members. We will list topics and have them rank the topics in order of precedence and leave a comment box for suggestions.
  - A. Awards opportunities or "writing tips"
  - B. Practice hours opportunity
  - C. Job opportunities
  - D. Promotional information
  - E. Other
- 2. Survey to inquire what are the biggest challenges DH feel they face with topics listed to be ranked by precedence?
- 3. Survey to inquire on challenges in obtaining clinical practice hours so we know how many are still facing challenges and what the challenges are so we can send them forth to HSPAC >> HQ. All survey data will be compiled into spreadsheets for analysis and easy reporting. The timeline for the surveys is determined based on needs and state of the PHS/category throughout the year.

Continued on next page

# SUBGROUP GOALS

See page 2 "DHPAG Executive Committee" for POCs for Subgroups

## RECRUITMENT & RETENTION SUBGROUP

1. Call to Active-Duty (CAD) Candidates
  - A. 1-In-process
    - i. agency requested with IHS; orders pending soon
  - B. 1-pending selection (cleared medical, boarding, and nomination; needs an agency assignment for security clearance)
    - i. CAD limited to the Billings, MT area.
  - C. 1-SRCOSTEP recruit
    - i. Graduates with AAS in DH May 2023 and will begin BA degree Fall 2023.
2. DHPAG PowerPoint Presentation
  - A. Updated and in the process of HSPAC approval
  - B. CCHQ uploaded a PPT and PDF recruitment version on USPHS.gov and in the Officer Secure Area (Communication Tools and Resources) respectfully.
    - i. Slide/page 27 discrepancy exists stating DH qualifying degree is a BA of science in dental hygiene where the Category Specific Standards policy states an accredited BA plus ADA/COTA DH training is required.
    - ii. DHPAG and HSPAC R&R leadership have been notified of the discrepancy for correction at this time.
  - C. If anyone is doing a PPT, please notify LCDR Darion Smith @ [Darion.Smith@cdc.hhs.gov](mailto:Darion.Smith@cdc.hhs.gov) prior to the presentation for tracking purposes as well as for candidate follow up.
    - i. It's important to present to DH candidates but even more important they have a POC afterwards for questions and contact info for tracking of those conversions to USPHS DHPAG officers.
3. DHPAG-R&R and TEM Collaboration
  - A. HSPAC Mentoring has the CADTMI (Call to Active Duty Transitional Mentoring Initiative). DHPAG TEM and R&R are partnering to have representation from DHPAG.
    - i. TEM solicits, submits, and tracks the DHPAG officer participating as mentor and mentee.
    - ii. R&R helps ensure TEM knows new officers are in process of commissioning.
    - iii. HSPAC CADTMI operates the program ensuring mentors are notified of mentees and provide resources/support for program.

## POLICY SUBGROUP

1. Important information regarding DEERS and ID cards during COVID:
2. [https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF\\_docs/TAB%20D%20e2%80%93%20Communication%20Memo%20to%20the%20Corps%20Regarding%20DEERS%20and%20DoD%20ID%20Cards%20During%20COVID-19.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/TAB%20D%20e2%80%93%20Communication%20Memo%20to%20the%20Corps%20Regarding%20DEERS%20and%20DoD%20ID%20Cards%20During%20COVID-19.pdf)
3. There is a new frequently asked questions webpage in the Policy Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS).
4. <https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/CCISFAQ.aspx>
5. Reminders: Pre-Deployment Plan is due in eOPF by March 31, 2023.

[POM 821.86, Flag Board and Processes](#)

[POM 821.82, Line of Duty Determination](#)

[CCI 231.03, Category Specific Appointment Standards](#)

[CCI 322.03, Flag Officer Selection and Assignment](#)

[CCI 383.01, Death of an Active Duty Officer](#)

[CCD 121.06, Protected Communications](#)

[CCD 122.01, Promotions](#)

[CCD 122.02, Force Management](#)

[CCD 124.01, Retirement](#)

[CCD 125.04, Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants](#)

[CCI 311.06, Religious Accommodations](#)



## Looking Back

CAPT Mylene Santulan

### An Interview with Retiring Officer

CAPT Santulan

By

LCDR Argaw

## Retirement Interview with CAPT Santulan

**LCDR Argaw:** Could you please tell us a little bit about you from childhood – current?

**CAPT Santulan:** I was born and raised in the Philippines until I was about 12 years old; junior high and part of high school in Norfolk, VA; then back again to the Philippines when my dad retired from the US Navy. I completed 4 years as a civil engineering student in the Philippines until I got it that I do not like surveying and mixing cement. I left for the US in my early 20s and joined the US Air Force—serving as an enlisted dental assistant. I got out after 5 years and went to hygiene school. I have been an RDH now for almost 29 years—practicing in private offices, in an army post, and as Commissioned Corps with IHS. Thus, it is time to retire.

