



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; September 1, 2020

Via Webex meeting: [Join Webex meeting](#)

Or via phone: 1-210-795-0506; 1-877-465-7975; [Global call-in numbers](#)

Access code: 901 276 235

Total Attendance: 160 attendees; 23 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and 2020–2021 SciPAC Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Eckert, John	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CAPT	Rodgers, Loren	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
LCDR	Jamoom, Eric	Executive Secretary	Present
LCDR	Wilken, Jason	Chair	Present

Voting Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science Subcommittee Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy Subcommittee Chair	Excused
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards Subcommittee Chair	Present
CDR	Goodrich-Doctor, Adrienne	Website Subcommittee Chair	Present
CDR	Kenney, James	Awards Subcommittee Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Readiness Subcommittee Chair	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Category Day Chair	Present
LCDR	Blessington, Tyann	Career Development Subcommittee Chair	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Virginia	Mentoring Subcommittee Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee Chair; PsyPAG Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Hassan, Iram	Visibility Subcommittee Chair	Present
LCDR	Leshin, Jonathan	Policy Subcommittee Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website Subcommittee Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Readiness Subcommittee Chair	Excused
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility Subcommittee Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development Subcommittee Co-Chair	Present

Non-voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Odom, Erika	PACE Liaison	Present
LCDR	Hudson, Gwendolyn	JOAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Kembi, Folasade	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-voting Scientist Officers: CAPT(Retired) Jon Daugherty; CAPT Karon Abe; CAPT Rachel Avchen; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Aditya Bhagwat; CAPT Mark Clayton; CAPT Heidi Daniels; CAPT Bryan Davidson; CAPT Anne Dobmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Mark Seaton; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Robin Toblin; CAPT Richard Troiano; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Gelio Alves; CDR Robert Belde; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Cara Halldin; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR David Huang; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Todd Myers; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Kenneth Phillips; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Michelle Rodriguez; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Erin Sauber-Schatz; CDR Mark Scheckelhoff; CDR Jacqueline Sram; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Samantha Dimisa; LCDR Elizabeth Edwards; LCDR Michael Gallaway; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Yoran Grant-Greene; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Keisha Houston; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott; LCDR Rebecca Levine; LCDR Kimberly Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR George Mitzner; LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Nazia Rahman; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Esra Toussaint; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LCDR Julia Zucco; LT Jennifer Beauregard; LT Andrew Brown; LT Jason Caballero; LT Anna Chard; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Brett Dodd; LT Leora Feldstein; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brett Forshey; LT Brandi Freeman; LT Sean Griffing; LT Kathleen Hartnett; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Pushpa Jayasekara; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jueichuan Kang; LT Michelle Lin; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Megan Peck; LT Julia Pringle; LT Erica Rose; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Amy Schuh; LT Patrick Sears; LT Taneshia Shelton; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nana Wilson; LT Lindsay Womack; and LT Lauren Woodard.

Excused Absences of Non-voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Tyson Volkmann; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Jessica Dunn; LT Lacreisha Ejike-King; LT Robert Gahl; LT Bradley Goodwin; LT Michelle Hughes; and LT Ana Lauer.

