

**AVAPL EXECUTIVE BOARD CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 20, 2014 (3:00PM ET)**

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

Minutes – The Mid-Winter meeting minutes were tentatively approved. They will be disseminated to those with whom the EC met for review before final approval. Minutes of 1/21/2014 were approved and will be submitted for posting on the AVAPL Website once the Treasurer’s Report balances are updated.

Treasurer's Report

- Conference Account: \$31,576.13
- Membership Account: \$49,932.93
- Membership: 296, including 33 trainees and 46 new members

Old Business - Workgroup Status

- A. Title 38 - nothing new to report. EC discussed the possible impact of Title 38 including starting salaries if pay panels utilize community standards. Other questions related to COLAs and impact on Title 38. The work group will meet next on 2/26 and this issue will be raised.
- B. The Early Career group wishes to meet with the EC to discuss use of “Yammer” for early career psychologists. Yammer is VA-Approved. Log-in occurs with VA-e-mail password. They see this as a better way to communicate with each other. Dr. Brent Kenney presented the request. The EC discussed and agreed to proceed with supporting this initiative
- C. Privileging workgroup – no update was available at this time.
- D. Mid-Winter Follow-up - A “Thank you” was sent to Congressional and VACO staff through the AVAPL list-serve. OAA’s request for assistance in surveying interest and needs for training was discussed. Dr. Levenson will draft a questionnaire and EC members will discuss with their training directors and others as identified by Dr. Rubenstein.
- E. Membership Drive – volunteers will be reaching out to encourage former and newly hired psychologists to join AVAPL.

New Business

- A. CAM-based (alternative medicine) treatments were discussed. This is a follow-up to inquiries made by VSOs at the Midwinter meetings. Relaxation and Mindfulness-based treatments are the primary forms of CAM being utilized. Studies of efficacy are limited. EC will continue to review and discuss. Dr. Rubenstein will follow-up and encourage those who contact AVAPL to directly discuss with VACO.

- C. Leadership Conference – There is open discussion time scheduled with VACO but no specific time has been set for AVAPL. Div. 18 and APA would also need to be considered. Consensus is that the open time can be shared with the three sponsoring groups and VACO. This suggestions will be shared with the Planning Committee.

- D. Email from Member – an e-mail from an AVAPL member with recommendations was reviewed. Some suggestions were practical including more rapid posting of minutes and notification of recent postings. Keeping the Newsletter viable was discussed. It was agreed that there would be a new effort to ask for assistance from the membership to determine interest in helping.

Next Meeting Call – 3/20/2014 – 2 PM Central/3PM Eastern Time

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Stephen Cavicchia, Psy.D.
Secretary