

**AVAPL EXECUTIVE BOARD CONFERENCE CALL  
AUGUST 15, 2013 (3:00PM ET)**

**Present:** Dr. Jody Rubenstein, Dr. Mary Levenson, Dr. John R. McQuaid and Dr. Mary E. Shea. Dr. Stephen Cavicchia was excused.

**Minutes** – None

**Treasurer's Report**

- Conference Account: \$31,711.13
- Membership Account: \$41,765.72
- Membership: 336

**Old Business** - None

**New Business**

- A. Establish Regular Meeting Day and Time - The regular meeting day and time are to be determined. As all members were not available for this discussion, it will be accomplished via email. It is proposed that the 2012-2013 day and time, the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 Eastern, be retained.
  
- B. Year's Priorities – Dr. Rubenstein reviewed his suggested priorities for the coming year: Title 38 consideration, succession planning, and privileges. John suggested that the issue of protected time for non-clinical duties be considered. Dr. Levenson suggested that we work on how to assist in promotions via Hybrid Title 38 and what we might do to assist in the requirement of the proper implementations of boardings. Dr. Shea suggested that we address how we can get recognition for what we do in our jobs helping to distinguish our skills from other professions which provide somewhat similar services. John added to this the idea of VERA reimbursement as an issue.
  
- C. Related to Privileges - Dr. McQuaid suggested that there be a survey of how broadly psychologists across VA have privileges. Dr. Levenson noted that the February survey indicated that most do hold privileges though the information did not provide information as to specifics of what this included, such as admission privileges. Dr. Shea said that the Uniform Mental Health Handbook may have provided specifics to effect change and Jody said that he will review the Handbook to see if this is addressed. Dr. Levenson suggested that it might be good to have a workgroup to discuss this. She also said that Dr. Russell Lemle and Dr. Kathy McNamara would be excellent resources for this. Dr. McQuaid stated that Dr. George Shorter may also be a good person for this workgroup. It was suggested that a general request to the membership for those interested in this workgroup would be a good idea as it fosters grassroots involvement. As a part of the approach for the workgroup, it was suggested that in addition to the Handbook review, that Central Office individuals be consulted and that it be investigated as to whether there is anything in Directors' Performance Plans that

might lead to engagement related to this issue. Dr. Rubenstein will contact Dr. Lemle, Dr. Levenson, and Dr. Shorter to request their involvement and membership will be requested to volunteer for this workgroup.

- D. Related to Succession Planning, Dr. McQuaid suggested that a workgroup would be useful to look at recruitment, retention, and succession planning. The discussion at the AVAPL Meeting at APA was reviewed for Dr. Shea's benefit, related to ways that membership can be made more valuable. This item will be further discussed during the September call.
- E. Title 38 Status - Related to the issue of Title 38 and Psychology, a review of the membership of the new workgroup to examine the pros and cons of any efforts towards changing our status was made. Dr. Levenson said that the workgroup is currently comprised of Dr. Ken Adams, Dr. Ron Girona, Dr. George Shorter, Dr. Mark Mann, and herself. She asked if Dr. Rubenstein and Dr. McQuaid want to be added to the workgroup and both said that they do. Dr. Levenson is currently arranging meeting times. The workgroup will be charged with becoming familiar with Title 38, examining the pros and cons of staying in Hybrid Title 38 versus a move to Title 38, and then educating the membership on this information. The workgroup will meet once a workable time is determined.
- F. Conference Planning Chair-Elect - Three individuals had self-nominated for the Conference Planning Chair-Elect position. It was decided that Dr. Patel's experiences were the best suited to the position. As she is moving to a new position at a different VA, it was suggested that clarification as to her supervisor's willingness to allowing her time to do this would be important. Dr. Rubenstein said that he would check with Dr. Patel and if she has approval and she still wants her name put forth, he will send her name to Dr. Sam Wan, Chair of the Planning Committee, for consideration by the committee as a whole.

**Next Call** – To be determined

Dr. Jody Rubenstein  
Acting Secretary