

OPAG Minutes 12/01/2021

MISSION: Represent and advocate for the professional discipline of optometry and its Commissioned Officers, civil servants, contract, and tribal optometrists serving within the Public Health Service and affiliated services.

OPAG Voting Members Present:

• LCDR Hanna Fylpaa (chair)	• CDR Gregory Smith
• LCDR Jill Thompson (chair-elect)	• LT Matthew Geiger
• LCDR Laura Alexander	• CDR Christopher Cordes
• CAPT Dawn Clary	• LCDR Emily Mathiak
• LCDR Albert Licup	• CAPT Robert Chelberg
• LT Regina Sullivan	• LT Khrystopher Gates
• CDR Erin Giles	

Absent/Excused:

- LT Davis Staley
- CDR Sarah Stienbarger

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from **10/06/2021**: LCDR Laura Alexander
- Second: LCDR Emily Mathiak
- No objections. Minutes approved.

Presentation on Promotion Boards and Optometry in the Corps by CAPT Dawn Clary

Subcommittee Chair Reports

- 1. Administrative Management:** LCDR Jill Thompson
Nothing new to report. New positions have been finalized and sent out.
 - **Awards:** LT Regina Sullivan
New awards cycle is coming up.
- 2. Communications:** LCDR Hanna Fylpaa
Looking for a VM to assume this position. Responsible for announcements and website updates.
- 3. Data & Evaluations:** LCDR Hanna Fylpaa for LCDR Albert Licup
Nothing to report.
- 4. Policy:** LT Matthew Geiger
Nothing new to report.
- 5. Recruitment:** CDR Sarah Stienbarger,, Co-Chair LCDR Emily Mathiak
Isaac Bell is considering joining the Corps again but may be nearing age limit requirement.
Navy optometrist lokoing to transfer.

One new grad who is applying to positions in Alaska and may be interested in Commissioned Corps.
Two students that may be interested in Commissioned Corps after they graduate, but may just be interested in IHS.

6. Stakeholder & Community Engagement: LT Khrystopher Gates

Nothing to report.

7. Technical Readiness: CAPT Robert Chelberg absent, Co-Chair: CDR Erin Giles

Nothing to report.

8. Training, Education, and Mentorship: CDR Christopher Cordes

Peer to Peer Mentoring.

Stakeholder Engagement Reports

Chief Clinical Consultant: CAPT Dawn Clary

- Update Hazard Duty Pay for next time frame.
- IHS Biennial Eye Care Meeting June 6-9, 2022, hopefully hybrid with combination in person and virtual. If you would like to see a specific speaker, please email CAPT Clary. There is a small fee for this conference to utilize MBKU software, it is not a registration fee and can't be waived. Please see email from CAPT Dawn Clary dated 11/18/2021.
- Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christianson met with Chief Clinical Consultants for all disciplines via Zoom. This is the first meeting with these participants. Each discipline presented 2-3 minutes with concerns. Discussion included staffing and recruitment/retention. Optometry has lost 30% of officers since 2014. Concern over time frame for onboarding as well. Dr. Christianson was receptive to these concerns. Discussed pay, assignment pay, special pay, incoming salary. A calculator exists that provides Commissioned Officer pay including special and retention pays at this website: <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/RMC-Calculator/>
- Commends OPAG Voting Members on taking the initiative to take on co-chair positions to step up and learn the responsibilities.

CDC Liaison: LT Regina Sullivan

- CDC is focusing on returning to the workplace amid COVID.

AFOS Liaison: CDR Christopher Cordes

- No electronic report provided.

Discussion Topics/ Q&A

- HSPAC State of the Category Survey, closed November 11, OPAG was included as an associated PAG, but optometry was NOT included as a profession. I suspect many of us selected "I don't know" for this question. Will plan to follow-up with the person that sent out the survey email.
- CP2G website:
 - CV must be in **HSO NEW FORMAT**
 - HSOs do NOT need to include CV Summary Sheet this year
 - HSOs do need to include a CE Summary Sheet

- COVID-19 Hazardous Duty Pay: Commissioned Care optometrists in direct patient care should qualify, requires recertification every 90 days, look for an email from DCPS, with be retroactively paid once applicable time frame has completed.
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness temporarily expanded, USPHS and IHS are eligible utilizing Employee ID Number (found on W2), www.studentaid.gov/publicservice, please email hannaf@searhc.org if you have applied for or received PSLF.
- Peer to Peer Mentoring relaunched, official HSPAC mentoring program, recommended to sign up for this program.
- Uniforms
 - PTU Update - required by 12/31/2021
 - ODU phase out, replaced by new Coast Guard Utility Uniform (CGU) by 2/1/2023
- OPAG Bylaws Update: unanimous consent of members present received
 - Operations and Procedures “Sec. 2 The date and time of meetings are set by the OPAG Chair with agreement of the majority of the voting members. Meetings for the operational year will be scheduled at or prior to the first meeting of each operational year.”
 - Look for additional bylaw updates at future meetings
- HSPAC End of Year Event December 10 including All Hands Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 0900 AKST by LCDR Hanna Fylpaa

NEXT OPAG MEETINGS: Thursdays at 1500 MST

- February 3, 2022
- April 7, 2022
- June 6-9, 2022 - IHS Biennial Eye Care Meeting
- August 4, 2022
- October 6. 2022
- December 1, 2022 (beginning of 2023 operational year)

All meetings are:

1300 Alaska
 1400 Pacific
 1500 Mountain
 1600 Central
 1700 Eastern