

**JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)**  
 UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



**JOAG General Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, April 9, 2010 1300-1500 EST**  
**CALL IN NUMBER: 800-857-2603; PASSCODE: 9479205**

**I. Roll Call**

**LCDR Jamie Mutter:**

Voting Membership					
Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV	Category
✓	LCDR	Bair-Brake	Heather	CDC	Veterinarian
✓	LCDR	Ball	Harvey	DHS	Therapist
✓	LCDR	Bell	Carlos	FDA	HSO
✓	LCDR	Constantine	Amy	FDA	HSO
✓	LT	Coriz	Christina	NIH	HSO
✓	LCDR	Dailey	Alex	IHS	Engineer
✓	LCDR	Denkinger	Blakeley	FDA	Dietitian
✓	LCDR	Feda	Jessica	BOP	Therapist
Excused Absence	CDR	Glover	Maleeka	CDC	Scientist
✓	LCDR	Janisko	Thomas	ASPR	HSO
✓	LCDR	Kozlosky	Merel	NIH	Dietitian
✓	LCDR	Maycock	Brett	DHS	HSO
✓	LCDR	Mody	Rajal	CDC	Physician
✓	LCDR	Mutter	Jamie	CDC	EHO
✓	LCDR	Ngo	Diem-Kieu	FDA	Pharmacist
✓	LCDR	Palmer	Corey	HRSA	HSO
✓	LCDR	Rice	Morrisa	HRSA	HSO
✓	LT	Taxera	Martin	IHS	Nurse
✓	LCDR	Toblin	Robin	BOP	Scientist
✓	LCDR	Waples	Yvette	FDA	Pharmacist
✓	LT	Williams	Scott	IHS	Dentist

**II. LCDR Kyle Lyons - Health Reform Bill**

- On March 23, 2010, the Health Reform Bill was signed into law.
- Every officer was converted to Regular Corps status
- There are some officers who may not immediately be transferred over to Regular Corps status: officers with pending adverse actions, medical waivers, etc.
- A letter is currently being drafted to the White House listing all the officers' names that were on active duty at the time and were not Regular Corps, but were instantly converted. Even though the law changed, those officers still have to have a Presidential recommendation and appointment by the President to the Senate for confirmation.
- The following provision will not affect Corps officers - TriCare provision about other non uniformed service members who have insurance that prolong the state that family members are

dependent up to the age of 26 may be extending on that person's healthcare as a dependable child. However, TriCare is not going to participate and there is no plan to extend insurance coverage past 21 or 23 if they are in college, for dependents of PHS Officers.

- With the conversion of officers to Regular Corps status, it has placed many junior and senior CoSteps and some new CADs into a legal gray zone. If they were called to active duty after March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there are questions as to what their status is. As of last week, the Commissioned Corps is not accepting any new CAD and all pending CAD are on hold.
- The law creates the Ready Reserve status. The wording of the bill is very vague as it states that the ready reserve will back up the other uniformed services.
- HHS Office of General Counsel has not yet made a decision on what this means for the Corps.
- As of now, there will be no change in T grade or P grade being reverted or changed to anything else.
- Another big issue with all officers transitioning to Regular Corps is that the 3 year probationary period may possibly start on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for all officers. This has not officially been put into policy at this time. The Corps does not want to have unfit officers that do not meet the standard of the service to remain in the Corps.
- For those who weren't Regular Corps officers prior to March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there is a Constructive Service Credit. For Corps officers who have some sort of prior job experience, for example if you are a medical officer and you practiced outside of the service before joining the Corps, you have specific training and education that is not credited. Once you become a Regular Corps officer, once that time period reaches over ten years, you can deploy a constructive credit for pay purposes. For example, if you are a physician, O-4, and you were a private practice physician for 10-15 years prior to joining the Corps, that T&E will kick in for pay purposes. You would theoretically be an O4 with 5 years, but that T&E or constructive credit may make you eligible for pay at 12-14 years.
- LCDR Ngo asked officers on the line to email any questions they may have for LCDR Lyons to LCDR Ngo. She will then compile the questions and send to LCDR Lyons.
- Question: With this new conversion to Regular Corps, do officers need to worry about putting a package together for Assimilation?  
Answer: Unofficially, LCDR Lyons said that he believes that officers do not need to prepare an assimilation package.
- Question: JOAG currently has documents that mention Assimilation. Do you recommend we remove that language from our documents?  
Answer: LCDR Lyons recommended highlighting the information, but not necessarily remove the Assimilation references at this time.
- Question: With the new hold on CAD, how is this communicated to the hiring officials, Agencies and potential new officers? What kind of messaging is being done?  
Answer: All the senior hiring officials have been briefed on the hiring freeze.
- Question: How will this affect this year's promotions process?  
Answer: LCDR Lyons does not believe it will have any effect because most of the promotion boards had already begun prior to March 23, 2010.

### III. Executive Committee Reports

<b>Ex-Officio Report</b>
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**CDR Maleeka Glover**

- No report submitted

## **Chair Report**

**LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo**

- Congratulations to our very own LCDR Jessica Feda who has been selected as one of this year's recipients of the RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu (KPM) Award. The KPM Award recognizes junior PHS officers assigned to the BOP, who embodies the spirit of former Acting Surgeon General RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, through demonstrated initiative and determination in recruiting health services professionals to the BOP and PHS. Two awards are selected each year. We are all very proud of LCDR Feda!
- Reminder: there will not be a General Meeting in June since we will have a special General Meeting on Sunday May 23 at 6 PM PST in San Diego in conjunction with the COF Symposium. An agenda and dial in number (for officers not attending the conference) will be sent out to the JOAG listserv once the details are finalized.
- The EC has finished reviewing the nominations for the JOAG representative on the Training and Career Development Steering Committee; the top two names will be forwarded to CAPT Freund with the top name being our selected rep and the second name being our selected alternative rep.
- A mass email was sent out a few weeks ago to all supervisors of Corps officers regarding the upcoming billets collection as part of the Billets Transformation; please check with your supervisors to ensure they received this email.
- PY2011 Category Benchmarks are posted on the CCMIS website; please review them and forward questions to your PACs/CPOs.
- Thank you LCDR Thiep Vo and LCDR Yvette Waples for setting up the conference room and polycom at 5630 Fishers Lane with short notice today as we had to evacuate the SG Conference Room at 5600 Fishers Lane.

## **Vice Chair Report**

**LCDR Blakeley Denkinger**

- No update at this time.

## **Chair-Elect Report**

**LCDR Carlos Bell**

- No update at this time.

