

AVAPL Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
August 8, 2014

Attendance: Executive Committee, 4 retirees, 3 APA Representatives, 5 from MH VACO, one visitor (Dr. DeLeon) and 20 attendees.

1. The Call to Order and Welcome was given by Dr. Rubenstein.
2. Review and Approval of Minutes of the 2013 Meeting – Dr. Cavicchia - Approved
3. Financial and Membership Report – Dr. Shea - copies were given out. Dr. Shea also reported that non-members who attended the Psychology Leadership Conference were given the opportunity to join AVAPL since the difference between the registration fee for members versus non-members was the same as the AVAPL membership fee. This resulted in an increase in membership in AVAPL.
 - A. Membership – 381
 - B. AVAPL general fund balance: \$47572.40
 - C. Leadership Conference fund: \$32169.31
4. Results of the 2013 AVAPL Elections
 - President-Elect: Dr. Tom Kirchberg
 - Secretary: Dr. Monica Cortez-Garland

Dr. Steven Lovett will serve as Past President given the retirement of Dr. Rubenstein

5. Report on the 2014 VA Psychology Leadership Conference – Dr. Patel reported on the 5/20-23/2014 Conference in San Antonio. There were 166 paid registrants. 56 stayed for the workshop. There were 54 first timers and 69 Early Career Psychologists. The Conference was paid in total from registration and Exhibitor fees. Post conference evaluations occurred through an online questionnaire. On a 1-5 scale, modal response was 5, 4-5 accounted for 85% of the responses.
6. Dr. Harold Kudler, Dr. David Carroll, Dr. Lisa Kearney and Dr. Ken Jones gave an update on MH and answered questions from those in attendance. Dr. Carroll introduced Dr. Kudler as the new Chief Consultant for Mental Health Services. Dr. Kudler gave strong support for the role of psychologists in the treatment of veterans with mental illness. Dr. Carroll spoke to the need to create a learning environment with VHA as outlined by Secretary McDonald. Dr. Kearney reviewed a number of new initiatives around accessibility including better ways to measure productivity, dashboards and challenges/barriers to open access. She also noted that some medical centers are struggling with implementation of PC/MHI and that model programs would be identified along with intensive consultative services. Dr. Jones discussed the new training initiatives coming out of the Office of Academic Affiliations.

Questions and comments were offered by the participants. A suggestion was made to establish a Hotline for suggestions on streamlining. Dr. Carroll indicated he is available as a contact point

person. Concern was raised regarding the recent negative press on access issues and how VA can be an employer of choice. Travel issues continue to be a challenge and networking has been limited by the restrictions. It was reported that several MH meetings are in the planning stages for next year. Randy Phelps, from APA, extended a welcome to Dr. Kudler in his new role and expressed his enthusiasm for working with him to support veteran services.

7. Dr. Heather Kelly briefed the attendees on APA initiatives in support of MH in VACO. Support continues for VHA and Military clinical research funding. VA psychologists continue to be invited to assist in Hill briefings. This has proven to be very beneficial. APA also will support AVAPL's effort to move psychologists to Title 38.
8. Awards
 - Antonette Zeiss Distinguished Leadership Award: Dr. Robert A. Zeiss
 - Leadership Award: Dr. R. Keith Shaw and Dr. Joel Mitchell
 - Professional Service Award: Dr. Elizabeth Gifford and Dr. Christopher Watson
 - Special Contribution Award: Dr. Loretta Braxton and Dr. Kathleen Lysell
 - James Besyner Early Career Award: Dr. Megan E. McCarthy

Past President: Dr. Mary Levenson was recognized for her contributions to AVAPL

9. President's Address – Dr. Rubenstein spoke about the focus of the Executive Committee this past year. The most recent effort was completion of a White paper on Title 38. He reviewed why he elected to have a career in VA. He was strongly impacted by his father's service and his parents' friends who served in WWII, because of the Vietnam Vets, the Iraq and Afghanistan Vets, because of the interns and postdocs that he trained, and because of the incredible support that AVAPL members offer to each other. He thanked the Executive Committee members for their strong support during his year as President.
10. Passing of the "Mantle" to the New President – Dr. Rubenstein and Dr. McQuaid
11. New President's Address – Dr. McQuaid expressed thanks to the executive committee members, attendees from Central Office, APA representatives, and Dr. DeLeon for his support. He noted that his goals were to support psychologists in serving veterans, and receiving the support and compensation needed to excel in their roles.
12. Open Floor Discussion of AVAPL Strategic Priorities – Dr. McQuaid invited participants to the Strategic Planning session scheduled from 3:00-5:00 PM in the AVAPL Hospitality Suite for further discussion.
13. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned by Dr. McQuaid

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Stephen Cavicchia, Psy.D.
Secretary