- **Call to Order and Welcome:** LCDR Jason Wilken
- **CPO Report:** CAPT John Eckert
 - **Deployment activities on this year's COER.** CPOs are working with CCHQ on guidance. While COERs reflect officer duty assignments, deployment activities are encouraged to be included in your annual COER accomplishments. Officers may want to put their supervisor/rater in contact with their deployment supervisor if including deployment activities in their COER accomplishments.
 - **Feedback from the CCHQ Town Hall.** CPOs have requested and received feedback from the last CCHQ Townhall. Between 1,000-1,400 officers across the service responded with both positive and negative feedback.
 - Positive feedback included the widespread appreciation that HQ has for officers.
 - Negative feedback included concerns about transparency, prescriptive non-answers to questions, all-time low morale, disproportionately burdened officers on repeated deployments, devaluing officers not involved in direct patient care, and the ready reserve reducing deployment opportunities.
 - CPOs provided feedback and raising outstanding questions to CCHQ leadership to help address the transparency and communication needs.
 - **Announcement - CCHQ Town Hall scheduled on 9/22.** All officers are strongly encouraged to attend this CCHQ Townhall, where CPOs expect many of the outstanding questions and concerns to be addressed.
 - **Permanent Promotion timing unclear, as recommended list is with the White House for approval.** Officers are encouraged to continue preparing for permanent promotion by including another ROS as part of their COER. The list of recommended officers for permanent promotion was sent over through the HHS White House Liaison.
 - **Officers are encouraged to complete their APFT/PHUs.** While waivers should be extended to the end of the calendar year, officers are encouraged to complete and schedule PHUs and APFTs. Follow guidance to lift waivers or you may be locked out of updating APFT results.
- **Chair Report:** LCDR Jason Wilken
 - Welcome to the 2020–2021 operational year! Thank you to all of the 2019–2020 SciPAC voting members for their exceptional work on behalf of Scientists in the face of the COVID-19 response, and thank you to CAPT Rodgers for his inspirational leadership as SciPAC Chair.
 - Please prioritize your mission and self-care.
 - Our SciPAC operations are dependent on the volunteer efforts of Scientist officers. If you have the bandwidth, please reach out to any of our 11 subcommittees to volunteer. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered.
 - The Executive Board, our subcommittee chairs, and our liaisons are here to serve you. Please reach out to us if you need help or if you have ideas for supporting Scientist officers.
- **Vice Chair Report:** CDR Deborah Dee
 - Nothing significant to report

- **Executive Secretary Report:** LCDR Eric Jamoom
 - **Thank you, CDR Shumate!** Thank you for all of your hard work as Executive Secretary these past two years, and ensuring a smooth transition for the current operational year.
 - **A little about me...** I currently direct laboratory operations for a domestic biodetection program at DHS. Since commissioning in 2013, I've supported SciPAC's inaugural *State of the Scientist* survey, bibliography team, and efforts to streamline the SciPAC SOP and Charter with Rules & Membership. Since serving as a voting member, I've spent 2 years as Science Subcommittee Chair rolling out a vision for critical role of SMEs supporting the OSG's priorities. I look forward to supporting each of the subcommittees and liaisons as your 2020-2021 SciPAC Executive Secretary.
 - **Guidance for listserv posting and meeting reports:** Email guidance for meeting reports and listserv posting were sent to chairs and liaisons on 8/31. Please refer to that guidance to ensure minimal delay on postings.
 - **SciPAC attendance:** Attendance will continue to be taken through either WebEx or email. Instructions are included in the monthly outlook invite and each agenda.
 - **Updated meeting invite:** A standing meeting invite for this operational year was sent out on 9/1. For those with a digest subscription to the Listserv, please access the NIH Listserv to get the outlook meeting invite. Note: only government email addresses (.gov/.mil) are allowed on the listserv. If you don't receive the invite or need additional assistance, please reach out to me.

- **Executive Liaison Report:** CDR Lana Rossiter
 - The COF Liaison position has transitioned to the Executive Liaison. Thank you to CDR Barbour for laying the foundation for this new position.
 - The Executive Liaison will support the Subcommittees and facilitate communication with the Executive Board. Full details of the role can be found in the SciPAC SOP posted on the SciPAC website.
 - The current SciPAC balance as of today is \$1,989.36; fundraising efforts are still on hold
 - Reminder to all Subcommittees, funds are available to support PAC activities. Contact CDR Lana Rossiter for details.
 - Please be aware that PAC activities that violate social distancing such as in-person socials will not be approved or funded at the moment. Other activities that adhere to these requirements may be funded but should be cleared prior to spending any funds.

- **Subcommittee Reports**
 - **Awards:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-Chairs: CDR James Kenney, LCDR Nancy Tian
 - Point of contact for officers who want to get involved: CDR Zewditu Demissie
 - We have no update on the Junior Scientist, Senior Scientist, and Mentor of the Year awards.
 - The Subcommittee leadership will be assigning roles in the coming weeks. CDR Demissie will be reaching out to all current Awards Subcommittee leads to assess opportunities to remain involved with the Subcommittee. We will also be looking for officers to fill any open positions. Interested officers should email CDR Demissie.

