

OPAG Minutes 10/03/2018

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 Robert Chelberg (Chair)
- CDR Nima Desai
- LCDR Laura Alexander
- LT Jill Thompson
- LT Albert Licup

Absent:

- CDR Christopher Cordes
- CDR Robert Kesead
- CDR Craig Rennard
- CDR Patrick Britton

Liaisons/Co-Chairs

CAPT Dawn Clary
CDR Sarah Stienbarger
LT Emily Mathiak

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 08/01/18:

1st Motion: LT Albert Licup

2nd Motion: LCDR Laura Alexander

All in favor; Minutes approved.

Subcommittee Chair Reports

1. **Administrative Management:** CDR Christopher Cordes
No report.
2. **Awards:** LCDR Laura Alexander
Will be sending a call for award nominations soon with a deadline of December 31 for the Hatch, Hamilton & Caplan awards.
3. **Communications:** LT Jill Thompson/LT Emily Mathiak

No response from HSPAC Communications Subcommittee about meetings so no updates to report. Working on 2018 voting member nominees.

4. **Data & Evaluations:** LT Albert Licup
No feedback from HSPAC subcommittee.
5. **Policy:** CDR Craig Rennard
No report.
6. **Recruitment (Ad Hoc):** CDR Sarah Stienbarger
KG in WA will hopefully be attending OBC next month. Leaves us with 2 people within the application process. We had 2 people that were graded on the OPAG rubric. Latest update is that it's on the CPO's desk. Making attempts to push it forward and not sure what the holdup is. Have 8 or 9 other people with varying backgrounds of private practice, military or students, who have been in communication and have voiced interest but haven't actually started the application process. Not getting many conversions from student interest, don't seem to be getting much for results with recruiting from the schools. There have been 7 new officers since 2016.
7. **Stakeholder & Community Engagement:** CDR Patrick Britton
No report.
8. **Technical Readiness:** CDR Robert Kesead/CAPT Larry Zobel
No report.
9. **Training, Education & Mentorship:** CDR Nima Desai
No report.

Stakeholder Engagement Reports

Chief Clinical Consultant: CAPT Dawn Clary

Congratulations to LT Laura Alexander who is the new Oklahoma Area Consultant! If anyone has anyone has an issues or questions about the conversion from Legacy Pay to the new Incentive Pay, please give Dawn a call and it can be looked into on an individual basis. There was an increase in the Title 38 Special Pay for CS Optometrists which will be taking effect on October 14, which will be nice for CS! There are new physical fitness standards now in place for the Commissioned Corps, which includes the weight standard. That means there's a new form and that starting Monday, when you do your fitness testing, you need to make sure you have the weight standards information on your form. They're checking readiness every month now and you need to have these things completed so you don't fall of readiness for a simple reason. Will be sending some items to Laura for the newsletter and, if anyone else has anything for the newsletter, please be sure to forward to her.

AFOS: CDR Christopher Cordes
No report.

CDC: LT Regina Sullivan
No report.

Discussion Topics

We should always have patient care as our primary concern but we do need to keep our next promotion in mind. There are senior officers such as CAPT Cameron Scott, CAPT Dawn Clary, CAPT Barb Cohn who

are available to review CV's if desired and Rob can help facilitate that. Rob is also available for reviewing CV's. We should all be reviewing our CV's on a regular basis and you can also reference the CP2G toolkit on the HSPAC website if you have any questions.

Rob forwarded a letter to the OPAG members that he had sent to the HSPAC leadership regarding Optometry's 2018 promotion rate. Nothing further to report at this time but will hopefully be talking to CAPT Willis-Marsh or the HSPAC Chair eventually.

Voting member recruitment to fill the 4 upcoming vacancies is wrapping up and Jill is compiling the list of nominees. There won't be another meeting before the October 20 deadline so we'll present the CV's and statements of intent through email and ask for a vote to approve within the next few weeks. It looks like we will be able to fill all 4 slots so that's good news! There are existing members who will still be on OPAG and will need to solicit for Chair Elect. Chris will be the Chair next year and need others to consider taking on that role. The Chair Elect needs to be selected by mid to late November according to the HSPAC timeline.

If you saw the HSPAC quarterly newsletter, you saw that we had a couple articles included. One highlighted LT Regina Sullivan and one that talked about the Oklahoma RAM mission. They're asking for articles for the last quarterly newsletter and have one from Craig that might be forwarded but could use another one if anyone has anything they would like to submit.

Haven't heard much news as far as deployments. Most deployments have been Tier 3 level even though it's hurricane season. Rob is on RDF 3 and was on a call down but wasn't deployed and the team as a whole wasn't deployed. For Hurricane Florence, Al was deployed to USTRANSCOM at Scott Air Force Base in southern IL. He was sent as a fill in for Patient Movement LNO. They didn't end up standing up the patient movement control group. Al was there for a week of training but didn't get activated. It was a weeklong introduction to how patient movement operations go from the Air Force, DoD and FEMA perspective. LT Licup is a member of RIST-5.

The 2019 USPHS Symposium is in Minneapolis, MN. Rob will be helping out with the Surgeon General's 5K and there's a lot of work going into that. Encourage everyone to try to attend. There's always a RAM mission associated with the symposium as well.

Meeting adjourned

Upcoming OPAG meetings

December 5, 2018

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 December 5, 2018 OPAG meeting: 1(877)267-1577

Meeting number 998 927 825