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Chair's Corner



CDR Monique Richards
LICSW, HS-BCP
Director, NOAA Behavioral Health & Wellness
Office of Marine & Aviation Operations
Silver Spring, MD

Greetings SWPAG,
Welcome to the 2023 Social Work Professional Advisory Group (SWPAG) Spring Newsletter! I hope you enjoy this edition's content as it reflects the thoughts and activities of your SWPAG colleagues. Special thanks to the Communications Subgroup for coordinating the content and to the officers who took the time to submit an article.



It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2023 SWPAG Chair. For most of my United States Public Health Service (USPHS) career, I have been an active member of SWPAG, most recently serving as the Chair of the Policy Subgroup and Chair/Co-Chair of the Training, Education, and Mentoring Subgroup.

Given this experience, I know firsthand all the dedication and outstanding work each Subgroup consistently accomplishes. Therefore, this year will be no different as we all are committed to supporting all Social Work Officers' career development and advancement, embracing this year's theme, "Breaking Barriers Helping the Social Worker."

To frame our initiatives and activities for the year, we have three focus areas: improve operations, increase engagement, and support all Social Workers' career development and advancement. Since January, we launched the Chair's Speaker Series featured during the SWPAG General Body Meetings offering informative presentations covering wellness, advance readiness, awards, and employee relations. In addition, we revamped and streamlined our informative Weekly Announcements and hosted our first-ever SWPAG Virtual Mixer in honor of National Social Work Month. Also, I'm excited that we started the inaugural Rising Star Member of the Quarter to recognize one Junior Officer per quarter who has made notable, impactful contributions to the SWPAG, USPHS, or their agency with less than eight years of service, which was the vision of our past Chair CDR Robert Van Meir.

As we move forward the remainder of the year, I want to encourage my fellow Social Workers to get involved with our PAG by attending our monthly conference calls and getting actively involved with one of our subgroups. This year we aim to engage Social Workers interested in leading SWPAG activities, serve as mentors, and represent our category with pride and distinction.

Again, it is an honor to serve as your Chair this year, and I thank you for your service!

Respectfully submitted,
CDR Monique Richards
2023 SWPAG Chair



Personal Thoughts on Resilience from RDML Kleiman

By

LT Shaneka Holmes,
LCSW, MHA, BCD
Behavioral Health Provider
IHSC, DHS, Taylor, TX



Over the past 2.5 years, our world has changed. Collectively, we have all dealt with the impacts of a major global pandemic; we have seen deployments increase by a significant order of magnitude – creating personal and professional adversity for many across our ranks; we have had to adapt to the challenges of living in a “virtual” world, while expectations to continue to do more persist, despite the fact that many of us operate in environments with a scarcity of resources, shifting priorities, and frequent obstacles around which we must continue to navigate. These challenges have provided numerous opportunities to reflect on the topic of resilience. What does it mean to be resilient? Why do some of us seem to manage the stress that lies outside our immediate control more effectively than others? Is it possible to learn new ways to cope and improve our resilience, despite external pressures that continue to mount? As service members, we have access has an array of resources, programs, and experts available to assist and provide support to build resilience and manage external stressors. While many of us have accessed these resources at various points in our career, questions seem to persist about “what more can be done” to improve quality of life for our officers and their loved ones.

I often find myself in the unique position of balancing my role as a social worker and senior leader. Given that I wear these two “hats”, I am frequently asked for my opinion about strategies on how we can improve our collective resilience and reduce potential impacts such as domestic conflict, substance misuse and abuse, and negative health outcomes. Obviously, there is no simple answer or solution to these complex issues. In my experience, however, there are ways we can simplify this discussion and identify personal steps we can all take to create a more positive environment and support the resilience and well-being of ourselves and those around us. This begins, in my opinion, with understanding the concepts of leadership and accountability.