## **Financial Liaison Report**

**LCDR Alex Dailey**

- Status of the account is unchanged at \$2,132.93. Awaiting confirmation of submission of two checks to be sent to COA, which should total \$165.
- Awaiting submission of funding requests for USPHS Symposium activities.
- Received and approved one funding request for a new voice recorder for JOAG meetings; awaiting submission of receipt.
- Awaiting guidance from the C&P Committee on submission of content for the EC page on the JOAG website.

## Executive Secretary Report

### LCDR Jamie Mutter

- There were 60 non-voting members on the call last February. Thank you for calling in.

### III. Committee and Liaison Reports

#### Committee & Workgroup Reports

##### Awards Committee: LCDR Merel Kozlosky & LCDR Morrissa Rice

- The most recent Awards Committee meeting took place on 5 APR and the next meeting will take place on 3 MAY. The Awards Committee meetings will take place on the first Monday of each month at 1200 EST unless a different announcement is made.
- The JOAG Awards Call for Nominations was advertised from December through February. We received a total of 40 nominations, including 26 for the Junior Officer of the Year Award, 9 for the JOAG Excellence Awards, and 5 for the VADM Richard Carmona Award. We finalized our redaction process for the nominations and are now reviewing the nominations. We expect to submit the JOAG recommendation for the award recipients to the Office of the Surgeon General for concurrence on 23 APR. The JOAG Chair will announce the award recipients at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium this May in San Diego.
- The Awards Process Subcommittee will begin work once the JOAG award selections have been made and we are able to reflect on the awards process. An After-Action Report will be written.
- JOAG Voting Members' activity logs were reviewed and 18 Voting Members were found to be eligible to be recognized with a Special Assignment Award at this time. A recommendation package for these Special Assignment Awards is expected to be submitted to the Office of the Surgeon General soon.
- The JOAG Awards Co-Chairs submitted two proposed service awards for review by the JOAG EC for approval to send forth to the OSG for adoption. One proposed award is the United States Public Health Service Longevity of Service Award which rewards officers for their service time. The other proposed award is the United States Public Health Service Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal which recognizes officers who have performed outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct, and consequential nature.
  - LCDR Ngo mentioned getting these two awards through the EC, OCCFM, and OSG will be a long process.
  - LCDR Lyons provided some financial insight on the awards process. He mentioned that an individual award ranges from \$10,000 - \$12,000 per medal. He stated that the funding is not there for creating new awards which require medals.
  - LCDR Rice asked LCDR Lyons if JOAG should still go ahead with these two awards even though the funding is not there.
  - LCDR Lyons said that he would not say to stop working on the awards, but he believes that funding will be an issue.
- The JOAG Awards Committee has formed an Awards Guidance Ad-hoc Subcommittee which will work on finalizing a document guiding officers and their supervisors through the USPHS awards process. Our goal is to post this document on the JOAG website and have it serve as a resource to encourage USPHS award nominations for junior officers. The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2010 and it will be lead by LCDR Deidre Washington.
- A Junior Officer Recognition Ad-hoc Subcommittee is being formed. This subcommittee plans to poll the PACs and other advisory groups to determine what recognition efforts for junior officers are currently in place. The subcommittee will then work on increasing the opportunities for junior

officer recognition within these groups. If you are interested on serving on this subcommittee, please contact LTJG Heitmeier.

- The JOAG Awards Co-Chairs reviewed the committee SOP and made recommendations for updates.

#### **COF Planning Committee: LCDR Heather Bair-Brake and LT Scott Williams**

- JOAG General Meeting and Meet and Greet will take place on Sunday evening, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm PST in the following conference rooms: Seabreeze 1&2. The room capacity of the two rooms is 150 theatre style seating. The Program Coordination Subcommittee will be putting together the gift bags for all the attendees of the Meet and Greet. Food will not be offered this year. There has not been confirmation of a conference line at this time.
- The JOAG Social will take place at Quinn's restaurant and bar within the hotel on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> following the Run/Walk at 8:00pm. All officers are invited to attend.
- Flyers were created for the JOAG Social and will be included on the Symposium website and in the JOAG Spring newsletter.
- The Volunteer Subcommittee is ready and waiting to solicit volunteers for the conference. We have been told to expect a higher need for volunteers this year because of possible lower attendance but none have been requested of our committee so far.
- The Registration Subcommittee is also ready to assist at the Symposium if needed but has not been called upon yet.
- The SOP Subcommittee has edited our SOP to align with the current JOAG guidelines.
- Presentation of JOAG awards at COF conference – Tim O'Neill said that the JOAG Junior Officer of the Year Award could not be presented during the Wednesday luncheon. LCDR Ngo stated that she would like to present the Junior Officer of the Year Award and the Carmona Inspiration Award at the luncheon and asked LCDR Bair-Brake to follow up with Tim O'Neill to inquire why this was changed and request that JOAG present these two awards during the Wednesday luncheon.

#### **Communications & Publications Committee (CPC): LT Christina Coriz**

- JOAG Journal: The Editor Subcommittee met March 17, 2010 to discuss distribution of the Winter Journal and the Spring Journal. There were six articles submitted for the Spring Journal. The Spring issue is currently under final approvals. There will be a mini tribute to the late LT Nathan Anderson, to include contributions from officers (1-2 sentences) of memories or words to share on his behalf. Any pictures are also welcomed. Contributions are due to LTJG Tracy Tilghman by Thursday, April 15, 2010. The tentative distribution date of the Spring issue is mid-late April. Please note, the call for articles for the Summer Issue will be distributed via the JOAG Listserv after April. Please contact LT Coriz, [corizc@nidk.nih.gov](mailto:corizc@nidk.nih.gov) or LTJG Tilghman [Tracy.Tilghman@foh.hhs.gov](mailto:Tracy.Tilghman@foh.hhs.gov) if you have any questions about the JOAG Journal.
- JOAG Website: The JOAG website continues to be updated on a regular basis. To view the most recent updates and the Winter JOAG Journal, please visit the JOAG website at <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/>. JOAG Committee Webpage creation leads should be preparing the information for the JOAG Website Committee Pages. An email was distributed to all the JOAG Committee Chairs on March 9, 2010 with guidance on the committee webpage creation project.
- A question was asked if JOAG Workgroups will be able to add information to the website. LCDR Ngo mentioned that the Workgroups are not fully established yet in regards to a charter and a webpage for those Workgroups has not been discussed at this time. In the meantime, information on those Workgroups will be found under the EC webpage.
- Updates for the JOAG Brochure was completed and submitted to the Executive Committee for review on March 1, 2010
- Updates for the JOAG Presentation was completed and submitted to the Executive Committee for review on March 1, 2010.
- Updates for the Uniform Slides were completed and submitted to the Executive Committee for review on March 25, 2010.

