

HISPANIC OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the HOAC Meeting Held Via Teleconference On
April 10, 2008
From 1200 to 1330 hours



Next Committee Meeting:
 June 12, 2008
 1200 to 1330 hours
 Parklawn Building Surgeon General
 Conference Room 18-59
 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland
 Teleconference Number 1-800-369-1120
 Passcode 31597

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV	Category
Excused	CAPT	Aponte	Laura	HRSA, Ocala, FL	HSO
Present	CAPT	Rupinta	Catherine	HRSA, Rockville, MD	NUR
Excused	CAPT	Ortiz-Rios	Elizabeth	HRSA, Rockville, MD	MED
Absent	CAPT	Sanchez	Jose	USCG, Sacramento, CA	MED
Present	CDR	Aizvera	Jeasmine	NIH, Rockville, MD	HSO
Present	CDR	Guerra	Marta	CDC, Atlanta, GA	VET
Excused	CDR	Nichols	Nancy	IHS, Tuba City, AZ	HSO
Present	CDR	Perez	Joseph	USCG, New London, CT	MED
Absent	CDR	Renteria	Madelyn	HRSA, Rockville, MD	NUR
Present	LCDR	Alicea	Candido	NIH, FT Frederick, MD	SCI
Present	LCDR	Lambert-Bernardo	Hilcia	HIS, FT Defianace, AZ	PHAR
Present	LCDR	Sanchez	Angel	CDC, Atlanta, GA	HSO
Absent	LCDR	Valentin-Bon	Iris Enid	FDA, College Park, MD	HSO
Present	LT	Arena	Ivonne	DIHS, Washington, DC	MED
Present	LT	Cala	Erik	DIHS, Chinle, AZ	THER
Present	LT	Faytong	Eduardo	USCG, Cape May, NJ	HSO
Present	LT	Fermin	Sonsy	HRSA, Rockville, MD	HSO
Present	LT	Otero	Israel	PSC, Rockville, MD	HSO
Present	LT	Rivas Rivera	Angel	DIHS,	NUR
Absent	LTJG	Casares	Rosalia	IHS	NUR

Advocates and General Membership

Present	CAPT	Bolte	Margaret	FDA, Pembina, ND	
Present	CAPT	Montoya	Evangelina	HRSA, Rockville, MD	NUR
Present	CAPT	Cuzme	Jose	IHS, Rockville, MD	ENG
Absent	CDR	Alvarado-Ramy	Francisco	CDC, San Juan, PR	MED
Present	CDR	Benitez-McCrary	Mercedes	CMS, Baltimore, MD	THER
		Raggio	Tanya		MED

Present	CDR	Vantran	Alicia	USCG, Washington DC	MED
Absent	LCDR	Irizarry	Milton	USCG, NJ	MED
Excused	LCDR	Cliatt	Janet		
Present	LT	Martinez	Milton		

I. CALL TO ORDER

- **Welcome and Roll Call** CAPT Rupinta, presiding on behalf of CAPT Aponte, called the meeting to order at 1203 hours.
- **Meeting Minutes for February 14th, 2008:** Discussed changes in subcommittee chairs should this be included in the minutes Minutes were reviewed and approved without revision. Motioned to approve and seconded by CAPT Cuzme and LCDR Sanchez.

II. ACTION ITEMS -

- A. **Reorganization of Subcommittees:** CAPT Rupinta & CAPT Montoya provided some background information as to why some subcommittees had to be re-organized in terms of the officers serving as chair. CAPT Aponte sent a message to voting members last month encouraging participation in subcommittees and inviting members to chair certain committees.
1. **Awards & Recognition:** LT Erik Cala is the Chair, as determined by HOAC voting members in December 2007.
 2. **Career Development:** CAPT Elizabeth Ortiz-Rios is Chair, as determined by HOAC voting members in December 2007.
 3. **Charter & By-Laws:** LT Eduardo Faytong is Chair, with LCDR Milton Irizarry serving as Co-chair.
 4. **Nomination & Membership:** CDR Marta Guerra is Chair, with CAPT Bolte serving as Co-chair.
 5. **Recruitment & Retention:** LCDR Candido Alicea is Chair, as determined by HOAC voting members in December 2007.
 6. **Readiness:** In need of a chair, CDR Jose Perez volunteered - LT's Faytong & Otero nominated CDR Perez as chair, approved unanimously by members.
- B. **ASH Reception scheduled:** Clarification was made regarding the role of HOAC in co-sponsoring this event. All officers were encouraged to attend. A HOAC Coin will be presented. Service Dress Blues are the expected uniform. The following officers stated they will attend, an RSVP will be sent on their behalf: CAPT's Montoya & Cuzme, CDR's Benitez-McCrary, Renteria, Vantran, Aizvera, LT's Arena, & Fermin. Pictures will be taken to add to the new HOAC website.
- C. **MOLC Website:** CAPT Rupinta reports that a payment of \$31 is requested by MOLC as HOAC's contribution to support the MOLC website. Voting members approved unanimously.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS - CAPT Rupinta reported that HOAC would like to sponsor (following agency approval) a junior officer to attend the USPHS Scientific Symposium in Tucson Arizona this June. The officer could represent HOAC at the MOLC Awards Breakfast and staff a booth where information about HOAC could be distributed and coins sold.