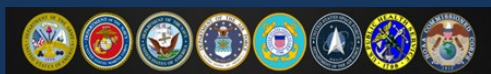


While there’s no secret formula to building personal resiliency, we can all find small but significant ways to be leaders and take personal accountability to being part of the solution. For instance, instead of looking to others to solve a problem, we can choose to embrace the role each of us can play in creating a more positive culture in every facet of our lives. In fact, I believe this trait to be a fundamental component of leadership. Examples of this include showing kindness to others, leading by example, listening, offering to help someone who may be in need, focusing outward and being of service to others. As social workers, we know that these are not only the hallmarks of being a good social worker or an effective leader, but they are also, more importantly, the critical elements of being a good human being. This action may come in many forms such as cooking a meal for a neighbor or co-worker who is experiencing personal difficulties; regularly checking in on friends, loved ones, and colleagues; cultivating a daily positive attitude, and finding opportunities to volunteer in our respective communities. These are all basic yet effective ways each of us, regardless or rank, position, or background, can demonstrate leadership, promote positive change, and build the resilience for whom we care.

Resilience, continues pg. 5



In summary, I know much has been written on the topic of prevention, resilience, and leadership, but I feel it's important to sometimes just get back to the basics and ask ourselves how we can take simple steps to be agents of positive change. In my personal and professional experience, this doesn't have to be complicated, and it shouldn't require vast resources, time, and energy to accomplish. I challenge each of you to find a few simple steps you can take in your daily life to "be the change" you want to see in others. I sincerely believe that by doing this, you will likely improve your personal well-being while cultivating a healthier, more positive environment for those around you. ~



LT Christine M. Nappa

In addition to her agency-related work, LT Nappa has made impact through her Social Work Professional Advisory Group activities. Serving on the SWPAG Communications Subcommittee as the Digital Communications Coordinator, her efforts led to a re-design of the SWPAG logo and solicitation of numerous newsletter articles as well as creation of a SWPAG one-pager for public release. She was also recently selected as a SWPAG voting member, taking on a new role as Chair of the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Subcommittee.

Rising Star of the Quarter

By
LT Zachary McDonough, LCSW, BCD
South Central Regional Social Worker
Federal Bureau of Prisons

In recognition of her notable, impactful contributions to the Social Work Professional Advisory Group (SWPAG), the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and the Public Health Emergency Response Strike Team (PHERST), LT Christine M. Nappa has been recognized as the SWPAG Rising Star Member of the Quarter.

LT Nappa is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who joined the USPHS Commissioned Corps in July 2021 as a PHERST officer based out of Commissioned Corps Headquarters. LT Nappa is a Health Services Officer with over seven years of experience in clinical social work. She has deployed five times in response to the Afghanistan Repatriation, Operation Allies Welcome, COVID-9 response, Innovative Readiness Training, and Ebola response missions.



Prior to joining the USPHS Commissioned Corps, she served as a program specialist with the Family Advocacy Program at Headquarters Marine Corps, an inpatient and outpatient social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a clinical case manager for multiple non-profits that provide services to military families.



LT Nappa received a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Art from Syracuse University.





Social Workers as Leaders: USPHS Region 6 Deployment Role Training

By

LCDR Jennifer Weekes PhD,
LICSW, MPH, CHES, BCD
Behavioral Health Supervisor
El Paso Service Processing Center
IHSC, DHS, El Paso, TX

LCDR Marion Willbright, LCSW-C
Behavioral Health Case Manager
IHSC, DHS, Atlanta, GA

February 6th - 10th 2023, the USPHS Commissioned Corps Headquarters Training Branch hosted the Region 6 - Deployment Role Training. The training was held at the HHS Regional Office in Dallas, TX. Over 60 officers from Region 6 were selected to participate in this training with three independent deployment role tracks: Officer In Charge (OIC), Safety Officer (SOFR), and Case Management (CM). In addition, we were joined by two senior officers from the Airforce national guard.

LCDRs Jennifer Weekes and Marion Willbright were privileged to be selected to attend and participate in the esteemed training.



LCDR Weekes is assigned to Department of Homeland Security- IHSC, as a Supervisory Behavioral Health Provider.



LCDR Marion Willbright is also assigned to Department of Homeland Security-IHSC, as a Behavioral Health Case Manager.



Officers selected for the Officer In Charge (OIC) track were required to complete mandatory FEMA trainings related to the Incident Command System (ICS) and Nation Disaster Management System.



Officers participated in tabletop exercises based on actual deployment scenarios to apply the FEMA ICS concepts, which further reinforced officers understanding of this essential mission response framework.