- JOAG Recordings: CPC has received approval to purchase a second recording device for JOAG Meetings/Sessions. The second recording device will be maintained and used by the CPC Chair in the event our JOAG Recorder is unavailable. Miss a meeting? Please contact our JOAG Recorder LT Hiren Patel, Patel, [hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov), to request a copy of JOAG meetings.
- Next Meeting: April 21, 2010 at 14:00 – 15:00 PM EST. The focus of our meeting will be the JOAG Website.

**Development Committee: LCDR Thomas Janisko**

- Currently compiling a list of volunteers for the COF conference.
- Merchandise selection for the COF conference has been completed.

**Inter-Services Collaboration Committee: LCDR Brett Maycock**

- The TAPs Subcommittee is looking for someone to take the lead on future projects. LCDR David Lau has indicated that he will act in a supporting capacity (Co-Lead) to any officer interested in taking on the Lead position. If interested, please contact LCDR Brett Maycock at [Brett.Maycock@dhs.gov](mailto:Brett.Maycock@dhs.gov) or LCDR David Lau at [David.Lau@dhs.gov](mailto:David.Lau@dhs.gov).
- The Community Services Subcommittee and its officers in the Atlanta region have put together a proposal to partner with Fort McPherson/Fort Gillem's Child and Youth Services Center in providing 3-5 PHS officer volunteers to support a Fishing Rodeo, at Stephens Lake, Fort Gillem, Georgia. The Fishing Rodeo targets children aged 12 and under in a half day of fishing fun. The event will take place from 0800 – 1200 on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Officers that volunteer for this event will wear a modified uniform: PHS T-shirt and ball cap. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact LT Matthew Weinburke, [gmql@cdc.gov](mailto:gmql@cdc.gov).
- The Community Services Subcommittee and its officers in the Atlanta region partnered with Fort McPherson/Fort Gillem's Child and Youth Services Center in providing 4 PHS officer volunteers to support the annual Spring Fest, at Fort McPherson, Georgia. The Spring Fest PHS volunteers were responsible for assisting with setup, clean-up, food service, and any assistance/direction to the children during their half day of the Spring Fest event. Activities at the event included games, educational tables/exhibits, inflatable bouncers/jumpers, and an egg hunt. This event took place on April 3, 2010, from 1000 – 1400 at the Hedekin Parade Field, Fort McPherson, Georgia. The Inter-Services Collaboration Committee would like to thank the following officers for their participation:
  - LT Christye Brown, FDA
  - LT Andrea McCollum, CDC
  - LT Hai Lien T. Phung, FDA
  - LTJG Dana Robison, CDC
- The Community Services Subcommittee has put together a proposal to partner with the US Air Force (USAF) and US Navy (USN) to support a Potomac River Cleanup, on Bolling Air Force Base, in the Washington D.C. area. PHS volunteers will help remove debris from the shoreline of the Potomac River in the area around the Bolling Air Force Base. The cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 0800 to 1200. Officers that volunteer for this event will wear a modified uniform: PHS T-shirt and ball cap. To date, 22 officers and 10 civilians have signed up to participate in this event.
- Adopt-a-Battalion – we have collected two bags of items so far.
- The next Inter-Services Collaboration Committee meeting will be held on May 11, 2010, from 11:30 – 12:30 EST.

**Membership Committee: LCDR Robin Toblin**

- Twenty-one junior officers submitted applications for JOAG voting membership. The current voting members are reviewing the applications. We aim to announce the selectees by the end of May. Thank you to members of the committee who helped format applications and verify PHS activities.
- The CAD Anniversary project is underway and had its first meeting yesterday. Thanks to LTJG Brittany Laymon for her leadership in this new endeavor.

- Four meet and greets are being held Friday, April 9th in Seattle, New York, Atlanta and DC. Thanks to LT Eva McLanahan for her excellent organizational skills in coordinating the events.
- Our Webpage Subcommittee held its first meeting, lead by LT Carla Tuite. They are focusing on collecting content for the webpage at this time.

### **Policy and Procedures Committee (P&P): LCDR Carlos Bell**

- “Take a Junior Officer to Work” (TJOW) Subcommittee:
  - Lead: LCDR Robyn Bent: ([rbent@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rbent@mail.nih.gov))
  - The subcommittee is currently working on analyzing and creating a summary of the results from the TJOW Survey. Summary will be shared with the committee and then submitted to the EC to determine next steps.
- Charter Subcommittee
  - Lead: LT Aaron Long: ([Aaron.Long@ihs.gov](mailto:Aaron.Long@ihs.gov))
  - The Subcommittee has updated the JOAG Charter and is currently with the EC for review. After it has been approved by the EC, it will be submitted to the Office of the Surgeon General for final approval.
- Bylaws Subcommittee
  - Lead: LT Damon Smith: ([Damon.Smith@hhs.gov](mailto:Damon.Smith@hhs.gov))
  - The Bylaws Subcommittee has recommended 9 updates to the JOAG Bylaws. Pending minor revision, the Bylaws will be sent to the EC for initial review and then submitted to the JOAG Voting Members for approval.
- Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) Subcommittee
  - Lead: LCDR Tammy White: ([Tammy.White@hhs.gov](mailto:Tammy.White@hhs.gov))
  - The reformatted SOPs were sent to each Committee Chair and their EC representative.
  - The Subcommittee will be sending each Committee a reminder 2 weeks and 3 days before their given deadline. The deadlines for the return of the SOPs were staggered throughout the month of April and May. If you are unable to make the deadline, please let LCDR White know so that the Subcommittee can plan accordingly.
  - If you have any questions about your committee’s responsibilities or procedures, please contact your EC representative.
  - LCDR Ngo requested that the EC liaison for each committee review the SOP changes before it is forwarded to the full EC for review.
  - LCDR Bell asked that if any committee needs more time, please let him know so he can adjust the schedule.
- Website Subcommittee
  - Lead: LCDR Shary Jones: ([shary.jones@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:shary.jones@cms.hhs.gov))
  - Our Committee’s website is near completion and we hope to have it up and running by the end of May.
- The JOAG Strategic Plan “ad-hoc” Subcommittee
  - Lead: LT Christopher M. Jones: ([Christopher.jones@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Christopher.jones@fda.hhs.gov))
  - The Subcommittee is working on updating the JOAG Strategic Plan. It has taken a bit longer than we initially expected, but we hope to have a solid draft to the EC by the end of this month.
- Member Satisfaction Survey “ad-hoc” Subcommittee
  - Lead: LCDR Djenaba Joseph: ([dvk5@cdc.gov](mailto:dvk5@cdc.gov))
  - The Subcommittee is in the final stages of creating the Member Satisfaction Survey. Once finalized, the survey will be sent out on the JOAG Listserv and used to solicit feedback from junior officers.