- **Career Development:** LCDR Tyann Blessington; Co-Chairs: LCDR Xinzhi Zhang, CDR Minglei Cui
 - We thank CDR Eric Zhou and LCDR Rory Geyer for their service as Co-Chairs during the 2019-2020 operational year. It was a pleasure to work with them. We have two new Co-Chairs for the 2020-2021 operational year, CDR Minglei Cui and LCDR Xinzhi Zhang. We look forward to another great and busy operational year.
 - **The Promotion Document Review Team**
 - The Promotion Document Review Team provides promotion document reviewing services to individual Scientist officers who are up for promotion. A call for volunteer CV/OS reviewers was issued on 8/10/2020. The Team has received 37 volunteers for the review service. Please consider serving as a volunteer and the Subcommittee will be sending out additional requests, as needed. We expect this will be highly sought service this year.
 - A call for officers, interested in having their CV/OS reviewed, was issued on 8/31/2020. We are asking officers up for promotion to submit their documents by 11/1/2020. If you have any questions on this process, please reach out to CDR Michelle Rodriguez.
 - **The Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Promotion Panel Initiative Team generates data-driven insight into factors that may relate to success or non-success of promotion-eligible Scientist officers. All officers promoted during promotion year 2019 and 2020 were sent invitations to complete a survey related to information included in their promotion packages. If you were sent an invitation to participate, we encourage you to complete the survey. It is designed to take approximately 15 minutes and we are hoping for 100% completion. All identifying information will be redacted and survey results will be used to develop meaningful metrics and information to assist Scientist officers in preparing competitive promotion packages. Previous analyses are on the SciPAC Career Development webpage. For more information, contact LCDRs Emily Ussery, Rory Geyer, and LT Sean Marcsisin.
 - **The Jobs List Team:** The Job List Team identifies, compiles, highlights, and distributes job/position announcements to aid current officers in securing new billets. The job list highlights the range of billet opportunities and should help those currently seeking a new billet as well as those interested in career progression and planning for the future. Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to LT Sean Marcsisin.
 - The Career Development Subcommittee is aware that some officers are facing challenges obtaining the benchmark requirement for *Contact Hours/Continuing Education Credits* and we are exploring ways to support officers' needs. Please reach out to the Subcommittee Chair and Co-chairs if you are in that situation, we would like to hear from you.
 - The Career Development Subcommittee is seeking motivated officers to serve in Team roles. Contact Subcommittee Chair and Co-chairs for more information.
- **Category Day:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-Chair: LCDR Rebecca Levine
 - We are excited to organize Category Day this year! While we are hoping for an in-person Symposium, we are committed to contingency planning so that Scientists can share in a virtual event if that is the only option. We welcome your ideas!

- We will be putting out a call for volunteers soon; please respond if you're interested in volunteering for the Category Day Subcommittee.
 - A huge thanks to CDR Dee and LCDR Ou for their leadership last year under very difficult circumstances. We look forward to building on their work from last year as we plan for this year's event.
- **Mentoring:** LCDR Ginny Bowen; Co-Chairs: LCDR Shayne Gallaway, LCDR Tyson Volkmann
- **Point of contact for officers who want to get involved:** LCDR Ginny Bowen
 - **Most recent meeting:** 8/24/2020, 11am ET
 - **Next meeting:** TBA
 - The Mentoring SC reports the following key accomplishments from operational year (OY) 2020:
 - 14% increase in mentor-mentee (matching) agreements over OY 2019
 - 21% increase in mentor-mentee agreement renewals over OY 2019
 - Dissemination of 3 mentoring publications to enhance mentorship quality
 - Completion of triennial SOP review
 - The Mentoring SC is re-structuring in OY 2020 around 3 key functional roles:
 - Recruiting Scientists to serve as mentors (includes further development of the CDR/CAPT Initiative & implementation of new guidance permitting senior O-4 officers to serve as official mentors)
 - Building the capacity of Scientists to provide high-quality mentorship to junior officers
 - Continuing to match mentors and mentees on a variety of factors and managing the agreement renewal process
 - Final team leadership decisions will be finalized in early September and announced during the October SciPAC meeting
- **Policy:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-Chair: LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Matthew Steele
Secretary: LCDR Elizabeth Irvin-Barnwell
- The Chair and co-Chairs would like to extend our thanks to all who served on the subcommittee last year and welcome our incoming members.
 - The Policy Subcommittee (SC) would like to welcome LCDR Jonathan Leshin as a new co-Chair of the Policy SC. LCDR Leshin has extensive leadership experience, including serving as the Chair of the Recruitment and Retention SC for the last 2 years.
 - For those new to SciPAC we would like to introduce our four teams for this OY:
 - Policy Watch – Maintains situational awareness of any policy and/or legislative changes that could affect Scientist Officers.
 - Policy Review – Reviews and informs Scientist Officers about the content of any proposed, new, or updated policies.
 - Policy Development – develops, suggests changes to, or updates policies relevant to Scientist Officers, at the request of the EB and CPO.
 - SOP Review – reviews and updates the Policy SC SOP every three years. This update will be due during the current OY.

