

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN OFFICERS COMMITTEE

Office of the Surgeon General
United States Public Health Service
Minutes of the Emergency Meeting
April 2nd, 2008

I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME:

Teleconference only; April 2nd, 2008; 1000 – 1125.

II. ATTENDANCE:

A. Voting Members

| # | RANK | NAME | 3/19 |
|-----|------|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | CAPT | Sarath Seneviratne | ✓ |
| 2. | CAPT | Joannie Shen | ✓ |
| 3. | CDR | David Kim | ✓ |
| 4. | CDR | Paul Jung | ✓ |
| 5. | CDR | Rita Shapiro | Absent |
| 6. | LCDR | B. Nhi Beasley | ✓ |
| 7. | LCDR | Chauha Pham | ✓ |
| 8. | LCDR | Christina Thompson | ✓ |
| 9. | LCDR | Mei-Ying Li | ✓ |
| | LCDR | Parmjeet Saini Non-Voting | ✓ |
| 10. | LCDR | Paul Kitsutani | ✓ |
| 11. | LCDR | Quynh Nguyen | ✓ |
| 12. | LCRD | Ruby Lerner | ✓ |
| 13. | LCDR | Ryan Nguyen | ✓ |
| 14. | LCDR | Sally Hu | ✓ |
| 15. | CDR | Sianat Kamal | ✓ |
| 16. | LT | Nazmul Hassan | Absent |

III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS:

A. ALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order on April 2nd, 2008 at 1000 hours by LCDR Ryan Nguyen

B. MEMBER ROLL CALL:

LCDR Christian Thompson called role. A quorum was met.

IV Issues to discuss:

- A) Vote of no- Confidence and Appointment of New Chair and Vice-Chair: LCDR Ryan Nguyen said that today's emergency meeting is a follow up to our March 19th meeting to discuss the status of resignation from CDR Shapiro Rita and CDR David Kim. Also, share recent concern from voting members as they are asking for a resignation from our Chair LCDR Sally Hu.
- LCDR Gregory Davis from the OSG will assist APAOC. LCDR Davis role is to provide guidance to APAOC for sustainability. LCDR mentioned that the Charter does not dictate impeachment or voting on lack of leadership. Therefore, we can get documentation from voting members to support their claim that APAOC chair is not an effective leader and what role and responsibilities are not met during her leadership role. He emphasized that LCDR Sally Hu had done a fine job.
 - LCDR Sally Hu mentioned the following:

It has been a very difficult time for all of us at APAOC and I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding. In figuring out on what is best for APAOC, I like to share the following with you because, as painful as it was to us, I did learn much during the last month.

 1. Initially, I apologize for the way I ended the meeting on March 19 at 1:15 pm since I had a scheduled meeting at 1:30 pm and I was in charge of the meeting. I was late for the meeting and the lawyer charged us \$500 per hour from 1:30 pm. I should have forewarned you all instead of just cutting the meeting, when I absolutely had to go.
 2. I also apologize that I did not reply to all emails from March 20 since I had two medical emergencies during past two weeks.
 3. I am asking our team members not to leave. I have discussed with CAPT Sarath Seneviratne so that he could lead APAOC while I learn and help as a Co-Chair. APAOC can be stronger through these incidents because we all are learning how to work together and how to work out disagreements.
 4. Unity of APAOC is my first concern. I truly believe and I am grateful that every voting member has the best interests of APAOC in mind and we should be proud of what we are doing to make things work.
 5. APAOC has accomplished a lot. We can overcome the problems, work out the differences, clarify the misunderstandings and move on.
 6. I am aware that some voting members' concerns. My intention always is to do good thing for APACO and like everybody else, I am in a learning curve. My ambition is to continue improving on related fields.

At the end, LCDR Hu emphasized that it was critical that, as volunteer officers appointed by our SG, we move forward and do our best for APAOC and the Commissioned Corps.