### **Professional Development Committee (PD): LCDR Harvey Ball & LCDR Rajal Mody**

- The Career Pyramid has been submitted to the EC with the PD Committee’s final edits.
- Journeyman Series call on March 13, 2010 – RADM Milner speaking on billet creep. There were over 100 officers on the call.

- The next Journeyman Series call will be on May 14, 2010: Balancing OPDIV Position with Officership.
- Uniform Inspection Booth at the COF Symposium – making final preparations for the booth.
- The reading list will be discussed next week during the PD Committee conference call.
- May 6, 2010 – Q&A Session on the new COER format. LCDR Ngo asked if we have a conference line set up for this session. LCDR Ball stated that they do not have a conference line as of now, but they will work on acquiring a line.
- Next PD committee meeting: planned for 13 April 1030 - 1130 EST, (Dial-in Number: 712-451-6175, Access code: 911718)

### **Recruitment & Retention Committee (R&R): LCDR Jessica Feda and LCDR Corey Palmer**

- The Recruitment and Retention Committee currently has six primary groups that are categorized as a subcommittee, program or initiative: the COSTEP Connection Program, Career Fairs Information Subcommittee, Publications Subcommittee, Alumni Contacts Initiative, TAPs Initiative and the Online Career Resources Initiative.
- The Recruitment and Retention Committee's leadership is as follows:  
**Co-Chairs:** LCDR Corey Palmer and LCDR Jessica Feda  
**Secretary:** LTJG Brittany Laymon  
**Committee Recorder:** LT Chinyelum Umejei  
**Committee Website Coordinator:** LTJG Daveta Bailey  
**COSTEP Connection Program Lead:** LCDR Tara Cozzarelli and LT Joel Hustedt  
**Career Fairs Information Subcommittee Lead:** LCDR John Kathol  
**Recruitment and Retention Publications Subcommittee Lead:** LT Shani Smith  
**Alumni Contact Initiative:** LT Liatte Krueger  
**Online Career Resources Initiative Lead:** LT Romerl Elizes and LT Sherene Brown Cora  
**TAPs Initiative Lead:** LCDR David Lau (In Transition)
- R&R Committee Mission: To increase the number of junior officers within the commissioned corps.
- **Missions and updates:**
  - The COSTEP Connection Program is a well-established subcommittee that coordinates junior officer volunteers to serve as additional points of contact for junior COSTEPs. By contacting and providing additional support for COSTEPs we strive to provide information highlighting the benefits of pursuing the Public Health Service as a future career option. This program is not designed to take the place of category mentorship or individual preceptors; instead the program promotes networking and offers COSTEPs an additional contact through which they can learn more about the Public Health Service. In addition, this subcommittee is working on a proposal in collaboration with DCCR to initiate a recruiting program designed to contact COSTEP non-selects. Contacting those individuals who were not offered a COSTEP position (but were qualified) could greatly increase targeted recruitment efforts within a population that has already expressed sincere interest in the Commissioned Corps. Currently the COSTEP Non-Select Proposal is undergoing its final review with DCCR and then will return to the JOAG Executive Committee for approval. The COSTEP Connection Program is underway and a call for COSTEP preceptors/mentors was sent out.
  - The Career Fairs List Subcommittee serves to identify inexpensive or free career fairs across the country that interested officers may attend to provide recruiting materials and information to those interested in a career with the Public Health Service. Throughout the university school year this subcommittee compiles lists of career fairs and disseminates these through the JOAG listserv. In addition, this subcommittee has devised a guide to assist interested officers in providing a thorough and informed recruiting event. The April 2010 Career Fairs list is now available on the JOAG website. They have updated a Career Resources Guide that offers information on how to recruit successfully at a career fair. The Guide is undergoing review by DCCR and will be available upon request very soon.

- The Alumni Contact Initiative is a grass roots effort to provide a cost-effective and simple means for officers to contact individuals from their alumni program while providing a personal message detailing the benefits of joining the Commissioned Corps. The Alumni Contact Program has devised templates for each category detailing Commissioned Corps benefits that are easy to modify to personalize within an email or letter to their contacts within their alumni university program. Contacts may include career counselors, student leadership, and departmental staff. Currently, DCCR is applying the Commissioned Corps “branding” to the templates and the JOAG Executive Committee is reviewing a proposal paper detailing the initiation of this project. The Program will likely begin as a pilot within the R&R Committee and expand through JOAG and hopefully to each of the PACs.
- The Online Career Resources Initiative is looking to provide Public Health Service informational advertisements on discipline-specific online sites. This Initiative recently elected new co-leads and is working to gather demographics on free discipline specific websites. Once the list is complete, they will work with DCCR to share information and brand an advertisement that can be placed on each of the websites on their list. This Initiative is currently developing a comprehensive list of discipline-specific and free websites.
- The R&R Publications Subcommittee strives to publish articles on recruiting updates within the Public Health Service and also focuses on efforts within the R&R committee. Articles are published in the JOAG Journal. This subcommittee is currently working on a series of articles highlighting the current recruiting process and recent enhancements of the process. They will be publishing three upcoming articles: how to become an associate recruiter within the new associate recruiter program, how to recruit and be successful, and the process for recruiting COSTEPS for available Commissioned Corps vacancies.
- The TAPS Initiative is a collaborative effort between two of JOAG’s Committees: the Inter-Services Committee and the R&R Committee. This initiative hopes to provide recruiting efforts and informational materials and/or sessions to those personnel who are exiting from other uniformed services. The Transition Assistance Programs (TAPS) are required programs for each service member who has chosen to exit their given service. The TAPS Initiative has to date identified those posts which offer TAPS services and are willing to have Public Health Service officers either present or provide Commissioned Corps information. They are currently refining a proposal effectuating the TAPS recruiting program.
- **Other updates:**
  - In the near future, the JOAG Recruitment and Retention Committee will be sponsoring a presentation by Senior Recruitment Specialist, CDR Thomas Pryor, on “Current Recruitment Updates within the Commissioned Corps”.
- **Items Pending Review:**
  - COSTEP Survey : Being reviewed by the JOAG Executive Committee
  - COSTEP Non-Select Proposal: Completing edits from DCCR to send to CAPT Coppola
  - Alumni Contacts Proposal: Submitted to the JOAG Executive Committee for review
  - Career Fairs Resources Guide: Being reviewed by DCCR.
- The next R&R Committee meeting is **May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1230-1330 EST. Call-in number 1-906-481-2000; Passcode: 833928.