Deployment Role, continues pg. 7



The OIC training provided invaluable information, skills training and experiences related to leadership, serving in the OIC deployment role and incident/disaster management. This training created priceless opportunities for networking and camaraderie with both active duty, ready reservists, as well as members of the national guard. This training worked to enhance the quality of services and increase the effectiveness of deployed PHS officers.



LT Barsham Murphy



We encourage officers to take advantage of future Deployment Role Training opportunities when presented in your region. ~

Brief Description of Current Job Duties

Provide biopsychosocial/psychological assessment/evaluation of patients within the ICE Health Service Corps. Provide appropriate referral to outside treatment facilities for those cases of severe mental disorders and/or conditions. Provide on-site counseling, psychotherapy, behavioral analysis, substance abuse education, and therapy as required. Serve on multidisciplinary teams addressing consumer care.

SWPAG Officer Career Paths

by
LT NaKeisha Williams,
LCSW-C, BCD
Mental Health Provider
316th Medical Squadron Joint Base
Anacostia-Bolling, D.C.

Rank and Name

LT Barsham Murphy

Current Agency Employed

ICE Health Service Corps

Current Duty Station

Montgomery Processing Center

Current Job Title

Behavioral Health Provider

1. Three words to describe yourself

Integrity, respectful, and driven.

2. How long have you been a Social Worker?

12 years

3. Do you have any other degrees besides your MSW?

I have enrolled in several courses addressing financial literacy with a focus on establishing and maintaining generational wealth.

4. When did you become a PHS Officer? (Can you include a description of your OBC experience?)

I commissioned May 2021, my OBC experience was exceptional. I had the opportunity to build relationships with officers from different backgrounds, professional experience, from all over the country. It was great networking with individuals with a common goal which is to promote the health and well-being of the general public.



5. What agencies, duty stations, and responsibilities have you been assigned to throughout your career?

I have only served within IHSC at the Montgomery Processing Center. I have attempted to be active within my agency and PHS.

- Serve on Suicide Prevention Committee within the Montgomery Processing Center.
- Participated in the JOAG Peer to Peer Network Program.
- Served on the Montgomery Processing Center, Transgender Care Committee
- Completed 30 day TDY at Eloy processing center addressing mission critical needs.
- Elected Executive secretary for the BCOAG Mentoring Group.
- Serve on the After-Action Committee for Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI) reports within the Montgomery Processing Center.
- Member of the JOAG Professional Development Committee.
- Serve as Co-lead for the JOAG Strategic Planning, Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.
- Accepted the role of Patient Education Coordinator for the Montgomery Processing Center.
- Assisted PISPC, from June 1 to June 30, 2022, providing Behavioral Health Services in support of the mission critical staffing needs. During my time at PISPC, I completed 110 encounters to include direct clinical patient care initial mental health evaluations, mental health follow-up evaluations, segregation follow up care visits, and medical housing unit care visits.



6. What deployment missions and roles have you fulfilled during your career?

IHSC is a Mission Critical facility which limits deployment opportunity, but I have provided support through completing two separate 30 day TDY mission critical assignments. November 2021, I provided support at the Eloy Detention Center in Eloy, AZ. I also provided support at the Port Isabel Service Processing Center in June 2022.



7. Can you provide some recommendations for Junior Officers regarding graduate degrees, career progression and standing out for promotions?

Considering graduate degrees, I would encourage others to seek higher education in their areas of interest. I believe quality work and service is a result of passion, so pursue things you are passionate about and then introduce your passion to those you serve. As far as career progression, I continue to learn daily that mentorship and your network will guide your career. The people you connect and associate with will play a vital role in crafting your overall future, whether it be promotion or developing and achieving career goals.

8. College degree(s) & certification(s) outside of Social Work.

I am passionate about being an entrepreneur so I have continued to educate myself and those around me about different vehicles that promote financial literacy and freedom. I have completed course/certifications centered around structuring a business, business funding, commercial/residential real estate, digital assets, and infinite banking strategies. These are areas that I am passionate about, and I find joy learning, sharing, and applying the information.



Social Workers Connect for National Social Work Month

by
CDR Monique Richards

9. If you have another degree(s) or certification(s), why did you choose that one specifically?

Being an entrepreneur and financial literacy is something that I am passionate about, and I find joy learning and applying the information. I believe it is information/knowledge that is not addressed in the traditional academic environment. It is information that is seems hidden unless one is seeking to find it. Through finding it, it creates limitless opportunities.