**LCDR Argaw:** What inspired you to become a Commissioned Officer?

**CAPT Santulan:** A better retirement was the need that got me interested in the Commissioned Corps.

The inspiration as a Commissioned Officer came from the opportunity to be able to serve aboard the hospital ship to serve the underserved overseas, which I had the opportunity to do in 2009 and 2019.

**LCDR Argaw:** What is it about Dental Hygiene that drew your interest?

**CAPT Santulan:** Being curious of what you see in the patients' mouth and asking what and why along with listening to the patients' needs kept my interest in dental hygiene/dentistry.

**LCDR Argaw:** What do you like most about Dental Hygiene and Public Health Service?

**CAPT Santulan:** The most I like about Dental Hygiene and the US Public Health Service is the opportunity to create initiatives for the underserved. Being at the reservation for over 14 years has allowed me to see the need, thus the opportunity to reach out and advocate for activities to support the need—not only for dental health but also for systemic health.



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## Looking Back

CAPT Mylene Santulan

### Retirement Interview with CAPT Santulan

**LCDR Argaw:** What were the greatest successes or accomplishments in your entire working history?

**CAPT Santulan:** Winning the chili cook off when I was a civilian dental hygienist at a US Army dental clinic, and winning it again as a Commissioned Corps RDH stationed at Fort Defiance, AZ. Seriously, I believe my greatest accomplishment in my entire

working history was having the opportunity to have worked with a diverse group of individuals. So much gratefulness learning from people from different backgrounds.

**LCDR Argaw:** What were you working at when you most enjoyed work?

**CAPT Santulan:** Community work as a clinician, educator, or public health advocate. I love being out in the field.

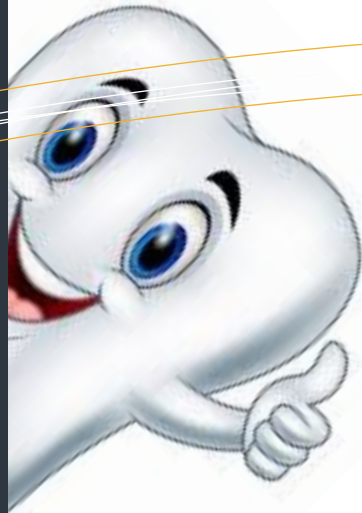
**LCDR Argaw:** What do you find most challenging about dentistry/commissioned corps?

**CAPT Santulan:** The most challenging for me as a CC officer are the varied roles we have to do—as an officer, as a clinician, as a person, as a daughter, as a friend, etc. Much is required for one person with varied roles, and the same time, keep all in balance, and produce result. I truly believe, it is much easier to be in the extreme—to do nothing or to do too much. But such is not the way to be.

Balancing life—however it maybe for each of us—is a must.

The most challenging for me in dentistry and the same time exciting are the changing fields covered in dentistry—to name a couple:

systemic health and oral facial pain. Thus, relevant is to keep abreast with the changes. Learn. Learn to connect the medical, dental, mental, intellectual, cultural, social, economic, etc. There are many factors to consider for sure. However, I believe, such will help us grow and assist in creating and implementing initiatives, and more importantly treating our patients.



## Looking Back

CAPT Mylene Santulan

### Retirement Interview with CAPT Santulan

**LCDR Argaw:** What advice would you give to aspiring, young dental hygienists at the commissioned corps?

**CAPT Santulan:** Know your values. Such values will serve as your foundation and will guide you through life—one to include your career.