**Welcoming Committee: LCDR Amy Constantine & LCDR Yvette Waples**

- The Welcome Letter, JOAG Brochure, and link to the JOAG website were distributed via email to **47** newly commissioned officers in the month of March 2010.
- The committee has initiated having JOAG representation at the Officer Basic Course (OBC) graduations held at the conclusion of each session.
- The JOAG information sessions held during OBC has been temporarily suspended as the OBC leadership works to secure a new location and works on incorporating participation from other interested PHS groups.

- For the last couple of USPHS Scientific and Training Symposiums, the JOAG poster was one big collage of photos of junior officers “in action” (in uniform) to convey what JOAG is about and how junior officers contribute to the mission of the USPHS. This poster concept has been such a success that we are looking to do a similar concept and design for the poster that we will be displaying at this year’s Symposium in San Diego (May 24 - 27).
- The JOAG WC really want to create a new poster this year with all new photos, so we are looking for pictures of junior officers wearing their uniform and working at their duty station, partaking in deployments, being involved in the community (or anything else you can think of). We know junior officers have been very busy in this last year, so there has to be lots of really good photos that we can use! Please send your pictures to LCDR Elaine Wolff at [elaine\\_wolff@ios.doi.gov](mailto:elaine_wolff@ios.doi.gov) by COB Monday, April 20. When we print the poster, we will be enlarging these pictures quite a bit from a standard 4x6 or 5x7 sized photo, so we really need high quality/high resolution images.
- **Next Welcoming Committee Call:**  
June 4, 2010 (2 – 3 PM)  
Call in number: (712) 432-0111  
Participant Access Code: 228673 #

## Liaison Reports

### **COF Board: LCDR Blakeley Denkinger**

- The COF Scientific and Training Symposium will be held on May 24-27, 2010 in San Diego, California. Registration for the event is open. We will be having a JOAG general membership meeting and meet and greet on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> as well as a JOAG social on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. We would really like to have as many JOAG voting members at these events as possible. We understand that this year only partial funding may be provided by the Department for a limited number of officers to attend the conference. If you are not funded to go by your agency, there are ways to cut the cost that you will be paying out-of-pocket to attend. The San Diego branch of COA has developed a roommate matching Evite. The link to the Evite was sent out over the JOAG listserv. In addition, the COF gives junior officer, civil servant, and student scholarships. The scholarship money is applied towards the cost of registration. Information about applying for one of the scholarships can be found at: <http://www.phscofevents.org/registration.cfm>.
- On March 21, 2010 the House passed the Health Reform Bill the provisions of the bill that relate to the Surgeon General and Commissioned Corps are now in the Senate as the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”. The law now will now do the following: 1) Eliminate the cap on the number of Regular Corps officers. All PHS Reserve Officers on active duty will transition into the Regular Corps (no more assimilation boards; greater individual protections for all officers); 2) Establish a Ready Reserve Component of the PHS Commissioned Corps. Officers appointed to this Ready Reserve will be subject "at all times" to a call to active duty by the Surgeon General, including active duty for training; 3) Create a "Public Health Sciences Track." This track provides scholarship and loan repayment programs administered by the Surgeon General annually for 150 medical students (ten at USUHS), 100 dental students, 250 nursing students, 100 public health students, 100 behavioral and mental health professional students, 100 physician assistant students, and 50 pharmacy students - a total of 800 per year who accept commissions in the PHS in return for the tuition support. The bill also establishes the "National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public health Council" with the Surgeon General as Chairperson. Members of the Council will include most of the President's Cabinet Secretaries. The Council's portfolio is to provide coordination and leadership for all aspects of public health in the United States. COA was instrumental in ensuring that these provisions were included in the Health Reform Bill.
- On March 2, 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Hui vs. Castaneda, an important case for PHS Commissioned Corps officers. The central question in the case is "Does 42 USC Section 233(a) make the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) the exclusive remedy for claims arising from medical care and related functions provided by Public Health Service personnel?" COA

submitted a "Friend of the Court" brief supporting the positions of the petitioners, PHS officers, that the FTCA does, in fact, protect Commissioned Corps officers from personal lawsuits for actions performed in the line of duty. Without such protection, as clearly recognized by Congress in Title 42, Corps officers would be at risk for malpractice lawsuits wherever they are assigned. A COA representative attended the hearing and reported that although a decision was not handed down, the Justices appeared to be sympathetic to the USPHS.

- The COA is encouraging PHS officers to write to their U.S. Senators and Representatives about transferability of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and then share their letters with COA Government Relations Director, Judith Rensberger at [jrensberger@coausphs.org](mailto:jrensberger@coausphs.org).
- U.S. Representative Carol Shea-Porter, Democrat from New Hampshire, has signed on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3657, the House bill that would extend G.I. Bill transferability to the PHS Commissioned Corps and the NOAA Corps. The popular two-term Congresswoman, who represents her state's First Congressional District (Manchester, Dover, and surrounding areas), signed on to the bill on 3/2/10.
- The COA Legislation and Benefits Committee is looking for stories about individuals that were thinking of joining the USPHS, but decided not to after finding out that they could not transfer their post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to their dependents. They are also looking for stories about individuals that have left the USPHS because of this issue or that were directly impacted by the issue in some way. If you know of someone with such a story, you may contact
- On 3/1/10, the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service issued a policy paper calling for a more independent and strengthened Office of the Surgeon General as well an enhanced PHS Commissioned Corps. The COA paper builds on growing concerns in the public health community about the future capacity of the public health workforce. The paper can be viewed at:  
<http://www.coausphs.org/docs/news/Crisis%20in%20the%20Public%20Health%20Workforce.pdf>

#### **HOSA Workgroup: LT Samuel Schaffzin**

- Held a JOAG HOSA Workgroup Call on 11 March
  - Items covered on the call:
    - The Workgroup is awaiting final confirmation from LCDR Bell that the HOSA Workgroup Charter has been approved by the EC.
    - Each Workgroup member has been assigned to serve as a task lead (see below)
    - Deliverables and Next Steps: Apply EC feedback and finalize charter – 2/10 (completed), begin to draft criteria for junior participation – 4/10 (Wade), create a JOAG HOSA presentation template for junior officer mentors – 4/10 (Glenn), consider long term tracking mechanisms for the initiative – 4/10 (Payne), develop call for letters of interest for mentors – 4/10 (Beyer), work with HOSA leadership to identify 5-7 pilot locations to target – 5/10 (Schaffzin), serve as Workgroup Secretary and archive activities – Ongoing (Thomas)
- Next HOSA Workgroup call will be on May 8, 2010.