- Any officers interested in serving on the Policy SC should contact CDR Adam Bjork, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, and LCDR Matthew Steele
- **Readiness:** CDR John Pesce; Co-Chair: LCDR Jorge Muñiz-Ortiz, LT Jason Caballero, LT Adelaida Rosario
 - Mission- To ensure the readiness and preparation for each and every Scientist Officer within the Commissioned Corps to respond to any and all public health emergencies as directed by Commissioned Corps Headquarters.
 - I am happy to announce that Lcdr Muñiz-Ortiz, LT Caballero and LT Rosario will assist in serving as Co-chairs.
 - We will be continuing to ensure that Scientists are meeting readiness standards but will also focus on ensuring that once you are out the door that you are prepared to succeed and lead while on deployment.
 - Additionally, we have some exciting plans for the upcoming year and are finalizing approval for these plans with Lcdr Wilken and CAPT Eckert
 - We are reshuffling our leadership this year so will need lots of help. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to CDR John Pesce and LCDR Jorge Muñiz-Ortiz, with your interest.
- **Recruitment and Retention:** LCDR Debra Chen; Co-Chairs: LCDR Alaine Knipes, LCDR Iman Martin
 - The Recruitment and Retention subcommittee is pleased to name Lcdr Iman Martin as the second subcommittee co-chair.
 - R&R Team leads have been finalized, with most leads staying on in their roles for this operational year. This will provide excellent continuity in our efforts from the previous operational year.
- **Rules and Membership:** CDR Deb Dee; Co-Chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Website Subcommittee SOP revision was approved in August.
- **Science:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-Chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - The 2019 SciPAC Bibliography is now posted on the SciPAC website highlighting over 450 publications and over 240 presentations by Scientist Officers in that year. Please visit this site to see some of the great work from our Scientist Officers.
 - LOAs for the prior calendar year are pending approval and dissemination.
 - Currently, the subcommittee is identifying rostering needs for the Science SC team. If you are interested in serving with us, please contact CDR Kamil Barbour.
- **Visibility:** LCDR Iram Hassan; Co-Chairs: LCDR Colleen Scott, LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles
 - Point of contact for officers who want to get involved: LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Colleen Scott, and LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul.
 - **Newsletter Team**