**LCDR Argaw:** What will you miss most about the commissioned corps?

**CAPT Santulan:** Folks like you!

**LCDR Argaw:** What are your hopes for our DHAPG?

**CAPT Santulan:** My hope for the DHPAG is to continue to create all that you believe will help each other grow and will deliver health to those you serve.

**LCDR Argaw:** What will you be doing in your free time?

**CAPT Santulan:** Create, create, create





**(L to R) 2023 DHPAG Chair: LCDR Jen Eng, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair: LCDR Kelli Shaffer and Past DHPAG 2022 Chair: LCDR Cynthia Chennault**

Not only are these three Dental Hygienists and Commissioned Corps officers but also Dumpster Chiefs at Wreaths Across America's 2023. They volunteered at the wreath out event located at Arlington National Cemetery. They braved frigid temperatures during the early hours of the morning to monitor safety and guide volunteers while they placed the removed wreaths into holding before getting disposed. Every year hundreds of volunteers provide support during wreaths across America. It is a way for them to thank the officers for their sacrifice as they lay peacefully at Arlington. The placement of wreaths rewards volunteers with evergreen as aromatherapy welcoming the holiday season. Although the removal of wreaths is just as important, it allows the return of the cemetery grounds back to its original state for visitors to enjoy throughout the year. This year's event there were approximately 3,000 Volunteers and 257,000 wreaths were removed. What a way to participate in a community event, meet fellow officers and maximize the day by waking up at 4 a.m. in the morning.

By LCDR Jen Eng

## "Brush, Floss, Smile"

### National Children's Dental Health Month 2023

**By: LT Sascha Randolph (SW/AW)  
RDH, BSDH, PHDHP**

February marks National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) where dental professionals collaborate with healthcare providers, caregivers, and educators to promote good oral health and its benefits, to promote healthy smiles as well as to establish good habits.

#### History

- ✚ -The observation of Children's Dental Health started as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio on February 3, 1941.
- ✚ -Established on February 8, 1949, the American Dental Association (ADA) observed Children's Dental Health Day.
- ✚ In 1955 the observance from one day progressed to a week-long event.
- ✚ Forty years from the first event in Cleveland Ohio in 1981, the program was later recognized as the NCDHM and observed for one month.
- ✚ -NCDHM is recognized nationwide and provides services to thousands of people to include underserved and vulnerable population.

Developing good oral hygiene habits at an early age in children provides lifelong benefits of healthy teeth and gums and contributes to overall health. Poor oral hygiene significantly impacts families as a whole typically through increased cost for treatment and lost wages. In children all the things that are meaningful to include their ability to eat, learn, speak, and play are impacted by tooth discomfort or infection. Studies have shown that children with poor oral health are more likely to have more absent days from school and poorer grades than children with good oral health.



As public health dental hygiene champions we celebrate another year of raising awareness through education service to the public specifically in the underserved and vulnerable populations. Our service extends where obstacles such as access to care, language barriers, fear and distrust, lack thereof or no transportation, limited or no knowledge about oral health, and the inability to cover dental costs due to the lack of insurance is prevalent. Our role as dental hygiene educators is often overlooked but never underappreciated by those we serve. I salute you!

#### Fun Facts for children:

1. Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the body.
2. Approximately 25,000 gallons of saliva is produced in a lifetime.
3. Teeth are like fingerprints, no two are identical.
4. Teeth have a 200lb biting force.
5. The Farmer in Grant Wood's famous painting called "American Gothic" was a Dentist.



### References:

2023 National Children's Dental Health Month approaching

<https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/october/2023-national-childrens-dental-health-month-approaching>