#### **MOLC: LCDR Nicole D. Gaskin-Laniyan**

- The MOLC membership met on April 6, 2010 from 1400–16:00 EST.
- The issue was raised as to whether or not the MOLC should continue to host a reception for the ASH. It was recommended that JOAG and MOLC partner from this point forward. This would entail coordinating the planning of an event as well as sharing associated costs. **ACTION ITEM:** JOAG consideration and response to MOLC is requested regarding this matter.
- LCDR Ngo requested an official proposal from MOLC concerning the request to help coordinate and fund the event.
- OSG has requested MOLC to provide a list of minority group activities on regular basis. Reports shall include Minority group committee activities within and outside the PHS (e.g., ASH reception, Minority Group Heritage Month celebration, community outreach activities, etc).

- It is anticipated that there will be costs associated with the cultural performance (lion dancers) for the COF Symposium in San Diego, CA. The exact amount is expected to be determined soon. The point of contact is LCDR David Lau ([David.Lau@dhs.gov](mailto:David.Lau@dhs.gov)).
- AMSUS will be held in Phoenix, October 31-November 5 in Phoenix, AZ at the Convention Center. The points of contacts are LCDR David Lau ([David.Lau@dhs.gov](mailto:David.Lau@dhs.gov)) and LT Renee Pleasanton ([Renee.pleasanton@hhs.gov](mailto:Renee.pleasanton@hhs.gov)). This is an excellent opportunity to earn continuing education units.
- The next MOLC meeting will be held Tuesday, May 4 from 1400-1600 EST

#### **OCCFM: LCDR Kyle Lyons**

- Creating Better Systems of Prevention
  - Forwarded policies on individual and blanket details to assist with the placement of officers in non-HHS entities to serve in a variety of roles.
  - Collaborating with the Office of the Surgeon General on policies to facilitate reimbursable short tours to non-HHS entities.
- Eliminating Health Disparities and Achieving Health Equity
  - OCCFM, in collaboration with the PPAC, has been hosting Retention Focus Groups for Medical Officers. These have been going well and will be completed in April. Next step is to use the feedback obtained to create a survey to be distributed to all medical officers. The strength of the medical category has been steadily decreasing for the past twenty years. Retention and recruitment efforts are critical to fulfilling the Corps' public health mission.
  - OCCFM continues to review Consolidated Pay issues and Assignment Incentive Pay to address recruitment and retention issues.
- Making Healthy People Come Alive for all Americans
  - OCCFM is reviewing the implications of the Health Reform Law on recruitment and retention of PHS officers and the management of this segment of the health workforce.
  - OCCFM is working with CDC to convert Quarantine Officers to the Commissioned Corps.
- Fostering Innovation at HHS
  - OCCFM is revising policies to allow officers to participate in the Department's awards initiatives to foster innovation.
  - Overseeing the conversion of officer's central Medical Files from hard copy to digital.
- Other
  - Special Women's History program with RADM Marilyn Gaston, (RET) as guest speaker.

#### **OCCO: LCDR Mary McCormick**

- On March 23, 2010 the President signed the Health Insurance Reform Act which eliminated the PHS Reserve Corps. This act requires Presidential appointment to the Ready Reserve Corps and Presidential appointment with senate confirmation for appointments to the Regular Corps.
- The Office of Commissioned Corps Operations has been advised to cease issuing call-to-active duty personnel orders until individuals receive proper Presidential and senate confirmations. At this time, the Corps is seeking an amendment to the Executive Order which delegates authority to the Department to appoint commissioned officers.
- We apologize for the inconvenience this causes. In addition, OCCO staff will contact Agency Liaisons to discuss changes in effective dates for all pending and previously executed personnel orders impacted by the new legislation. We will keep you updated as we work through the initial phases of this new and exciting era for the Commissioned Corps.
- Promotion boards are continuing and should wrap up by the end of April or early May.
- Expect to launch the transitional Officer Basic course, online version, in June. This course is intended for officers who have been on active duty for more than a year, but who have not gone to the 2 week the OBC. It is also for officers who attended a 2, 3 or 5 day BOTC, but never completed the IOTC.
- Any officer who is nearing their 1 year CAD and has not been scheduled or confirmed for OBC should contact their agency liaison. If their liaison is not responsive to their request, they can call

the training division directly and see if they can assist with communicating with the agency liaison to schedule the OBC.

**OFRD/OSG/OS: LT Damon Smith**

- OSG – no updates
- OFRD
  - ***Public Health/ Medical Missions – Domestic***
    - **Haiti Services Access Mission** – OFRD currently has three PHS officers (two from SAT#2 and one from Tier III Roster B) to Atlanta, GA to help facilitate services access and patient return for Haitians brought to US hospitals post-earthquake. Also, there are two PHS officers from SAT#2 deployed to the Secretary's Operations Center to support this mission at the headquarters level.
    - **2010 Cherry Blossom Festival** – CAP#2 is activated to staff a medical tent during the Cherry Blossom Festival.
    - **G45 Nuclear Security Summit** – OFRD will be deploying PHS officers to support the Incident Response Coordination Team and various federal, state and local partners during this event 12-13 April 2010.
  - ***Public Health/ Medical Missions – International***
    - **Peru Riverine Medical Readiness and Training Exercise (MEDRETE)** is a training exercise with the U.S. Air Force and host nation personnel, to provide direct patient care and public health and preventative medicine activities. Roughly ten USPHS officers have been rostered to deploy along with Peruvian military medical personnel on two Peruvian Navy vessels to provide humanitarian assistance operations along the Amazon River over two weeks.
    - **Pacific Partnership 2010 (PP10)** is a U.S. Navy ship-based training mission scheduled to begin in early May and run through August of 2010. PP10 will utilize the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH-19) which will conduct direct care and public health missions in the Western Pacific.
    - **Continuing Promise 2010 (CP10)** is a U.S. Navy ship-based training mission scheduled to begin in July and run through November 2010. CP10 will utilize a U.S. Navy amphibious ship (TBD) and conduct direct care and public health missions in Latin America and the Caribbean.
    - If you are interested in participating in any of these missions, please forward your name, CV, a recent full-length photo of yourself in uniform and a statement of interest as well as all pertinent information (including official passport status, preferred mission/role, and government credit card status) to LCDR Andrei Nabakowski in OFRD International Operations at [Andrei.Nabakowski@hhs.gov](mailto:Andrei.Nabakowski@hhs.gov).
  - ***Basic Readiness***
    - The March 31<sup>st</sup> basic readiness check is underway. Access to the OFRD website has been temporarily disabled.
    - LCDR Ngo requested a report on junior officer readiness.
  - ***Response Team Vacancies***
    - If you would like to inquiry about vacancies on Tiers I and II response teams, please send your CV to [OFRD-Response@hhs.gov](mailto:OFRD-Response@hhs.gov).

**Uniform Advisory Committee Liaison: LCDR Gene Gunn**

- CC26.3.7, covering special uniform situations was released in March.