- In the process of completing the layout for the Summer edition and hope to share the newsletter in the upcoming weeks. Publication of this edition has been delayed due to deployments.
 - If you have any article ideas or any questions about the newsletter, please contact Editor-in-Chief LCDR Hilda Razzhaghi.
 - **Atlanta Socials Team:** In person social events are on hold.
 - Zoom SciPAC Social to be held in September, details to follow.
 - **DC Socials Team:** In person social events are on hold.
 - **The Manuscript Highlights Team:** High impact 2019 officer publications will be featured in the Summer edition of the newsletter and social media announcements are forthcoming.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - In August 2020, @PHS_Scientist tweeted/retweeted a total of 20 times, and generated 5,041 new impressions, 120 new engagements, 31 profile visits, and 50 new likes.
 - We added 2 new followers in August 2020 and now currently have 66 individual followers – for all scientist officers, if you’re not already, find us and follow us on Twitter at @PHS_Scientist.
 - **Facebook Team:** There are currently 157 Facebook members. If you aren’t already a member you can request membership here.
 - **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** Awaiting acceptance of AMSUS meeting abstract for a poster presentation.
 - **Conferences Team:** Activities are on hold.
 - **Fist Bump Team:**
 - New fist bump announcements will be featured in the summer newsletter.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the Visibility SC page. Please use this form to submit fist bumps (POC: LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephensen).
 - **SciPAC History Team:** Activities are on hold.
- **Website:** CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; Co-Chair: LCDR Xinzhi Zhang
 - The SC met on 8/13/2020 to review operational year accomplishments.
 - The draft Website Analytics Report was presented to the SC and will be finalized to share with SciPAC leadership.
 - Two major accomplishments to highlight:
 - Completion of 72 total Website Change Requests (some including changes to multiple pages and development of new webpages) 20% increase over last year although work was reduced due to pending updates to the website platform and the COVID-19 response.
 - Archived 240 files/website pages to ensure access to important documents, to provide a back-up information source in case of website failure, and to support SciPAC records management – archived on Max.gov
 - Website SC SOP

- Received feedback from the EB and Rules and Membership Subcommittee on 8/3/2020.
 - SC SOP Team led facilitated review in revisions within the SC – submitted revised final SOP to the Rules and Membership Subcommittee on August 19, 2020.
 - End of Operational Year Report: Submitted on 8/19/2020.
 - Transition Meeting: 8/31/2020
 - Immediate Next Steps:
 - Update the website to reflect new leadership.
 - Update the SC Roster – including outreach to SciPAC SC leadership for Website Liaisons for the 2020-2021 operational year.
 - Next Bimonthly SC Meeting: October 2020, TBD
- **Liaison Reports**
 - **COA: LCDR Folasade Kembi**
 - The COA continues to protect and advocate for the interests of the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
 - Please remember to renew your membership, if you have problems with on-line renewal, contact Donna Sparrow.
 - The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2020.
 - Please contact LCDR Folasade Kembi if you have concerns you need addressed by the board.
 - **PSYPAG: LCDR Debra Chen**
 - Nothing significant to report
 - **JOAG: LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson**
 - **Point of contact for officers who want to get involved: LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson**
 - **Most recent meeting:** Friday, 8/14/2020. JOAG Awards Presentation
 - **Next meeting:** 10/9/2020, Time: 1300 - 1400 EST, Call-in number: (712) 770-8020, Passcode: 860533
 - Congratulations to LCDR Galloway for receiving a JOAG Non-Voting Member of the Year award for his work with the Public Health and Community Service Committee.
 - Congratulations to CDR Bobo for receiving the Carmona Award.
 - Congratulations to LCDR Mathew for receiving the Junior Officer of the Year award
 - Welcome to our new Scientist Officer Voting Member (VM) for the Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) – LCDR Nazia Rahman (DoD Camp Pendleton, CA). JOAG advises the Surgeon General on problems affecting junior officers in the USPHS. LCDR Rahman was selected as an At-Large VM. At Large members do not have designated category requirements therefore she stood out and was selected amongst a group of highly competitive officers across all PHS categories. Currently there are a total of three Scientists officers serving as JOAG VM.
 - JOAG Virtual Meet and Greets via Zoom (3). Advanced Registration Required for all.