5 Fun Teeth Facts for Kids

<https://ppdsmile.com/5-fun-teeth-facts-for-kids/>

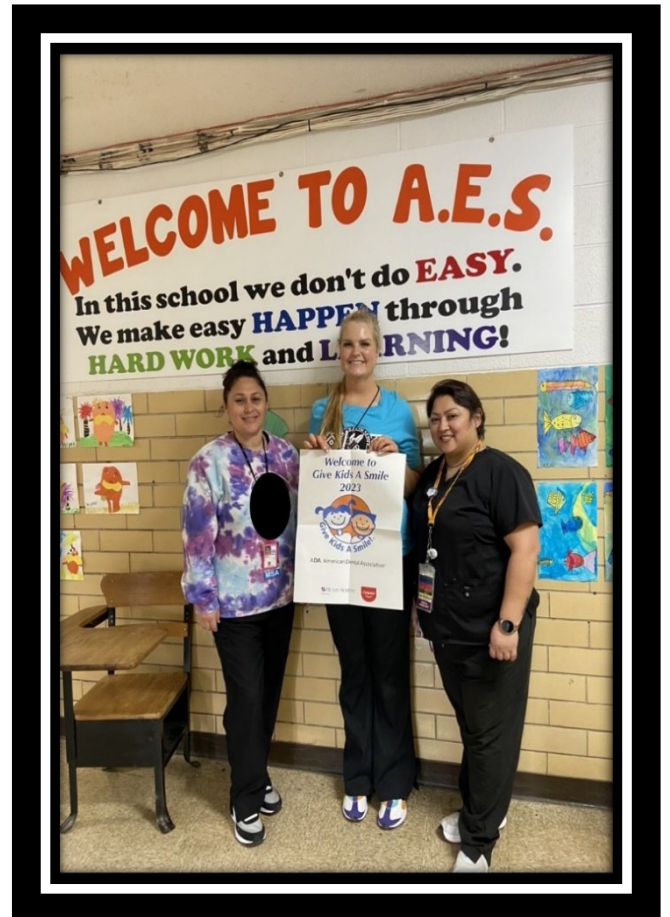
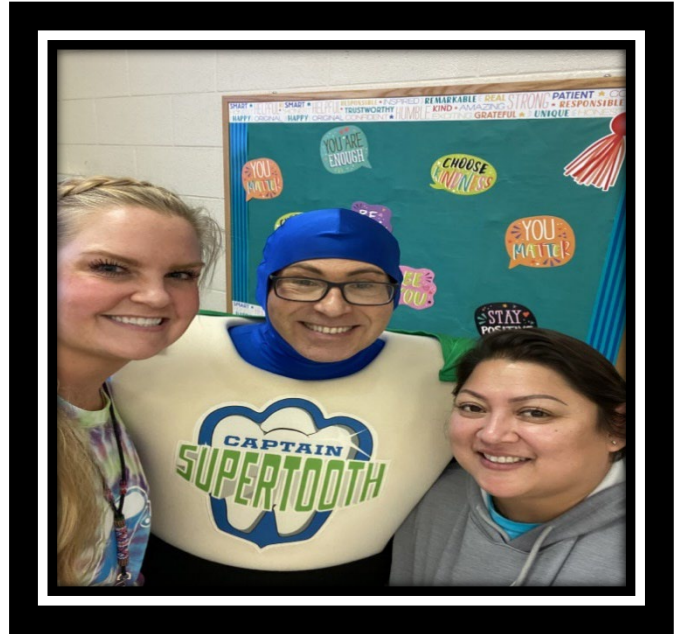


DHPAG Chair: **LCDR Jennie Eng** provided 6 oral hygiene presentations to 70 kids from K to 2nd grade in the Great Plains, February 2023.

## Give Kids a Smile

To celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month in February, LCDR Theresa Chennault led multiple oral health presentations and fluoride varnish applications for six elementary schools within the Lawton, Oklahoma service area for Give Kids a Smile events.

*Captain Supertooth* joined to discuss the importance of keeping teeth clean to prevent cavities. Every child was taught proper teeth-cleaning techniques and went home with a new toothbrush and toothpaste. Her team was able to apply 150+ fluoride varnish applications and over 1,000 students attended the presentations.



# Health Services Professional Advisory Committee Dental Hygiene Professional Advisory Group (DHPAG)

DHPAG Stakeholder & Community Engagement Subgroup Presents:



## UNDERSTANDING & DEALING WITH PROMOTION ANXIETY

A major issue currently within the ranks of the USPHS Officers is promotions, which has significant implications for retention and recruitment. There is a frustration throughout the Corps resulting in officers feeling like they are doing everything possible to maximize their opportunities for promotion. Due to the limited number of officers being selected, (even those who have done “everything right”), they are being passed over. This issue has led to decreased morale and a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness among officers.

### Join Us

as we discuss promotions while providing guidance and a framework that may help officers throughout their PHS career.

