

OPAG Minutes 06/07/2017

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:

- CDR Cameron Scott (Chair)
- CDR Chris Nield
- CDR Nima Desai
- LCDR Craig Rennard
- LT Jill Thompson

Absent:

- CDR Robert Chelberg (Chair-Elect)
- CAPT Kathleen Wooten
- CDR Robert Kesead
- LT Laura Alexander

Liaisons/Co-Chairs

None present

Approval of Minutes

All in favor; Minutes approved.

Subcommittee Chair Reports

1. **Administrative Management:** Cameron for CDR Rob Chelberg
At the next OPAG meeting, after promotions are announced, will start recruiting for Chair-elect and Executive Secretary.
2. **Awards:** LT Laura Alexander
The Student Award was presented at graduation to Michael Tran. Other awards have been printed and mailed to recipients.
3. **Communications:** LT Jill Thompson/LT Emily Mathiak
The HSPAC calendar is now posted on the "About HSO" page. Submissions must go through PAG leadership. The Toolkit is also now available on the left side of the Communications page. This contains templates for documents and certificates to be used. A newsletter template is still be developed and will be added. Reminder that due date for submissions to e-News is the Wednesday before the launch and it's being published on every other Monday instead of Friday now. Max.gov is supposed to be rolled out in June and trainings were supposed to be held the end of May but no correspondence regarding trainings has been received. HSPAC members are

encouraged to establish an account ahead of the launch but the site requires a .mil or .gov email address. A sponsorship group is to be established for those who don't have eligible email addresses. Again, no further communication regarding the sponsorship group has been received. Information will be passed along once more guidance is provided. Max.gov will allow for information sharing across the PAC.

4. **Data & Evaluations:** CDR Chris Nield
Being directed by Subcommittee leadership to not collect any data yet at this time. Suspect more direction on what data to collect will be received once promotion results are released.
5. **Policy:** LCDR Craig Rennard
Policy Subcommittee has provided little direction regarding SOPs. PHPAG did initial trial and did have ideas that were passed back to the committee. Waiting for further instruction at this point.
6. **Recruitment (Ad Hoc):** Cameron for CDR Sarah Stienbarger
During the last PAG/PAC meeting, did discuss recruiting issues such as knowing what positions were filled and who's applying. Also discussed GPA exception and the CPO personally responded and asked for the question to be directed to her as she knew who would be able to answer whether it's possible or not. Sarah has sent an email with the correspondence she has had regarding this. No further status update at this time.
There will be a time during the recruitment process where qualifications will be verified. Sarah is taking the lead on the process and hoping to have another to look at CAD profiles to make sure they're technically qualified.
7. **Stakeholder & Community Engagement:** Cameron for CAPT Kathleen Wooten
This is an area where the PAC has been very active. They've requested a 2 page finished white paper on all the professional organizations, community engagement and stakeholders that optometrists in the Corps take part in. HSPAC seems to be gathering evidence that the USPHS Commissioned Corps is filled with the greatest professionals in the nation and paint the Corps as an elite healthcare force again disasters and public health issues. Wanting to know about meetings and how we're collaborating together. Fullerton and Flagstaff meetings are main IHS meetings, unsure of attendance numbers. Alaska Area holds a yearly meeting which is highly attended. Great Plains & Oklahoma areas also have regional optometry meetings.
There didn't seem to be any interest in RAM participation but they do want to know how many CO's are FAAOs. Need to determine how to collect FAAO data though. They aren't interested in health fairs but would like to know if people are doing presentations on the lecture circuit. Would probably need to do a survey to collect that information. Interest in finding out who is adjunct professors/preceptors also. Also try to find out who has any board certification or involved with the various organizations such as AAO diplomates, AFOS, or AMSUS.
8. **Technical Readiness:** CDR Robert Kesead/CAPT Larry Zobel
No report
9. **Training, Education & Mentorship:** CDR Nima Desai/CDR Sarah Stienbarger
Various mentoring opportunities including the CADTMI. Need to make sure officers are aware of the mentoring opportunities available.

Liaison Reports

AAO: Ryan Manning, Barb Cohn (diplomates): No report

AFOS: CDR Greg Smith: No Report

AMSUS: Barb Cohn: No Report

APHA Vision Care: vacant

Chief Clinical Consultant: CAPT Dawn Clary: No Report

FDA: Kim Lewandowski-Walker: No Report

JOAG: vacant

JVN: CDR Chris Nield: No report

National Combined Council IHS: Larry Zube (CEO), Greg Smith (CEO)

PACE: Barb Cohn: No report

PHS Recruitment/Applicant Placement: CDR Sarah Stienbarger:
Discussed during subcommittee reports.

Discussion Topics

Keep your eyes open for HSPAC opportunities. Officers involved with OPAG are more qualified to apply for these positions.

Meeting adjourned

Upcoming OPAG meetings

August 2, 2017

October 4, 2017

December 6, 2017

All meetings are:

8:00 AM Alaska

9:00 AM Pacific

10:00 AM Mountain

11:00 AM Central

12:00 PM Eastern

**Call in number for August 2, 2017 OPAG meeting:
1(877)546-1567 pw 63158**