

AVAPL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CALL Minutes
September 15, 2016 (3:00 PM ET) (712) 775-7031 CODE: 139-471

Attendees: Mary Beth Shea, Sam Wan, John McQuaid, Thomas Kirchberg
Guest presenter re: privatization issues: Russell Lemle
Notified Absence: Ron Gironda

1. Review of Minutes

Deferred to next meeting

2. Treasurer's Report

Deferred to next meeting. Dr. Shea and Dr. Wan have communicated to coordinate transition of role.

3. Old Business

a. Commission on Care

- i. HVAC**
- ii. SVAC**
- iii. Next steps**

Russell Lemle noted a policy brief from AVAPL re: Commission on Care is now on both HVAC and SVAC websites for the hearings.

His summary of the hearings. HVAC was antagonistic from the get go. Chairman Miller attacked Takano, was antagonistic throughout, and only had witnesses that were invested in privatization.

SVAC was positive. Friendly, cordial on both sides of the aisle. Secretary provided laundry list of why VA was superior to the community in all areas.

McQuaid asked for next steps. Russell suggests informing membership (Ron doing it) about how the policy brief has reached sites, and that the Secretary has demonstrated being an advocate for the VA.

b. APA Military and Veterans Group endorsement

Russell willing to send a draft for AVAPL to consider of an endorsement of a proposed group in APA.

c. Women in VA Leadership SIG

Toni Zeiss has agreed to co-chair. Janna Fikkan has been asked to serve as co-chair via email (Sam has not yet spoken to her directly). It is unclear she has the time to do this. Dr. Shea has another candidate who is interested if Dr. Fikkan is not available (Nicole Shiber).

Dr. Wan asked what the role of SIG leaders would be. Dr. Shea reported she had reviewed, and the role included monitoring a listserv, but in general the SIG leaders can define the activities of the SIG.

d. Membership Campaign

Drive starts 10/1/16. There has been discussion of offering a free 1 year membership to all facility psychology Chiefs, and then encourage their staff to join. Dr. McQuaid asked how many this could be, and we estimated it would be potentially 100 members. Discussed that this would be a 1 year option, and we would need to actively monitor the listserv and remove members who do not renew. The committee members unanimously agreed to support this. Dr. Shea stated she would produce a bullet list of benefits of membership. She believes that in the past the President sends out a letter sharing personal benefits and encouraging psychologists to join or renew. However, we have a lot that has happened and Dr. Shea feels that there is a lot to share. Dr. Wan pulled up poster from APA that included AVAPL benefits, and he shared with the committee. Dr. Shea is also going to list specifics (white paper on Title 38, testimony to Commission on Care, white paper on privatization, expansion of collaborations with VSOs and other professional organizations, including VA provider organizations, and strong partnership with APA; new SIG for Women in VA psychology leadership). We should also mention benefits such as the AVAPL website. C &P and Neuropsych SIGs, participation in the “Keeping the Promise: Summit” AFGE/Roosevelt Institute and VSO’s. Plus the annual midwinter meeting, including meetings with SVAC and HVAC staff, VSOs, APA and VACO staff. Another benefit is discounted registration for the VA psychologist leadership conference.

e. Newsletter Archive Donation Request

Dr. Wan thinks this was fulfilled and is an unresolved place holder. We will ask Dr. Gironda if he has details about this. Dr. Wan found an email from Dr. Gironda documenting that the executive committee had voted to approve a \$500 donation to the Center for the History of Psychology. Dr. Shea stated they have agreed to digitize all of our prior newsletters and new ones going forward.

4. New Business

None

5. Announcements

None

Next Meeting Call – October 20, 2016 (3:00 PM ET) (712) 775-7031 CODE: 139-471

