AVAPL Executive Committee (EC) Call – Minutes – 6.18.20

Attendees: Genevieve Davis (GD), Ken Jones (KJ), Mary Beth Shea (MS), Tracey Smith (TS), Sam Wan (SW)

Planning Roundtable: There is a planning meeting for the anti-racism roundtable with the POC&A SIG tomorrow, Friday, June 18. The goal is to start the active process of taking action on long-standing systemic societal concerns, inherent within and outside of our organization. Discussed how we are at an “awareness” stage of change but how there will be different layers of how to organize a safe and useful structure for the roundtable and also for potential changes in AVAPL and also, as inherent in the mission of our organization, advocate for changes in the VA. Discussed how to address a lack of diversity in the organization and in the leadership and how to address divergent and similar interests with division 18. The group brainstormed some of these issues and came up with different branches of discussion: a) making membership and leadership of AVAPL more diverse/inclusive and b) prioritizing anti-racism work in Congressional and VACO advocacy work.

Action item: Members of EC will meet with co-leads of POC&A SIG and will plan the meeting and finalize the date for the first meeting.

Planning Annual Business Meeting: Decided on not having a virtual social hour this year and instead will optimize the business meeting to allow for more informal discussion during the meeting. Also discussed encouraging smaller groups (SIGs, workgroups, VA roles) to have smaller “social hours” on their own in lieu of in-person ones.

Elections: TS will inform those who were nominated of the results and there will be an official announcement to the listserv.

Next EC Meeting: July 16 at 11am Pacific