10. Do you feel it has helped you in your career progression? Please explain.

Through pursuing educational material that interest me it makes he happier, therefor I am enthusiastic when serving others. It provides a different perspective on life and a sense of freedom, where I can give my all to the people I am choosing to serve. Through perusing education of interest, I am addressing my selfcare. It provides peace of mind, and information that I can share with my children. It also provides a solid foundation for my children and generations to come.

This event facilitated an opportunity for Social Worker Officers to network and get to know each other in a relaxed virtual setting. During the event, attendees were encouraged to wear their favorite school of social work gear, engage in icebreakers, and play fun games such as music trivia and social work-themed jeopardy.



Kudos to the planning committee, including members from the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Subgroup, the Recruitment/Retention Subgroup, and other volunteers for planning a successful event. We hope you will attend our next upcoming Virtual Mixer to TBA!





5 REASONS Why People Bomb Interviews!

By
CDR Denise Morrison, PA-C
Chief, Investigations Unit
ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC)
Enforcement and Removal Operations

CDR Vickie Stowers, LCSW,
BCD, CCHP-MH
Supervisory BH Provider
ICE Health Service Corps
Krome Service Processing Center
Miami, FL



There can be multiple reasons why people bomb interviews. Here are five common ones:

1. Lack of Preparation: The interviewee typically focuses entirely on the wrong things during the interview preparation. Interviewees spend ample time researching the organization/agency instead of devoting equal time towards introspection. An interview is a set of questions about the interviewee.

The more self-aware an interviewee is, the more prepared they will be to respond to interview questions. Therefore, it is essential to know your strengths, growth areas, triggers, communication barriers, expectations of a supervisor, and even how you manage conflict best. What skills and traits do you possess that would benefit the organization or agency?



2. Nervousness or Excessive Worrying:

Interviewees tend to worry excessively over things outside of their locus of control. This may include factors such as comparison to or imaginary competition with the other applicants, the actual interview process, and what will happen post-interview. While it is completely normal to be concerned about these factors to some degree, they can present an obstacle to forward progress if not kept in check. The interviewee's primary focus should be what they can offer the organization/agency. Reframing your focus around how you add value will prove to be more beneficial to the process.



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

3. Lack of Self-confidence: Going into the interview with a negative mindset. Without believing that you deserve the position, the chances of performing poorly during the interview drastically increase. To this end, self-confidence is crucial to the process. If the interviewee believes in what they have to offer, they can sell themselves accordingly and increase the interviewers' chances of hiring them.

Bomb Interview, continues pg. 11



4. Negative Self-belief or Mindset: People tell themselves they will bomb the interview. This internalized belief negatively affects a person's energy and productivity during the interview. It is important to replace any self-defeating statements with positive affirmations, such as "I got this" and "I will do great on this interview". What we choose to believe about ourselves is what we internalize and portray.

5. Lack of Practice: The interviewee does not practice or prepare for the interview. Most interviewees believe they will do better on the spot and do not want to sound scripted. However, most people who do not prepare tend to choke up during the interview. Interview Expert Anna Papalia, who has interviewed over 10,000 people, said, "no one does better on the spot. Everyone does better if they prepare". A practice interview allows a person to familiarize themselves with the interview process in a low-stress environment. Additionally, a practice interview boosts confidence and improves performance.

If you are interested in polishing your interviewing skills, consider signing on for a mock interview. The Career Progression Resource Team and HSPAC Career Development Subcommittee invite Health Services Officers (HSO) to practice their interviewing skills! This opportunity provides one-on-one mock interviews with officers who have prior interviewing and supervisory experience. This simulation of an actual job interview will provide HSOs with constructive feedback in a low-stress environment to improve techniques, boost confidence, and reduce anxiety. If interested, please contact CDR Denise Morrison at Denise.C.Morrison@ice.dhs.gov and CDR Vickie Stowers at Vickie.A.Stowers@ice.dhs.gov

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SWPAG Officers Champion the 2022 *Leader Within You* Conference

by
LCDR Jennifer Weekes PhD,
LICSW, MPH, CHES, BCD
Behavioral Health Supervisor
El Paso Service Processing Center
IHSC, DHS, El Paso, TX

On Wednesday October 26, 2022, the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group (BCOAG) hosted the 2022 Leader Within You Conference themed "Leading from the Middle."

**Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group
Leader Within You Conference 2022**

Leading from the Middle
This event will feature two keynote speakers and a facilitated interactive panel discussion related to effective and proven strategies for successful mid-level leadership, pitfalls and traps to avoid and strategies for leading without a title.

OCTOBER 26, 2022 Webinar

1:30 - 4:30 PM EST
ZoomGov Link: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1604047038>
Event Access Meeting ID: 160 404 7038
Telephone Number: 1-833-568-8864 (Toll-free)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

CDR Valarie Gardner, MSW, LCSW, MAC, BCD Chief Behavioral Health/Wellness Officer National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	LT Anthony Powell, Jr., Psy.D., M.S. Specialty Program Coordinator Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
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This was a transformational yet practical conference. All keynote speakers and panelists highlighted that instead of relying on authority and position, middle leaders must navigate the complexities of leveraging a network of professional relationships. Pitfalls to avoid and strategies for leading without a title were addressed.

Leader Within You, continues pg. 12



LCDR Jennifer Weekes PhD, LICSW

CDR Valerie Gardner served as a keynote speaker, presenting on Empathetic Leadership. LT Tamika Finch-Hall served as a panelist, highlighting her experiences leading from the middle and provided strategies essential for mid-level leadership. LCDR Jennifer Weekes served as event lead/moderator. LCDRs Cannon and Karber were moderators and CDR Kimberly Calvery and LCDR Janelle Phillip were key members of the planning and execution team.



If you are interested in receiving the recording of this excellent training, please contact LCDR Jennifer Weekes: Jennifer.D.Weekes@ICE.DHS.GOV

My sincerest gratitude to the aforementioned officers for their leadership and support. Keep soaring!



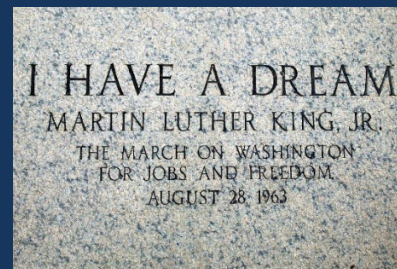
~

I Have A Dream, Examining the Principles

by
CDR Mark H. Durham
D.S.W., LCSW, BCD
Supervisory BH Provider
ICE Health Service Corps
Taylor, TX

August 28, 2023, marks the 60-year anniversary of the famous Martin Luther King Jr “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. Our historical statesman was both preacher and professor as he drew from the Founding Fathers’ documents and the Holy scriptures to firmly engrave into U.S. History his summation of the American experience, his longing guide for our future. This article highlights several selections of his oration which are true, eloquent, concise, and invigorating. Examine with me Dr. King’s address to his beloved nation. The words of Dr. King are golden, literally and figuratively.

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



I Have A Dream, continues pg. 13



Dr. King reached back 187 years into our history to showcase and support our Founding Fathers’ design of freedom for all. He wisely described the founders of our incredible nation as architects – they designed the foundation for Reverend’s King’s pulpit that day. His 1st amendment platform was incrementally moving in the right direction, yet derogatorily leaning. His soul bellowed for a faster, permanent response for the impartiality.

Dr. King was accurate when he referred to both the constitution and the Declaration of Independence as “magnificent.” The founding authors believed the universe obeys logical rules and these laws were set in motion by a creator. These founding documents were the bedrock for our nation and were centuries ahead of their time. America was not perfect at its founding, it was not perfect in 1963, nor is it perfect today; no country will ever be perfect because all nations are formed by, with, and for flawed people. However, we strive for improvement, as our Founding Fathers cast their vision of what we can become; we better ourselves individually, our family, our community, our service, and our nation.

Dr. King reminded us that our Founding Fathers embedded a promissory note in these documents to all American citizens. This promise was not only for white male landowners, instead our Founding Fathers intended the promise for all people.