**DATE: JUNE 13, 2023**

Immediately following the 1300 EST  
DHPAG bi-monthly teleconference

**TIME: ~1400 – 1500 EST**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting Link:** [https://gov.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3agcch%3ameeting\\_d3aa6da1e09b43be8542787b7de63a7c%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2215ef12a1-af58-44c4-b029-712fc0605570%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a8830de4-e9c7-432c-b0c4-f21597ca2317%22%7d](https://gov.teams.microsoft.us/l/meetup-join/19%3agcch%3ameeting_d3aa6da1e09b43be8542787b7de63a7c%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2215ef12a1-af58-44c4-b029-712fc0605570%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a8830de4-e9c7-432c-b0c4-f21597ca2317%22%7d)

**Call-in Number: 202-235-7900 US, Washington**  
**Meeting ID: 264 202 769#**

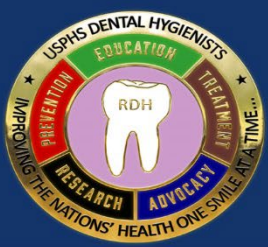
**Moderator:**

LCDR Tiffany H. Smith, BSDH, MSED, CCHP

**Speaker: CDR Robert E. Van Meir and LT Regena Hardy**

**Point of Contact:**

CDR Robert E. Van Meir, LCSW, BCD, CCHP-MH, CCTP [Robert.E.VanMeir@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Robert.E.VanMeir@ice.dhs.gov)  
LT Regena Hardy, MSW, LCSW, LISW-S, BCD, CCHP [Regena.A.Hardy@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Regena.A.Hardy@ice.dhs.gov)



# 2023 AWARDS

Written by: LCDR Theresa Chennault

Congratulations to the 2023 DHPAG Award Winners! The Junior Dental Hygienist of the Year went to LT Cindy Pallack and the Candace Jones Dental Hygienist of the Year goes to LCDR Cynthia Chennault. Overall, we had 6 Junior Dental Hygienist of the Year applicants and 4 Candace Jones Dental Hygienist of the Year applicants. The competition was incredibly tough and it's great to see everyone's commitment to protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the nation on a daily basis. I would encourage everyone that can to apply next year so your contributions are recognized. Thank you to everyone that applied. Below are the pictures and brief bios of this year's winners.

## JUNIOR DENTAL HYGIENIST OF THE YEAR



**LT Cindy H. Pallack, MS, MPS,  
RDH**

*Executive Assistant to the  
Senior Advisor to the Assistant  
Secretary for Health (ASH)/  
U.S. Surgeon General (SG),  
Office of the Secretary (OS),  
Office of the Assistant  
Secretary for Health (OASH)*

LT Cindy Pallack serves as the Executive Liaison between the Senior Advisor to the ASH/SG and the OS Staff Divisions, Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ), OASH Immediate Office, OSG Immediate Office, HHS, the general public and other offices providing guidance on the ASH/SG public health priorities and Commissioned Corps priorities. LT Pallack is responsible for supporting the Senior Advisor in the development of senior-level engagement strategy across a wide range of HHS agencies and other non-HHS departments, such as the Department of Defense, to support the future mission/vision of the Commissioned Corps in HHS. The ASH appointed LT Pallack to develop the first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) fellowship program with the U.S. Army War College to facilitate Army officers' assignment to HHS/OASH. Additionally, LT Pallack was integral in developing an agreement for Corps officers' selection to enroll in the Resident Education Program and the Distance Education Program at the U.S. Army War College. Furthermore, LT Pallack was appointed as the action officer for facilitating OASH/OSG collaboration with USNORTHCOM, examining patient movement capabilities to support national health security. Furthermore, LT Pallack was selected from a distinctly competitive peer of candidates to serve as the interim Aide to the ASH while serving in her current role.

## CANDACE JONES DENTAL HYGIENIST OF THE YEAR



**LCDR Cynthia Chennault, RDH,  
BSDH, MPH**

U.S. Public Health Service  
Commissioned Corps

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)  
Cynthia Chennault is a dental  
hygienist and a Senior Public  
Health Analyst in the United  
States Public Health Service  
Commissioned Corps. LCDR

Chennault received her Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene from Texas Woman's University in 2008 and her Master's in Public Health from New York Medical College in 2019. LCDR Chennault began her career in the U.S. Public Health Service working for Indian Health Service, serving American Indian/Alaska Native beneficiaries. As a clinical and community dental hygienist, LCDR Chennault authored numerous grants that established oral health prevention programs within tribal communities. She currently works for the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) as a Senior Public Health Analyst in the Division of Medicine and Dentistry and provides national oversight of oral health training grants that support dentists, dental hygienists, and dental specialists in treating populations and individuals in rural and underserved communities across the US.