**Dental Category: LT Scott Williams**

- No update at this time.

**Dietitian Category: LCDR Blakeley Denkinger**

- Thank you to CDR John Urban for all of your hard work and dedication to the PAC over the last year, and congratulations to the incoming PAC chair, CDR Kirsten Warwar

- The Dietitian/Nutritionist PAC name will be changing to the “Dietitian PAC” soon. Once the name change has been made in the bylaws, it will be official.
- The terms of several sub-committee chairs are coming to an end. Voting members may apply for open chair positions by e-mailing CDR John Urban ([John.Urban@ora.fda.gov](mailto:John.Urban@ora.fda.gov)) and CDR Kirsten Warwar ([glul@cdc.gov](mailto:glul@cdc.gov)) by COB Friday, April 9, 2010 to express your interest. The chair positions of the following sub-committees must be filled by PAC voting members
  - Recruitment and Retention Committee
  - Wellness Committee
  - Website
  - Mentoring
- Six weight management modules are now available on OFRD’s Learning Management System (LMS). Go to <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf/> and click on **USPHS Learning Management System Login**. Follow the instructions if you have never set up a blackboard account. Once you login, click on **Communities** and under **Organization search** type in **PHS Fit for Duty, Fit for Life Weight Management Program**.
- The Professional Development Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact LCDR Chris Dunbar at [Christopher.Dunbar@hhs.gov](mailto:Christopher.Dunbar@hhs.gov)
- The website sub-committee is looking for a few volunteers to assist with collecting new content for the PAC website. The content areas in need of volunteers are 1) Commissioned Corps Dietitian Category history, 2) Commissioned Corps Dietitians’ bios and photos, and 3) others you might suggest. If you are interested in helping to gather content in these areas, please contact LCDR Merel Kozlosky at [kozloskym@cc.nih.gov](mailto:kozloskym@cc.nih.gov).

#### **EHO Category: LCDR Jamie Mutter**

- The annual EHO social gathering (dinner) scheduled for May 25, 2010 during the COF Conference in San Diego, CA. This year we will be having our gathering at the **Fish Market Restaurant** located at 750 North Harbor Drive.

#### **Engineer Category: LCDR Alex Dailey**

- An EPAC meeting was held on Thursday, March 25, 2010.
- The EPAC has developed a guidance document for professional registration and certification in various engineering-related disciplines. This guideline is in the final comment stage and will be published soon.
- A pilot program is being investigated to start a Facebook page for PHS Engineers.
- The EPAC is continuing to investigate how to get more Civil Service employees involved in EPAC and what kind of efforts EPAC can engage in to create value for civil service employees. Suggestions included the Career Development Committee’s New Engineer Orientation Program and the Engineer Newsletter. There was general discussion on how to get the word out on activities like this.
- **The next EPAC meeting will be held on: Thursday, April 29, 2:00-3:30 PM EDT @ IHS Headquarters, Twinbrook Bldg., Rockville, MD**

#### **HSPAC Category: LCDR Brett Maycock**

- The HSPAC had a meeting on April 2, 2010, from 1000 – 1500 EST.
- The HSPAC is seeking new members for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2011. The HSPAC provides advice to the Surgeon General (SG) and the Health Services Chief Professional Officer (CPO) on professional and personnel issues related to the Health Services category. Selections are based on the nominee’s commitment to public health activities and specified criteria in the HSPAC Charter (e.g., organizational, discipline, gender, minority representation), are made by the HSPAC and approved by the SG. HSPAC members are expected to obtain the necessary agency support to attend six scheduled meetings per year. With permission of the HSPAC Chair, members stationed outside of the Washington DC area, may participate in up to five of these meetings via

teleconference. A member is required to participate in one HSPAC meeting in person in Maryland or DC. Attending the COF conference can be substituted to meet the requirement of participating in one meeting in person. A self-nomination form (which includes a space for supervisory approval) is attached and can also be found on the HSPAC Web page at: [http://www.usphs-hso.org/pac/subcommittees/membership/pac\\_nomination.shtml](http://www.usphs-hso.org/pac/subcommittees/membership/pac_nomination.shtml). Interested officers should complete the self-nomination form and send it along with a current curriculum vitae (including a summary sheet) and a cover letter describing how your specific experience and expertise will benefit the HSPAC. Retired HSO working in a civil service capacity are encouraged to apply. The completed package must be submitted via e-mail (email is preferred; submit a scanned file of the signature page), mail, or fax by **June 30, 2010**, to:

CDR Todd Alspach  
Chair, Membership Subcommittee, HSPAC  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Division of Laboratory Systems  
Laboratory Practice Standards Branch  
12 Executive Park Dr., NE, MS F-11  
Atlanta, GA 30329  
Phone: 404-498-2758  
Fax: 404-498-2215  
Email: [talspach@cdc.gov](mailto:talspach@cdc.gov)

- The Basic and Applied Sciences Professional Advisory Group (BASPAG) is soliciting nominations for the first **Basic and Applied Sciences Officer of the Year Award**. This award was developed to acknowledge a United States Public Health Service (USPHS) officer that is a member of the Health Services Category, with a concentration in scientific disciplines such as the biological sciences, epidemiology, health sciences, mathematical sciences, and physical sciences. The nominee should have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the Nation's health, demonstrated leadership in their work and the USPHS, and show involvement in health-related professional or community organizations or activities. The award will be presented at the Annual Commissioned Officers Foundation (COF) Scientific and Training Symposium. ***The deadline is April 14, 2010.***
- The Physician Assistant Professional Advisory Group (PAPAG) provides advice to the Surgeon General, through the HSPAC and the Health Services Chief Professional Officer, on professional and personnel issues related to Department of Health and Human Services and Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Assistants (PA). Selections are based on the nominee's commitment to public health and PA activities in addition to specified criteria (e.g., organizational, discipline, gender, and minority representation). Selections are made by the PAPAG voting membership.
  - An application can be downloaded from the PAPAG website, "Announcement Section" - [http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/papag/papag\\_main.shtml](http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/papag/papag_main.shtml)
  - E-mail application, CV (including summary sheet) and cover letter to: [jeff.buckser@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.buckser@gmail.com) Nomination packages will not be considered unless all items are submitted. Notification of receipt will be sent to you. ***Nominations must be received by May 31, 2010.***
  - References:
    - [http://www.usphs-hso.org/pac/subcommittees/career\\_development/cv.shtml](http://www.usphs-hso.org/pac/subcommittees/career_development/cv.shtml) for CV format
    - <http://www.aapa.org/join/membership-categories> for PHS Academy of PA application and information
    - [http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/papag/papag\\_main.shtml](http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/papag/papag_main.shtml) for PAPAG information and bylaws

