

**AVAPL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CALL  
NOVEMBER 19, 2015 (3:00 PM ET) (712) 775-7031 CODE: 139-471**

**Attendance:** Dr. Tom Kirchberg, Dr. John McQuaid, Dr. Monica Cortez-Garland, Dr. Mary Beth Shea

**Review of Minutes:** All minutes have previously been approved and posted

**Treasurer's Report**

- A. Conference Account: \$19435.80
- B. Membership Account: \$59150.46

**Old Business**

- A. Using Membership Funds to support Executive Committee travel
  - a. This was supported by membership at the annual meeting in Toronto and an email was sent to the membership by the Executive committee for comments.
  - b. The Executive committee voted and approved to utilize \$10,000/year in support of travel by the Executive committee to the yearly American Psychological Association convention. Committee members who attended APA this year (August, 2015) will be reimbursed for expenses.
- B. Title 38
  - a. This continues to be an important issue for AVAPL. Dr. Shea will follow up with Dr. Heather Kelly on the best time to provide the information to Congress.
- C. Annual VAPL conference in San Antonio
  - a. There are continued plans for the Executive committee to have a plenary session at the conference to present information from the Midwinter meeting in Washington D.C.
- D. The Executive committee continues to maintain contact with the Veterans Service Organizations and plans to continue efforts to collaborate and communicate with these groups more than once a year at the Midwinter meeting.

**New Business**

- A. Secretary, Dr. Monica Cortez-Garland, will be leaving her position as she is leaving the VA system at the end of November. Plans to replace her are under way.
- B. Midwinter Meeting
  - a. AVAPL Executive committee will travel to D.C. the week of February 22, 2016.
  - b. Preparations to choose and invite VACO, APA, VSO, and Congressional staff for meetings during that week are under way.
- C. Choice Briefing
  - a. AVAPL posted the briefing in conjunction with the Association of VA Social Workers, American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Social Workers to address the proposed efforts to expand the VA CHOICE program
  - b. AVAPL membership has provided mostly positive feedback and support for the briefing on the listserve.
- D. Leadership Directive
  - a. There have been concerns expressed by membership that the wording of the new Mental health leadership directive could negatively impact psychologists having the opportunity to apply for some leadership positions.

- b. The Executive committee will follow up with Dr. Wendy Tenhula to discuss the directive, its intent, and our concerns.

**Next Meeting Call – DECEMBER 17, 2015 (3:00 PM ET) (712) 775-7031 CODE: 139-471**

Monica Cortez-Garland, Ph.D.  
Secretary