LCDR Chennault exemplifies the mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and is dedicated to the professional discipline of dental hygiene. She has a passion for oral health, particularly in reference to improving access to care in underserved and rural communities. LCDR Chennault is committed to the improvement of oral health for all Americans and champions efforts that encourage medical and dental integration into the overall health care delivery system.

# Awards

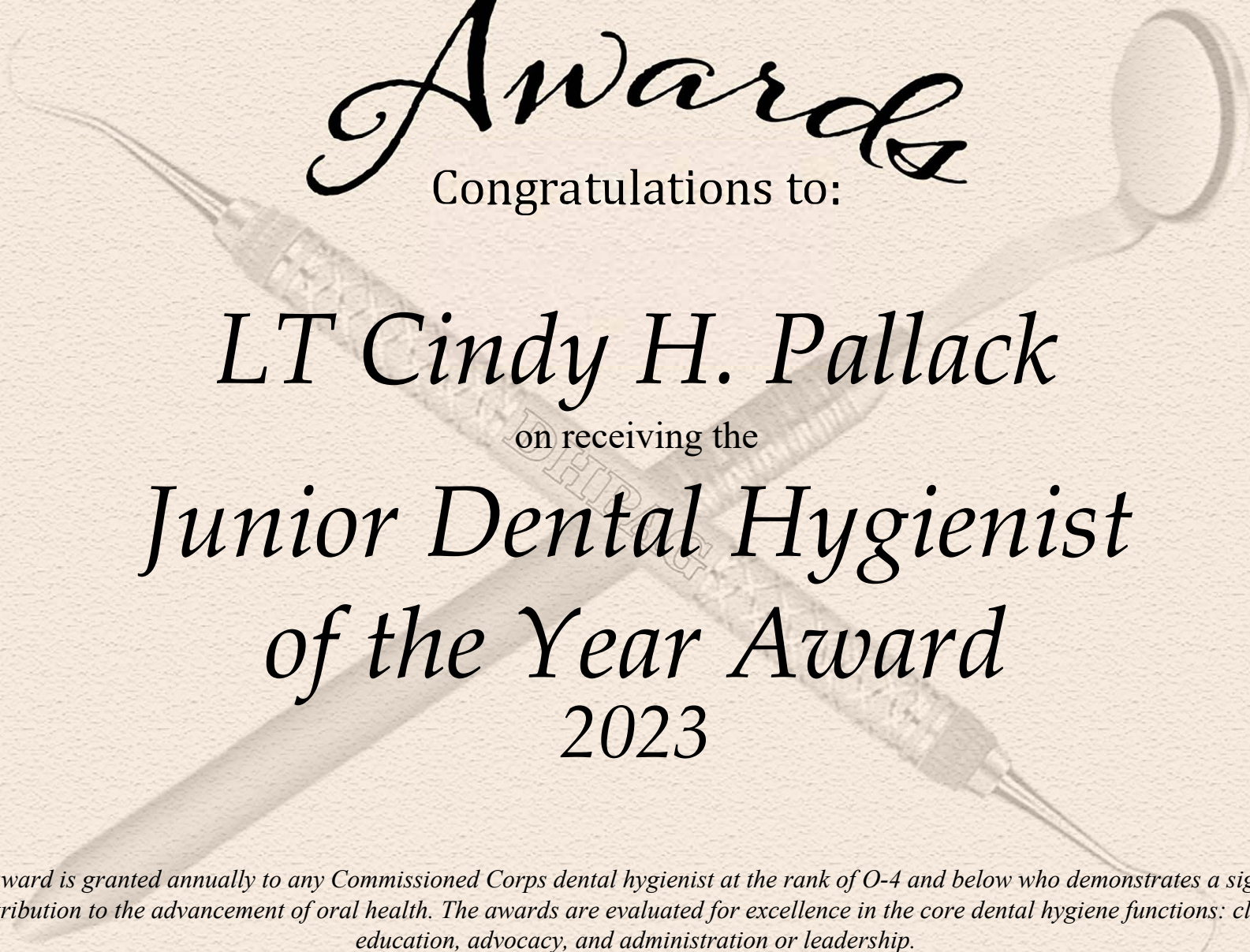
Congratulations to:

LCDR Cynthia Chennault  
on receiving the  
Candace M. Jones Award  
2023

*The Candace M. Jones Dental Hygienist of the Year Award is presented annually to a dental hygienist who has demonstrated accomplishments in career progression, contributions to the agency as demonstrated by awards, leadership, and continued learning and education.*

*Being a recipient of this award signifies that the individual has made a significant contribution in the advancement of the nation's oral health and to the advancement of dental public health. In addition that they have demonstrated leadership in their work and serve as a role model to others.*

*This award was named in honor of CAPT Candace Jones for her commitment to improving the oral health of underserved populations and her dedication to the USPHS. CAPT Jones joined the USPHS in 1988 and has served in the Indian Health Service with a short detail to the Health Resources and Services Administration. CAPT Jones was instrumental in developing the dental hygiene billets and including dental hygienists as part of the Health Services category. She is a past Chair of the HS-PAC and the Council on Public Health for the American Dental Hygienists' Association and a Past President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry*



# Awards


Congratulations to:

*LT Cindy H. Pallack*

on receiving the

*Junior Dental Hygienist  
of the Year Award  
2023*

*This award is granted annually to any Commissioned Corps dental hygienist at the rank of O-4 and below who demonstrates a significant contribution to the advancement of oral health. The awards are evaluated for excellence in the core dental hygiene functions: clinical, education, advocacy, and administration or leadership.*







# DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form

This form is for requesting an article/information to be submitted into the DHPAG Newsletter, as well as for submitting Subgroup updates.

Fill out all the fields and copy all information into an e-mail. Be sure to attach to the e-mail any supporting documents or photos. Then e-mail to the Communications Subgroup leads prior to submission deadlines, which are listed below:

**Newsletter I – Spring : 4/14/2023**

**Newsletter II – Summer : 8/15/2023**

**Newsletter III – Fall : 11/17/2023**

LCDR Tanya Sumner, Chair; LCDR Melka Argaw, Co-Chair;

[TSumner@southcentralfoundation.com](mailto:TSumner@southcentralfoundation.com) [Melka.Argaw@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Melka.Argaw@fda.hhs.gov)

Quick E-Mail  
(Right Click, Open Link)



## Email Format Below:

**Subject line:** DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form

### Information to be included in Body of email:

Rank and Full Name of individual submitting information:

Submitting (**Highlight/Bold** or **X**): ( ) Article

( ) Spotlight Section

( ) Subgroups Committee Update- Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Updating with info

( ) Nothing to report at this time

( ) Other

( ) **OPTION 1.** Check this box If you already have your article/newsletter submission formatted which includes the pictures, and be sure to attach your document to the email along and the information above copied into the body of the email.

( ) **OPTION 2.** Check this box If you **do not** have your article/newsletter submission formatted, and fill out the following information below. Be sure to attach any Photos/information to the e-mail that you would like included with your article/update.

Article Name:

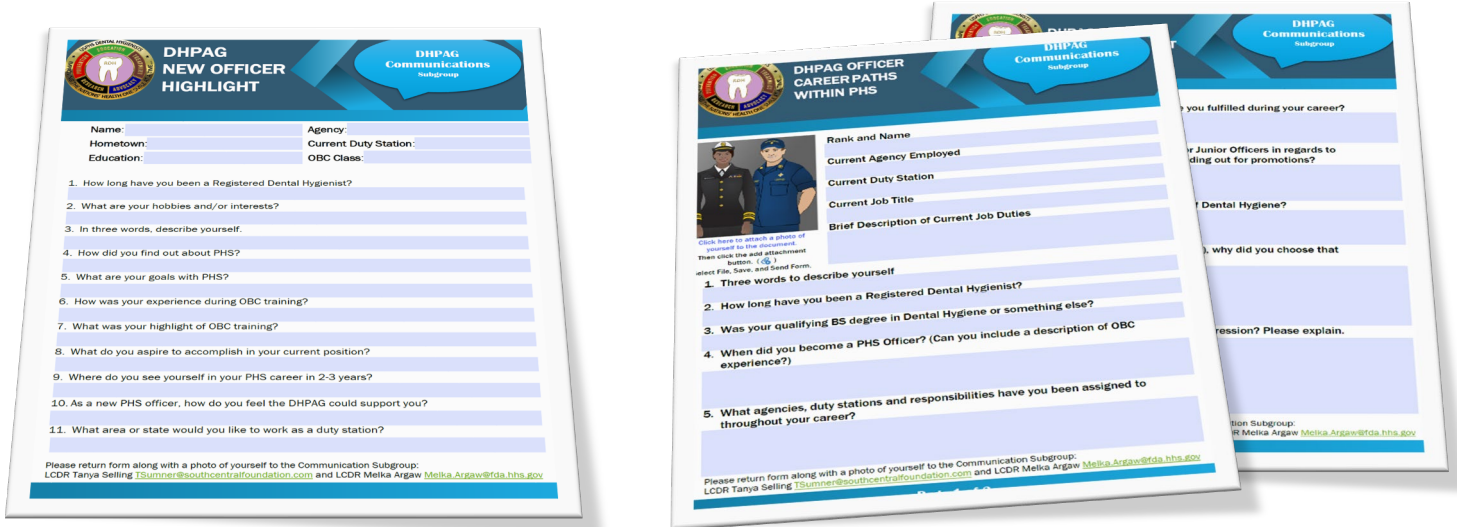
Written By:

Narrative/Article (can send as e-mail or attach as word doc):

**CLICK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DOWNLOAD THE  
WORD DOCUMENT, OPENS ATTACHMENT BAR**



# Various Forms



**To access the Attachments on this PDF. First download the PDF to your computer, then go to folder where you downloaded the file and open with adobe acrobat reader. (Cannot access through browsers)**

After clicking picture above, it will open the PDF attachment bar on the left, click and download the attachment to get the forms

**DHPAG New Officer Questionnaire:** Know a new officer? Are you a new Officer yourself? Fill out one of these questionnaire forms and follow the instructions on the 2023 DHPAG Newsletter Submission Request Form to submit for the next newsletter.

**DHPAG Officer Career Paths Questionnaire:** For LCDR's and Senior Officers; Do you have a career experience you would like to share with other officers and give advice? Fill out one of these questionnaires and submit as specified in the 2023 Newsletter Submission form.

If you are unable to download/do not have adobe acrobat reader/ have questions please e-mail LCDR Tanya Sumner [tsumner@southcentralfoundation.com](mailto:tsumner@southcentralfoundation.com) and she can send you the forms needed

# Save the Date 2023

Below are the upcoming dental conferences and seminars. Please submit any dental conferences and seminars to be included in newsletters and website that may not be listed below.

Also, let us know which event you are attending for a meet n greet session! See you there!!!

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	2023 AMSUS			

March						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2023 Hinman - GA

April						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	2023 NOHC					

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	2023 COA		

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	RDH UnderOneRoof				

ADHA Annual Conference

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December						
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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# 2023 Upcoming Events

## 2023 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

May 8, 2023 – May 11, 2023  
8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Cox Business Convention Center  
100 Civic Center  
Tulsa, OK 74103

**adha23**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JULY 7-9 / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

RDH • UnderOneRoot.

July 20-22, 2023  
Nashville, TN

## PAST Events of 2023



Join Us for the 2023  
**AMSUS Annual Meeting**  
*Healthcare Collaboration: Meeting the  
Challenges of Today and Tomorrow*

13 - 16 February 2023 • National Harbor, MD



Expand Your Horizons  
March 16-18, 2023 Atlanta, GA  
Explore Your Future

**NOHC**  
National Oral Health Conference  
THE PREMIER MEETING FOR DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

APRIL 17-19, 2023  
AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, ORLANDO, FL  
WEEKEND WORKSHOPS  
APRIL 15-16, 2023

**Attend one of the events or another not listed?**

Tell us about it! Submit an article request describing how your experience went and what you learned!