- Topic #1: “Overview of Corps Care Program, a resource for USPHS Officers”.
 - Location and Audience: Virtual - Tuba City, AZ. Open to all officers anywhere.
 - Date and Time: Thursday, 9/3/2020 at Time: 1:00 – 1:30PM (Mountain Time).
 - Contacts: [LT Terrin Ramsey](#)
 - Meeting Information: Zoom Meeting: [Link](#), ID 915 8705 3542, Password: 036966.
 - Topic #2: Promotion: Deep Thoughts, Strategy, and Preparing for a New Promotion Year
 - Location and Audience: Virtual – Rockville, MD. Open to all officers across multiple categories
 - Panel Speaker: [CDR John Pesce](#)
 - Date and Time: 9/16/2020, 1300-1400 ET
 - Contacts: [LCDR Gayle Tuckett](#) and [LT Ava Adams](#)
 - Meeting Information: Zoom meeting- [Link](#)
 - Topic #3: “The Presenter’s Meal” – Tips for presenters on preparing and sharing your story with the audience
 - Location and Audience: Virtual – Rockville, MD. Open to all officers.
 - Date and Time: 9/22/2020, 1200-1300 ET
 - Contacts: [LCDR Gayle Tuckett](#) and [LT Ava Adams](#)
 - Meeting Information: Zoom Meeting: [Link](#)
 - Visit the [JOAG Website](#) for more information
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
- **Point of contact for officers who want to get involved:** Luis.Iturriaga@ice.dhs.gov
 - **Most recent meeting:** 8/24/2020 @ 1000 HRS PST
 - **Next meeting:** 9/28/2020 @ 1000 HRS PST
 - Committees have been tasked with small, measurable activities that can be completed by the end of 2020. Individuals interested in supporting any of the committee activities, please reach out to the committee leads to find out how you can contribute.
 - SOAGDAG has shifted to force protection and allowing officers to shift to response activities without burdening officers with other non-response activities during this current situation. SOAGDAG is here for support of officers right now.
 - Meeting scheduled to review membership extensions for 2021 and finalization of nomination packet to be submitted to OSG for operational year 2021.
 - Workgroup reviewing Tobacco use among the LBGT community literature is wrapping up. Next step will be to use results to draft a PowerPoint presentation for SOAGDAG use.
 - SOAGDAG Bylaws review will be performed by CDR Kosko and LCDR High. Will provide any items that need addressed to the EC. This will also put us in a good place for next operational year as they Bylaws need to be reviewed and ratified by the SOAGDAG voting members in 2021.
 - Communications committee is working on re-branding of communications materials to match the templates approved by OSG.

- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - **Point of contact for officers who want to get involved:** LCDR Marissa Zwald.
 - **Last CCWIAB meeting:** Wednesday, 5/6/2020 (June, July, and August meetings were canceled due to COVID-19 deployments)
 - **Next CCWIAB meeting:** Wednesday, 9/2/2020
 - CCWIAB developed recommendations for consideration by CCHQ to better support female officers deployed for COVID-19, including addressing challenges related to safety while deployed and returning home from a deployment, improving supports for female officers experiencing unique dependent care responsibilities, and supporting female officers on pregnancy or breastfeeding waivers navigate deployment requests. This document is currently under full CCWIAB review.
 - Several resource guides and policy proposals developed by CCWIAB are still awaiting release, pending upcoming review and guidance from CCHQ.
 - As a reminder, you do not have to be a board member to participate in committee activities therefore, if you are interested in joining a CCWIAB committee or if you have any questions about CCWIAB, please contact LCDR Zwald, or visit CCWIAB's website. CCWIAB committees include:
 - Pregnancy Committee
 - Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee
 - Health and Wellness Committee
 - Website Committee
 - Outreach and Membership Committee

- **PACE:** CDR Erika Odom
 - PACE has received approval from OSG to carry out approved presentations (on max.gov) virtually with community partners. Please run your initial opportunities through PACE leadership to make sure it meets the criteria for a PACE lesson.
 - PACE received official endorsement from the OSG for our Chief of Staff and Executive Chair Positions during the month of August.
 - Please congratulate LCDR Jonathan Leshin (Scientist) as the new Executive Chair and LCDR Shiny Mathew (Scientist) as the new Chief of Staff for PACE.
 - You can join the National PACE listserv and participate in national meetings; or look up the National PACE Website; Twitter: @USPHS_PACE; Instagram: USPHS_PAC
 - Most recent meeting August, 13 2020
 - Next meeting 10/8/2020 at 1400 EST. Webex details will be forthcoming. Please contact CDR Erika Odom if you'd like to join.

- **Closing Remarks:** LCDR Jason Wilken

NOTE: Next meeting **Tuesday**, 10/6/2020 @ 1200–1300 EDT