IV. REPORTS

- **Vice-Chair:** No report presented
- **Treasurer:** LT Fermin reported on HOAC's current balance: \$2033.17 in the share savings account; \$842.72 in the share draft account, a total of \$2875.89 in all accounts. A recent deduction of \$326 was made for the purchase of 100 more coins. LT Fermin will send a letter to the HOAC listserv inviting all members to submit payment of dues for 2008.
- **Secretary:** Will provide a list of members and the subcommittees for which they have volunteered so as to verify this information.
- **Communications, website:** LT Otero reports that the new HOAC website will be live in the coming weeks, it is currently on a staging server for testing and to ensure compliance with government standards. The new website will align with official PHS websites. LT Otero will let us know when it goes live. To build mentorship opportunities, the suggestion was made that bios of voting members be added to the site.
- **MOLC:** LCDR Sanchez reported that the MOLC met recently for a meet and greet of MOLC members and review of MOLC process and discussion of charter. Three priority areas have been identified by the Office of the Surgeon General for MOLC involvement. Officers interested in volunteering for these workgroups should contact the identified officer. This information will also be sent by e-mail:
 - Minority Recruitment - CDR Celia Gabrel (BCOAG)
 - Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevention Plan - CDR Sean-David Waterman (BCOAG) & CDR Rita Schapiro (APAOC)
 - Cultural Competency Workgroup - CDR Jeasmine Aizvera (HOAC)

IV.SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Awards:** LT Cala, Chair, reports that selection for the Juan Carlos Finlay award is in its final stages.
- **Career and Professional Development:** CAPT Ortiz-Rios, Chair, excused, no report
- **Charter and Bylaws:** LT Faytong, Chair, reports they will begin the process of reviewing and revising the charter and by-laws. CAPT Cuzme suggested that the definition of ex-officio members be expanded to include an invitation for flag officers of Hispanic heritage to join HOAC, such as the new ASH, and as had been done with Former Surgeon General Carmona. Charter & By-Laws should be distributed to all members and make review an agenda item at the next meeting. The Charter & By-Laws have been available on the website but as it is in transition, they will be sent to all members.
- **Membership:** CDR Guerra, Chair, is working to coordinate a conference call meeting to discuss nominations of members for 2009 as 13 current members have expiring terms at the end of 2008.
- **Recruitment and Retention:** LCDR Alicea, Chair, reports, in follow up to the last HOAC meeting, he has communicated with CAPT Walker at OCCO to obtain a list of new officers called to active duty. In addition to name and rank, will obtain category, location, e-mail address, & phone number. This information will be used to welcome new officers and invite them to join HOAC.
- **Readiness:** CDR Jose Perez is the newly appointed chair. He mentioned the Association of Naval Services Officers and inquired as to whether any HOAC members new of this organization - focuses on Hispanic Officers.
- **Hispanic Lecture Series:** LCDR Janet Cliatt, Chair, excused, no report.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Ms. Lisa Flach-Fulcher:**who has been with HOAC for many years is resigning as she will pursue a master's degree. A letter and certificate of appreciation would be a nice way to acknowledge her many contributions to HOAC.
- **NEXT MEETING June 12th, 2008 12 noon EST.** This date will change due to USPHS Scientific Symposium. Call in numbers to be provided.
Will be held bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month, at SG Conference Room 18-59 at Parklawn Building or by teleconference.

VI. ADJOURN Meeting was adjourned at 1310 hours

Draft Minutes prepared by CDR Jeasmine Aizvera