- LCDR Quynh Nguyen asked LCDR HU what her vision is on decision making process with her proposed role of Co-Chair
- LCDR Sally Hu said that she will learn from CAPT Seneviratne, APAOC have to take lead to represent the organization for recruitment, we should provide opportunities to voting members for leadership, improve communication among voting members and general members, and I will pay more attention to voting members point of view and at the same time learn from CAPT Seneviratne.
- CDR David Kim shared his concerns and said that he was regretful to see things come this way. Some are aware of the issues between LCDR Sally Hu and him. He proposed that there should be a change in leadership. He mentioned that his feeling is that LCDR Sally Hu should step down from Chair and learn the process not as an elected official. LCDR Hu should act as a voting member.
- LCDR Davis emphasized that there is no mechanism to remove the Chair and it is not up to CDR David Kim to remove LCDR Sally HU. It should be up to LCDR HU what she wants to decide about her next step.
- CDR David Kim mentioned that he did not see how we can move forward if Sally Hu act as a co-chair.
- LCDR Ryan Nguyen mentioned that there is no unity in APAOC and he did not believe and see how it could work as CAPT Seneviratne as Chair and LCDR Sally as Co-Chair.
- LCDR Quynh Nguyen mentioned that she agrees with LCDR Ryan and David Kim. I don't think how this unity can be gained during the decision making process.
- LCDR Davis advised Sally Hu not to step down and it is totally up to her to step down or not.
- CAPT Astrid Szeto mentioned that LCDR Sally Hu should step down to Co-Chair and CAPT Seneviratne be Chair.
- CAPT Seneviratne agreed with CDR Davis's suggestions.
- LCDR B. Nhi Beasley mentioned that LCDR Sally Hu should get consent from executive committee members for decisions, and she agreed with previous comments concerning the decision making process.
- LCDR Quynh Nguyen mentioned to LCDR Sally Hu that which proposal she had discussed with voting members.
- LCDR Sally Hu mentioned that she discussed the proposal with everyone and I send an e-mail regarding this issue.
- LCDR Ryan Nguyen mentioned that Co-Chair has equal rights as chair and asked LCDR Sally Hu how she will view her role as a Co-Chair.
- LCDR Sally Hu mentioned that she would need time to learn the process. CAPT Seneviratne will take the lead for decision making and I will learn from him. CAPT Seneviratne mentioned that he will be glad to provide support to move the APAOC forward.
- CDR David Kim said what would be the difference between Co-Chair and Chair.
- LCDR Sally Hu mentioned it will be an opportunity to learn from this process.
- LCDR Dianne Paraoan mentioned that she was the chair last year and she noticed that role of Co-Chair shared all the responsibilities. The way she see LCDR Sally Hu as Co-Chair is learning from CAPT Seneviratne is not what the voting members are asking for. She mentioned that the voting members are asking for LCDR Hu's separation from

APAOC to meet the goals and objective of this organization. She mentioned that she should step down as a leader in the organization.

- Capt Seneviratne indicated that Co-Chair and Chair will act together and it should be great opportunity for LCDR Sally HU.
- LCDR Christina Thompson asked LCDR Davis' opinion on vote of confidence.
- LCDR Davis said the Vote of Confidence would be a formalize record of opinion regarding this matter and would aid LCDR Hu in her decision to continue as APAOC Chair.. The voting members decided to vote by taking yes/no vote and the majority votes indicated that LCDR Sally Hu should step down. However, LCDR Sally Hu can ignore the vote and can still remain as Chair.
- CDR Sheila Merriweather who is Chair of MOLC 2008 indicated that APAOC is essential part of MOLC and plays a vital role to build communication with the Office of Surgeon General of the USPHS and she encourage to continue to the organization.

V Closing remarks / Adjournment: LCDR Ryan Nguyen and other members agreed that the entire voting member should e-mail LCDR Dianne Paraoane or CDR Soju Chang a vote of confidence for LCDR Sally HU to be the Chair of APAOC

- Our meeting adjourned at 1305 EST.

Respectfully submitted by:

LCDR Parmjeet S. Saini Date: 5/12 /2008
Executive Secretary

LCDR Sally Hu Date: 5/12/2008
Chair

CAPT Sarath Seneviratne 5/16/2008
Vice-chair