Dr. King defined America’s foundation as a constitutional republic. Our Founding Fathers wisely understood that a democracy has a tendency of internal deterioration – groupthink. As a safeguard to that inevitable disaster, they designed for us a constitutional republic. Due to our U.S. Constitution, the founders hand the reins for our constitutional republic to all subsequent generations, because we all are their heirs. Dr. King clearly understood this fact. In this circumspect governance, each individual community elect representatives.

These representatives are equal amongst their colleagues in the house or Senate. This design of equal elected representation allows for discussion, sometimes intense debate, yet toward wisdom that configures and propels our prudent progress.

Dr. King reminded us of our guaranteed unalienable rights as Americans. We are all unified in our citizenry in the pursuit of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Dr. King’s rallying cry for us is to progress in unity, as we are the heirs of our constitutional republic. He challenged our lifework to be above violence, above canceling each other, as we strive for this harmonious accord. A choir dies-out when it is busy internally fighting and seeking to shut each other up.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny.

And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

Dr. King shared his dream with the world. The foundation for his dream was the declaration of independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Holy Bible. Dr. King was not for segregation, division, or canceling of others; instead, the scholar advocated for our aggregated diversity as indivisible, tenacious, and patriotic, as a whole nation.



So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

As created beings, we are endowed by this same creator with truth that is obvious; we have the internal ability to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. We are all created equal. Our rights to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can neither be taken away from us nor can we give these up.

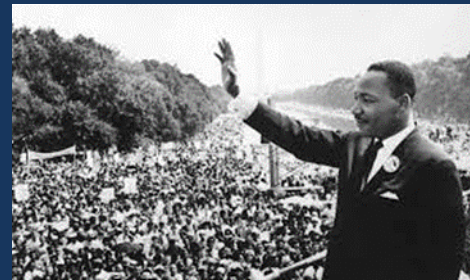
I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.



In his struggle Dr. King's faith was strengthened. And from this faith he believed the Lord would be glorified from his dream coming to fruition. At the time he gave this historic address he did not realize that his struggle would end in martyrdom, a mere four and a half years later.

As U.S. citizens we stand on America's founding documents, which have no partiality; we are all equal and are afforded the right to life, freedom, and pursuit of happiness. Dr. King repeatedly pointed to this bedrock for our freedoms, likened to our oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution.

Dr. King's words live on as do the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Holy scriptures. Dr. King's words ring-out both loud and true today as they did in 1963 in front of the Lincoln Memorial.



This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we find ourselves in discord with our fellow American citizens, Dr. King urges us, as heirs of our great nation, to strive together for unity. Let us endeavor today for Dr. King's dream. As a diverse aggregate of Americans, our past and future steps are supported by the brilliantly composed foundation from the Founding Fathers. Hopefully it will be said of us that we held diverse hands in solitude tenaciously searching, developing, and encouraging faith, sisterhood, unity, hope, brotherhood, truth, and freedom.



And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.

As American citizens we will confidently live the truth of Dr. King's words. The Declaration of Independence ends with, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." Let us find common ground; we shall sing in unison!

<https://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety>



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Welcome to the 2023 SWPAG Leadership

Executive Team

Chair

CDR Monique Richards

Chair Elect

LCDR Jennifer Weekes

Executive Secretary

CDR Monique Worrell-Oriola

Correspondence Secretary

LCDR Bethanie Parrish-Salaam

Senior Advisor

CDR Robert Van Meir



Operations

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LT Tamika Finch-Hall

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Awards Co-Chair

LT India Johns

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Communications Co-Chair

LCDR Lorener Brayboy

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Stakeholder & Community Engagement Chair

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Data and Evaluation Chair

LT Michael Krusinsky
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Readiness Co-Chair

LCDR Jamillah Bynum
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Training, Education and Mentorship Chair

LCDR Candice Karber
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Training, Education and Mentorship Co-Chair

CDR Jennifer Andrews-Burke
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Training, Education and Mentorship Co-Chair

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Recruitment/Retention Chair

LCDR Janelle Phillip
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Recruitment/Retention Co-Chair

LCDR Everett Rollins IV
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Mentoring Co-Chair

CDR Vickie Stowers
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Mentoring Co-Chair

CDR Valarie Gardner
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Management

Policy Chair

LCDR Jennifer Weekes
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Administrative Management Chair

LCDR Alexia Blyther
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Administrative Management Co-Chair

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Semper Servientes ~