- The HSPAC is now seeking volunteers to staff the HSO Booth at the 2010 COF Scientific and Training Symposium, in San Diego. The booth is to be staffed on Wednesday 26 May 2010 and Thursday 27 May 2010. Each rotation is for one hour and consists of a Junior Officer (LTJG-LCDR) and a Senior Officer (CDR-ADM). This is a great mentorship and leadership opportunity. Those interested in volunteering please contact LT Lisa Amaya at [Lisa.Amaya@ihs.gov](mailto:Lisa.Amaya@ihs.gov) for available time slots.
- The Basic and Applied Science Professional Advisory Group (BASPAG) newsletter section is now available at [http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/baspag/baspag\\_newsletters.shtml](http://www.usphs-hso.org/pags/baspag/baspag_newsletters.shtml). The purpose of the BASPAG newsletter is to share information with all Officers of the USPHS, promote the events of BASPAG, serve as a vehicle for networking, and to promote communication between other public health professional disciplines. Officers with any article ideas or suggestions can send these to LCDR Juanika Mainor-Harper at [yzm7@cdc.gov](mailto:yzm7@cdc.gov).
- The next HSPAC meeting will be held on May 25, 2010 in San Diego.
- The next HSPAC meeting at the Parklawn building will be on August 6, 2010, from 1000 – 1500 EST.
- As a reminder to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the HSO Listserv, please go to <http://RowellAir.com/Listserv/hsolistserv.php>

#### **Nurse Category: LTJG Martin Taxera**

- No update at this time.

#### **Pharmacy Category: LCDR Yvette Waples**

- RADM Scott Giberson was selected by Surgeon General Regina Benjamin as the Chief Professional Officer for the Pharmacy category. There will be a Change of Command and Flag Officer Promotion ceremony for RADM Giberson on Thursday May 6, 2010 at 2 p.m. (EST). The location of the ceremony is the Parklawn Building Conference Rooms D & E (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor).
- The Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) is seeking volunteers for the Change of Command/Promotion ceremony of RADM Scott Giberson. The PharmPAC is seeking junior officers across all categories to serve as Sideboys and Escorts/Ushers. Volunteers will be expected to report to the event location no later than 1 PM (EST) on May 6. Sideboys are expected to wear the Full Dress Blue (ceremonial uniform). Ushers will need to wear the Service Dress Blue uniform with white gloves. Interested officers should contact **LCDR Thomas Hinchliffe** – [thomas.hinchliffe@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:thomas.hinchliffe@fda.hhs.gov) by **COB on Thursday April 29, 2010**.
- Congratulations to LT Amber Pagano, who is the 2010 Silver Syringe Award Winner for Outstanding Pharmacy Immunization Program –awarded by the Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual I.H.S. Southwestern Regional Pharmacy CE Conference will be held April 23-25, 2010 in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- The 2010 Pharmacotherapy Frontiers Continuing Education Symposium will be held on Saturday April 24, 2010 at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. Registration is free and limited to the first 500 registrants. Please click on link for details:  
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/phar/pharmacotherapyfrontiers.html>
- BOP National Pharmacy Meeting will be held April 26-30, 2010 in Pensacola, Florida.
- Listed below are opportunities for Pharmacy Category officers to be involved in PharmPAC:
  - In the past year, have you attended a career fair, staffed a recruitment booth, or given a recruitment presentation? If so, GREAT! Do you have pictures of the activity? If so, even better! Your help is needed. The Spring 2010 edition of the University Points of Contact (UPOC) Program Newsletter is currently under development. Your recruitment stories are needed. Please share your experience with other by writing a short article/summary of your experience. Please forward this write-up and any photos (if available) to **CDR Peter Vermilyea** at [peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org](mailto:peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org) by close of business on Friday, April 16, 2010.
  - A volunteer is needed to present the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award at Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - Saturday April 17,



**Junior Officer Advisory Group Meeting Agenda**  
**Friday, April 9, 2010 1300-1500 EST**  
**CALL IN NUMBER: 800-857-2603; PASSCODE: 9479205**



**IV. Roll Call**

**V. LCDR Kyle Lyons (OCCFM)**

- update on how the Health Reform Bill affects officers
- LCDR Lyons will also be able to take a few questions

**VI. Executive Committee Reports**

Ex-officio	CDR Maleeka Glover
Chair	LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo
Vice Chair	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
Chair-elect	LCDR Carlos Bell
Financial Liaison	LCDR Alex Dailey
Secretary	LCDR Jamie Mutter

**VII. Committee and Workgroup Reports**

Awards Committee	LCDR Merel Kozlosky & LCDR Morrisa Rice
COF Planning Committee	LCDR Heather Bair-Brake & LT Scott Williams
Communications & Publications Committee	LT Christina Coriz
Development Committee	LCDR Thomas Janisko
Inter-Services Committee	LCDR Brett Maycock
Membership Committee	LCDR Robin Toblin
Policy and Procedures Committee	LCDR Carlos Bell
Professional Development Committee	LCDR Harvey Ball & LCDR Rajal Mody
Recruitment and Retention Committee	LCDR Jessica Feda & LCDR Corey Palmer
Welcoming Committee	LCDR Amy Constantine & LCDR Yvette Waples

**VIII. Liaison Reports**

COF Board	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
HOSA	LT Samuel Schaffzin
OCCFM	LCDR Kyle Lyons
OCCO	LCDR Mary McCormick
OFRD/OSG/OS	LT Damon Smith
MOLC	LCDR Nicole D. Gaskin-Laniyan
Uniform Workgroup	LCDR Gene Gunn
Dentist	LT Scott Williams
Dietitian	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
EHO	LCDR Jamie Mutter
Engineer	LCDR Alex Dailey
HSO	LCDR Brett Maycock
Nurse	LT Martin Taxera
Pharmacist	LCDR Yvette Waples
Physician	LCDR Rajal Mody
Scientist	LCDR Robin Toblin
Therapist	LCDR Jessica Feda
Veterinarian	LCDR Heather Bair-Brake

**IX. New Business**

**X. Final Announcements / Adjournment**

Our next Journeyman Series call will be held on May 14, 2010 at 1300-1400 EST.

REMEMBER: General members should send an e-mail of their attendance during or shortly after the meeting to LCDR Jamie Mutter ([JMutter@cdc.gov](mailto:JMutter@cdc.gov)) to have their attendance recorded in the minutes.

**Please put “JOAG attendance” in the subject line and include your name, rank, category, and OPDIV.**

Miss a meeting? JOAG digitally records each meeting, including the *Journeyman Series*. For an mp3 copy of the recording, email LT Hiren Patel, [hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov).