

**JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)**  
 UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



**General Meeting Report**

Friday, April 10, 2015

1300 – 1500 EST

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 Call-in number: (626) 677-3000  
 Passcode: 791-9605#  
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**Please note, to un-mute your line, press \*6.**

**I. Roll Call**

LCDR Hatch, JOAG Executive Secretary, took attendance by performing roll call.

<b>I. Voting Membership</b>					
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>OPDIV</b>	<b>Category</b>
X	LCDR	Otto	Jessica	IHS	EHO
X	LCDR	Kosko	Robert	FDA	PHARM
X	LCDR	Garza	Elizabeth	CDC	HSO
X	LCDR	Nichols	Erin	CDC	SCI
X	LCDR	Hatch	Lindsay	FDA	HSO
AA	LCDR	Olele	Chinyelum	FDA	PHARM
X	LT	Marrero	Abraham	CDC	ENG
AA	LT	Fleming	Eleanor	CDC	DENT
AA	LT	Bailey	Daveta	FDA	EHO
AA	LCDR	Eisenberg	Judith	CDC	PHYS
AA	LCDR	Koch	Frank	BOP	DIET
AA	LCDR	Pinizzotto	Samantha	FDA	VET
X	LCDR	Halldin	Cara	CDC	SCI
AA	LCDR	Irvin	Kari	FDA	HSO
X	LCDR	Bobo	Qiao	FDA	SCI
X	LCDR	Stein	Avi	CDC	HSO
X	LT	Arroyo	Peter	BOP	THER
AA	LCDR	Nguyen	Quynh Nhu	FDA	ENG
X	LT	Bates	Mekeshia	HRSA	NURSE
X	LCDR	Huang	David	CDC	SCI

X=Present, AA=Approved absence; AWA=Absent with alternate; UA=Unapproved absence  
 \*Ex-Officio/Past Chair, non-voting member

## II. Executive Committee Reports

a. No report from Ex-Officio or Chair-Elect

**b. Chair Report: LCDR Jessica Otto**

i. Current activities/updates

1. Congratulations to all junior officers who were promoted on April 1, 2015.
2. LCDR Otto asked that all Committee Co-Chairs remind their committee members about the requirements for participation for the operational year, so that they may receive a letter of appreciation.
3. JOAG will hold a General Meeting at the 2015 Symposium.
  - a. A save the date announcement will be distributed via the JOAG listserv in the near future.
  - b. JOAG will be selling merchandise at the Symposium, as well as providing information on JOAG initiatives and committees that junior officers can join and ways to get involved.
  - c. The JOAG Uniform Inspection Booth will be set up in the Exhibit Hall at the Symposium.
    - i. Any officers, of any rank, can visit the Booth and have their uniform inspected, review visuals of uniform changes, or ask uniform policy-related questions.
  - d. LCDR Otto asked that Voting Members complete the chart of JOAG Symposium activities that will be distributed in the near future.
4. All junior officers are welcome and encouraged to join the JOAG listserv.

**c. Vice-Chair Report: LCDR Robert Kosko**

i. JOAG has reached the mid-point for the operational year.

1. EC has seen the great work that the officers have done at the committee and subcommittee level.
2. LCDR Kosko thanked JOAG members for their hard work this operational year and encouraged them to continue their efforts through the remainder of the year.

**d. Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Lindsay Hatch**

i. No updates

**e. Financial Liaison Report: LCDR Erin Nichols**

i. Current activities/updates

1. LCDR Nichols is working to set up a Square account for electronic purchases of JOAG merchandise.
  - a. She stated that it should be operational this month.
  - b. LCDR Nichols will work with the Development Committee to update all of the information regarding purchasing merchandise to reflect the Square account.
  - c. The electronic purchase option should be available at the Symposium this year.

ii. Accomplishments

1. Two brochure display racks have been purchased for use at the Symposium to help coordinate the presentation of JOAG materials.
2. Two new JOAG merchandise items have been approved by the EC and orders of these items for the Symposium have been placed.

### III. **JO Voice: LCDR Erin Nichols**

- a. The current JOAG General Meeting is the second meeting that has featured the JO Voice discussion.
- b. Topic for this meeting is focused on what PHS officers need to do when they have a child.
  - i. JOAG received a number of responses, including questions, as well as input from experienced officers offering their insight into the situation.
  - ii. CCWIAB published a resource guide for expectant parents.
    1. JOAG CCWIAB Liaison, LCDR Rachael Lopez, fielded all questions that were received and provided additional insight from the resource guide.
      - a. These answers were then compiled with the input that experienced officers had shared.
        - i. Input from officers has not been fact checked, so please consider this supplementary information.
      - b. LCDR Nichols thanked LCDR Lopez for taking the time to answer the questions.
    - iii. Information was sent out with the updated JOAG General Meeting agenda for today's meeting.
    - iv. JOAG received a question regarding information on Tricare's coverage of breastfeeding supplies and services.
      1. Tricare is working on a policy to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 that mandates coverage of breastfeeding supplies and lactation support.
        - a. LCDR Nichols will distribute this information in the near future.
      2. LCDR Nichols recommended that the CCWIAB research this, and/or include it in future versions of the resource guide.
      3. If officers are purchasing supplies, they can keep their receipts and be retroactively reimbursed in the future, as long as the supplies were purchased from a Tricare-authorized provider.
    - v. LCDR Mona Patel, a CCWIAB Voting Member, was present during the meeting to field any additional questions and provide more information on the resource guide.
      1. LCDR Patel explained that the resource guide is in the process of being posted on the CCWIAB website.
      2. LCDR Cara Halldin, a junior officer and JOAG Voting Member, stated that she was told that if your child medically needs you (PHS officer) to be their primary care giver, there is a newer policy for leave involving Tricare placing you in caregiver status in their system. This will allow you to take more sick leave, rather than using your annual leave.
        - a. She stated that this policy is not very clear in the Commissioned Corps paperwork, and was seeking clarification on this topic, potentially through the resource guide.

- b. LCDR Halldin will email the policy information to LCDR Patel, who plans to present the information at the CCWIAB next meeting.
  - 3. A junior officer explained that she is currently pregnant and was wondering how to ensure her medical waiver for pregnancy is reflected in her readiness status.
    - a. It is noted in her medical history through the MAB that she is pregnant, but her readiness status states that she is not basic ready.
    - b. LCDR Patel recommended she contact the MAB first to seek assistance with this situation.
  - c. The next JO Voice topic will be, "What PHS officers need to do when they get married."
    - i. JOAG will send out an email in the near future, which junior officers can respond to, with questions or input.
  - d. LCDR Otto reminded junior officers that the email address at the bottom of all JOAG listserv emails can be used for submitting questions, comments, feedback, or concerns on any topic, not just for the JO Voice topic.

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### a. Awards Committee: LCDR Chinyelum Olele & LT Abraham Marrero

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. JOY Award recipient is expected to be selected by April 10, 2015.
    - a. It is currently in the revision process, and the nominee should be selected within a week.
  - 2. Excellence Award is currently awaiting OSG concurrence of the nominee.
- ii. Accomplishments
  - 1. Committee obtained OSG concurrence on the Carmona Award nominee, and the recipient was notified.
  - 2. Volunteers for Recognition Subcommittee have been identified.
  - 3. Committee created and distributed the Weekly JOAG Award Newsletter.
    - a. Thank you to LT Sarah Lee and LCDR Garza for their work on this initiative.
    - b. Information on awards from all organizations (PACs, agencies, etc.) can be found in the newsletter.
    - c. This newsletter should assist junior officers in applying for more awards.
    - d. The committee is accepting feedback to improve the process at this time.
- iii. Committee meetings are held every month.
  - 1. Refer to the JOAG website for meeting times.
  - 2. Committee is always looking for more volunteers.

##### b. Communications and Publications Committee: LT Daveta Bailey & LT Katie Bante

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. The Journal Team was approved to conduct a phone interview with the new Surgeon General.
    - a. Questions were developed and have been approved by OSG.
    - b. Committee is currently waiting to be given a time slot for the interview.

2. The Outreach Subcommittee is beta testing a platform for the JOAG Scrapbook Initiative.
    - a. Depending on the results, other photo sharing platforms may need to be pursued.
  3. The Uniform Subcommittee is working on the next edition of *With Pride & Distinction*, with an anticipated publishing date of May 2015.
    - a. Subcommittee will submit it for EC review in the near future.
    - b. Subcommittee is also working on an article for inclusion in the Summer JOAG Journal.
  4. The last committee meeting was held on March 18, 2015 at 1300 EDT.
  5. May 2015 meeting date is currently undetermined.
    - a. Committee is attempting to organize an in-person meeting at the Symposium.
- ii. Accomplishments
1. JOAG Journal Subcommittee has been added to the Yammer group for cloud collaboration.
  2. The JOAG Brochure has been updated twice since the last JOAG General Meeting.
    - a. All other edits will be made during the scheduled Outreach Subcommittee review later during the operational year.
- c. **Development Committee: LCDR Judith Eisenberg & LCDR Dawn Montoya**
- i. Current activities/updates
    1. New products for 2015 (luggage tag and car magnets) have completed production and are currently with Atlanta-based officers to be brought to the Symposium.
    2. The booth kit (hard case that from now on will be passed from Financial Liaison to Financial Liaison) has also arrived at our officer in Atlanta.
      - a. It currently contains sign holders and laminated return policies.
        - i. At the end of this Symposium, it should be packed with those items along with the cashbox, our two tableskirts, and the display racks (one tabletop set of three and one vertical floor rack that folds up).
        - ii. Remaining stock at end of the Symposium can be packed in any additional space in the kit before it is taken by or shipped back to the Financial Liaison.
    3. Committee is in the process of setting up the electronic payment option for use during USPHS Symposium for merchandise purchases made at the JOAG booth.
    4. Booth volunteer staffing sign-up sheet has gone live and the website is being managed by the Booth Subcommittee Lead, LCDR Tricia Booker.
      - a. Members are encouraged to sign up for shifts at the following website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48adab2aa1fb6-joag>.
        - i. Please contact LCDR Booker if you encounter problems with the sign-up website.
        - ii. Be sure to enter the phone number you can be reached at during the Symposium and not your office number when asked for a contact number on the sign-up genius website.
      - b. Committee Co-Chair LCDR Montoya will be the on-site Booth Supervisor.

**d. Membership Committee: LCDR Cara Halldin & LCDR Kari Irvin**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Voting Membership update
    - a. Committee finished verifying the 28 eligible Voting Member applications.
      - i. Applicants represent the following categories: Veterinarian, Physician, Dentist, Dietitian, Scientist, Pharmacist, Engineer, Environmental Health, and Health Services Officer.
      - ii. Applications were distributed to Voting Members for scoring on April 10, 2015.
    - 2. The next Membership Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 1300-1400 EDT.
      - a. Call-in number: 712-432-0933; passcode: 674654#
  - a. Officer Involvement and Outreach Subcommittee
    - i. Since mid-March, the Subcommittee has sent 112 call to active duty congratulatory emails and 83 listserv welcome emails.
    - ii. Subcommittee has established a mechanism to receive attendance information from Meet and Greet events, so they can follow up with attendees and engage them in JOAG.

**e. Policy and Procedures Committee: LCDR Elizabeth Garza**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Policy development and training
    - a. Committee is developing the Summer PDT Cybergram and plans to distribute it in June/July 2015.
      - i. This will have several updates regarding new USPHS CC policies and will include information on uniforms, officer grievances against non-Corps supervisors, officer pay changes, and promotion highlights.
  - 2. The Strategic Plan
    - a. JOAG Strategic Plan Subcommittee finalized the JOAG Strategic Plan for 2015-2020.
    - b. The EC is currently revising the JOAG Strategic Plan and will be posting it to our JOAG governing documents website once it has been finalized.
      - i. JOAG will distribute an announcement via the JOAG listserv when it has been posted.
    - c. Thank you to LCDR Jessica Cole and LCDR Griff Miller for leading this charge.
    - d. Committee is planning a Strategic Plan component in the JOAG transition planning that occurs towards the end of the operational year once new Voting Members have been assigned various Committee Chair positions.
      - i. This will allow for a smooth transition and active engagement of our leadership to track each committee's current strategies against the five JOAG Strategic Goals.

3. SOPs
  - a. Subcommittee has updated the 2015 JOAG General SOP and it has been posted on the JOAG Governing Documents webpage.
  - b. Starting in early June, we will be working with each of the committees on the annual process of reviewing and updating each of the committee SOPs.
    - i. During this process, committees should ensure that their website is up-to-date and matches the information in their SOP.
  - c. Thank you to LCDR Sanchez Janke for her leadership on updating the 2015 JOAG General SOP.
4. Bylaws
  - a. Subcommittee has updated the 2015 JOAG Bylaws and they have been posted on the JOAG Governing Documents webpage.
    - i. We are waiting for this change to be implemented.
  - b. Thank you to both LCDR Dvorsky and LCDR Lirette for their leadership on updating the 2015 JOAG Bylaws.
5. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015, at 1200 EDT and the committee is always looking for new self-motivated officers to join.

**f. Professional Development Committee: LCDR Qiao Bobo & LCDR Avi Stein**

- i. Current activities/updates
  1. Committee is hosting a Book Club discussing CAPT Knobens book, "U.S. Public Health Service Officer's Guide: Leadership, Protocol, & Service Standards" on April 30, 2015 from 1500-1600 EDT.
    - a. LT Morgan Walker is leading this effort, and the information for the book club will be distributed via the JOAG listserv.
  2. The next Journeyman Speaker Series Seminar will be presented by CAPT Ross Spears on May 8, 2015.
    - a. The topic will be USPHS awards.
    - b. More information will be sent through the JOAG listserv.
  3. Next meeting will be Thursday May 14, 2015 from 1000-1100 EDT.
- ii. Accomplishments
  1. The March Journeyman Speaker Series was well-attended, with a total of 85 callers.
    - a. The topic was the USPHS Officer's Guide by CAPT Knobens.
  2. Many of the HOSA Subcommittee members have participated as judges, mentors, presenters, and subject matter experts at the Future Health Professionals state conferences over the last couple months.
    - a. Many of the subcommittee members have also recruited officers from their duty stations to join the efforts.
    - b. They are doing this on their own time and at their own expense, so we appreciate their commitment.
  3. The JOAG Professional Development Survey was completed, and we submitted an article highlighting the results of the survey to the JOAG Journal.

**g. Public Health and Community Service Committee: LCDR Frank Koch & LCDR Samantha Pinizzotto**

- i. Current activities/updates
  1. MWR Subcommittee has selected a new Co-Lead: LT Christopher Sheehan.
    - a. He previously served as the subcommittee's Secretary.
    - b. MWR Secretary position is now vacant and the committee is seeking volunteers.
  2. Upcoming approved projects
    - a. National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee (NPS)
      - i. DC Central Kitchen event (scheduled for May 5, 2015)
        1. Point of contact is LT Marriah Lombardo.
        2. Multiple additional NPS events are planned for this spring.
          - a. The events will be announced via the JOAG listserv once they are approved.
      - ii. DC Central Kitchen event (scheduled for May 5, 2015)
        1. Point of contact is LT Marriah Lombardo.
        2. Multiple additional NPS events are planned for this spring.
          - a. The events will be announced via the JOAG listserv once they are approved.
    - b. Uniformed Services Community Service Subcommittee
      - i. Potomac River Cleanup (scheduled for April 25, 2015)
        1. Will be held at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.
        2. Point of contact is LT Gail Tarlton.
  3. Activities in Progress
    - a. Officer Health & Wellness Promotion Subcommittee (OHWP)
      - i. 'U.S. Regional Events Fitness Log' work group has been created.
        1. Subcommittee will be submitting information quarterly regarding fitness events.
      - ii. Two "Get Fit-Stay Fit" slides are currently under revision.
      - iii. Incorporation of the PHS Athletics Group into OHWP is in progress.
- ii. Accomplishments
  1. OHWP
    - a. Reminder email and helpful tips document for the Lets Move! program recently posted to the listserv.
    - b. JOAG Journal Fitness Spotlight article was recently submitted for publication.
  2. NPS
    - a. So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.) project (occurred on February 14, 2015)
      - i. Seven volunteers, six of whom were officers, served >500 breakfast meals to homeless residents of Washington, D.C.
      - ii. Project was led by LCDR Tracy Smith.
    - b. Capital Area Food Bank project (occurred on March 28, 2015)
      - i. Volunteers assembled 405 bags with fresh produce and shelf-stable item for D.C. area children.
        1. These items were slated for delivery to 52 different food bank sites in the Washington, D.C. area.
  3. Every Body Walks! Subcommittee

- a. Subcommittee posted a listserv announcement advertising walking events across the country, occurring on or around National Walking Day.

**h. Recruitment and Retention Committee: LT Peter Arroyo & LCDR Quynh Nhu Nguyen**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Career Fair Subcommittee has distributed the April/May 2015 Career Fair List.
    - a. Due to summer breaks at colleges and universities, this will be the last list until September.
  - 2. LT Arroyo expressed his gratitude to all officers that volunteered to be part of the team that will be monitoring social media for notice of open USPHS application periods.
    - a. The eight member roster has been assembled, and Co-Leads have been appointed.
    - b. The team is in the process of assigning duties and establishing a launch date.
    - c. As general JOAG Members peruse social media, speak with their category leadership, receive information from their agency liaisons, etc., the committee asks that they relay any information regarding opening application windows to USPHS to the Recruitment and Retention Committee as soon as possible.
  - 3. Planning for the operational year is underway.
    - a. Leadership opportunities within all JOAG committees will be available.
      - i. LT Arroyo urged all junior officers to become leaders within JOAG.
      - ii. He explained that this is an excellent way to serve USPHS and JOAG membership, as well as develop leadership experience.
  - 4. The committee meets the 2nd Wednesday every month from 1200-1300 EDT.
    - a. The next Leadership Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2015.
    - b. The next General Meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2015.

**i. Symposium Planning Committee: LT Eleanor Fleming & LCDR Debra Wagner**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Determining location for the JOAG General Meeting at the Symposium
    - a. Two public spaces (GA State Capitol and Atlanta Fulton Library) are the top contenders for the location.
      - i. An auditorium at CDC has been reserved, but transportation to CDC remains a challenge.
    - b. JOAG will not be providing goody bags at the Symposium this year.
- i. Accomplishments
  - a. A call was held on March 3, 2015 with JOAG committee members who are actively involved in the Symposium.
    - i. All committee needs had been previously accounted for.
    - ii. The major goal of the call was to get all committee members on the same page in terms what we know so far and how we plan to move forward.
    - iii. Additional correspondence with Committee Co-chairs was completed in order to answer specific questions or to address specific needs.

- b. Committee provided requested website updates to the JOAG Communications and Publications Committee.
  - c. Room and Car Share document is now available.
- j. Welcoming Committee: LCDR David Huang & LT Mekeshia Bates**
- i. Current activities/updates
    - 1. LCDR Otto, LCDR Huang, and LT Bates staffed the JOAG Booth at the OBC Open House on 04/09/15.
      - a. 27 of the 33 junior officers who were in OBC signed up for the JOAG listserv and stopped by the JOAG table.
      - b. The volunteers distributed flyers on the Peer-to-Peer Network and the Job Shadowing Initiative.
      - c. JOAG table sold \$87 in merchandise.
    - 2. The committee has revised their input on the JOAG Strategic Plan.
  - ii. Accomplishments
    - 1. Committee coordinated staffing of five volunteers for the JOAG Booth at the 7th Annual PHS Awareness Day at the FDA's White Oak Campus on April 7, 2015.
      - a. Volunteers provided information and fielded questions about JOAG and its programs.
    - 2. The Listserv Subcommittee has retrieved the rank and category of approximately 1,800 officers currently subscribed to the JOAG listserv.
      - a. Members continue to track additions and deletions to the listserv to ensure demographics are current.
      - b. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2015 at 1400 EDT.

## V. Agency/Organization Reports

- a. CCWIAB: LCDR Rachael Lopez**
- i. Current activities/updates
    - 1. The CCWIAB contains the following committees, with Leads in parentheses:
      - a. Violence Prevention Committee (CDR Cavanagh)
      - b. Outreach Committee (CDR Jordan-Garner)
      - c. Website Committee (LCDR Gooen Bizjak)
      - d. Pregnancy Committee (CDR McKernan)
      - e. Membership Committee (LCDR Clement)
      - f. Special Projects/Issues: Leadership Development (CDR Cavanagh)
  - ii. Accomplishments
    - 1. The website (<http://dcp.psc.gov/osg/ccwiab/>) is now available for review.
- b. COF Board: LCDR Robert Kosko**
- i. Current activities/updates
    - 1. COF announced a call for applications for the 2015 Dependent Scholarship Program.
      - a. This scholarship is available to all undergraduate and graduate students sponsored by a member in good standing of COA.

- b. Applicants must be the spouse; biological, step, or adoptive child; or biological, step, or adoptive grandchild of a member in good standing of COA.
  - c. Applicants must be registered students for undergraduate or graduate study at schools located in the United States.
  - d. All application materials, including recommendations and transcripts, must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2015.
  - e. COA strongly encourages applicants to email the materials [toscholarship@coausphs.org](mailto:toscholarship@coausphs.org).
  - f. Applications can be mailed to the following address: PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation, 8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Landover, MD 20785.
2. COA Board Chair Captain Sara Newman awarded Senator Dick Durbin with the first COA Congressional Public Health Leadership Award.
    - a. Senator Durbin proudly received the award for his longstanding efforts to reduce tobacco use among service members.
  3. Voting is open for the new COA Board of Directors.
    - a. Submit your vote by May 2, 2015 to become eligible for one of three \$100 Amazon gift cards.
  4. Pre-conference Leadership Workshop will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015.
    - a. Registration is limited to 200 people (100 junior and 100 senior officers).
  5. COA members qualify for a \$7500 scholarship when they matriculate for the online Master of Public Health or Master of Health Administration degrees at George Washington University.

c. **DCCPR: LT Tonya Cooper**

- i. No updates

d. **MOLC: LCDR Timothy Cunningham**

- i. No updates

## VI. PAC Liaison Reports

a. **Dental Category: LT Eleanor Fleming**

1. Current activities/updates
  - a. Provided information to various DePAC stakeholders on JOAG.
2. Accomplishments
  - a. Provided Awards Committee with information they requested for the award newsletter regarding DePAC award.
  - b. Provided feedback to the Chief Dental Officer on JOAG activities.
  - c. Provided feedback to the Chief Dental Officer on ways to increase junior officer recruitment and retention by highlighting JOAG activities.
  - d. Provided feedback to a junior officer presenting on USPHS dental officer activities at her alma matter.

- i. Provided information on JOAG for her to include in that presentation.

**b. Dietitian Category: LCDR Frank Koch**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. May Dietitian PAC meeting canceled due to COF Symposium.
  - 2. The next Dietitian PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2015 from 1200-1400 EDT.
    - a. Call-in number: 877-614-9060; passcode: 1386394.

**c. Engineer Category: LCDR Quynh Nhu Nguyen**

- i. No updates

**d. Environmental Health Category: LT Daveta Bailey**

- i. No updates

**e. Health Services Category: LCDR Avi Stein**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Upcoming Symposium highlights:
    - a. PAC Combined Social is scheduled for Wednesday May 20, 2015 at Atlanta Event Center, Opera (1150 Crescent Ave NE, Atlanta).
      - i. Tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/usphs-joint-combined-social-tickets-16264573778>.
    - b. Call for Aide de Camp for Symposium
      - i. Point of contact is LCDR Chandra Jolley, [cjolley@hrsa.gov](mailto:cjolley@hrsa.gov), or LT Taran Pierce, [bre3@cdc.gov](mailto:bre3@cdc.gov).
  - 2. HSPAC distributed a call for Voting Members.
    - a. Voting Membership is a three year term.
    - b. Information is available on the HSPAC website.

**f. Nurse Category: LT Mekeshia Bates**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Please join us in honoring the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and their legacy to nursing at the Bethesda North Marriott and Conference Center, in Bethesda, Maryland on May 2, 2015 from 1100 – 1500 EDT.
    - a. We will celebrate the 72nd year of the Cadet Nurse Corps and their special guests during this celebration luncheon.
    - b. Distinguished speakers will be present.
    - c. There is no registration fee for this event.
    - d. Dress code: Summer Whites (USPHS), Uniform of the Day (other uniformed services), or business (civilians).
    - e. This event coordinated by the USPHS Nurse Professional Advisory Committee and is sponsored by the Commissioned Officer Foundation.
    - f. To register, visit the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-cadet-nurse-corps-72nd-year-celebration-honoring-their-legacy-tickets-16052861541>.

2. NPAC General Body Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 1300 EDT, unless otherwise noted.
  - a. Call-in number: 1-877-267-1577; passcode: 998 644 618.
3. Junior nurse officers interested in participating in or observing a NPAC committee should visit the NPAC website (<http://phs-nurse.org/>) for information on the committee.
  - a. Please contact specific Committee Chairs for committee meeting times.

**g. Pharmacy Category: LCDR Robert Kosko**

- i. Current activities/updates
  1. On Monday, May 18th and Thursday, May 21st, the Career Development Section will host the Pharmacy Career Counseling Sessions at the 2015 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium.
    - a. Senior pharmacy officers who have served on benchmark committees and/or have mentored pharmacy officers will serve as counselors.
    - b. These sessions will typically include the following: pharmacy benchmark review, career checklist, PIR review, CV review, and resource guidance (i.e. CCPMN, Direct Access, CCMIS).
    - c. The focus will be on personalized guidance for career growth and success.
    - d. Sessions will be by appointment only and one-on-one for up to 30-minutes.
    - e. There will be 24 career counseling sessions from 0800-0930 EDT on May 18th and 1300-1430 EDT on May 21st, 2015.
    - f. The specific location at the Symposium will be provided at a time closer to the time of the Symposium.
    - g. If you are an officer interested in receiving this counseling service, please email CDR Marisol Martinez at [Marisol.martinez@dha.mil](mailto:Marisol.martinez@dha.mil) by COB April 27th, 2015 for an appointment.
  2. The University Point of Contact (UPOC) Newsletter Workgroup is soliciting articles for the upcoming Spring Edition of the UPOC Newsletter.
    - a. The submission deadline for the Spring 2015 issue is May 4, 2015.
    - b. Please consider sharing information that might be useful to pharmacy students who might be considering a career in PHS or those with an upcoming rotation with a preceptor in PHS.
    - c. Articles can be emailed to LCDR Honeylit Cueco at [hkcueco@anthc.org](mailto:hkcueco@anthc.org).
  3. A PHS pharmacy officer is requested to serve as Aide-de-Camp for RADM Schweitzer on June 1, 2015.
    - a. RADM Schweitzer will be the keynote speaker for a commencement at Touro University in San Francisco, CA.
    - b. The Aide-de-Camp is needed from 0800 to 1400.
    - c. If you are an O-3 or O-4 officer who would like to serve as an Aide-de-Camp for RADM Schweitzer during this event, please respond to LT Long Pham at [long.pham@hhs.gov](mailto:long.pham@hhs.gov) by Friday, May 15, 2015 COB with the following information:
      - i. Your name and rank
      - ii. CV
      - iii. Short bulleted bio (one paragraph)

- iv. Photo of you in any PHS uniform
  - d. Your service as an Aide is greatly appreciated, but is voluntary.
  - e. This is a great opportunity to serve the Corps and RADM Schweitzer.
  - f. There is no reimbursement for any travel costs associated with being an Aide.
- 4. The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) issued a call for nominations for Specialist (Board Certified Pharmacists) and Non-Specialist Pharmacists to serve on each of its six Specialty Councils.
- 5. This would be an excellent opportunity for PHS Pharmacists to be leaders in the field.
- 6. BPS seeks Pharmacists to serve on the following Specialty Councils:
  - a. Ambulatory Care Pharmacy
  - b. Nuclear Pharmacy
  - c. Nutrition Support Pharmacy
  - d. Oncology Pharmacy
  - e. Pharmacotherapy Specialists
  - f. Psychiatric Pharmacy
    - i. BPS must receive all of the following items no later than Wednesday, April 15, 2015.
    - ii. Visit to the website ([http://www.bpsweb.org/news/pr\\_021015.cfm](http://www.bpsweb.org/news/pr_021015.cfm)) for further information.
- 7. Pharmacist category has created an Instagram account for USPHS Pharmacists that will be maintained and monitored by the PharmPAC Social Media Workgroup.
  - a. The purpose of our Instagram account is to highlight our officers in action through pictures and short videos.
  - b. This new Instagram account, coupled with our current Facebook page, will help to further raise awareness about USPHS Pharmacists and the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
  - c. Renaming the Facebook Workgroup to the Social Media Workgroup, and expanding the reach via Instagram allows better integration on multiple social media platforms, as part of the awareness and recruitment campaign, and provides another interactive venue to dialogue with fellow officers as well as the public who are interested.
  - d. You can find and follow on Instagram under "usphspharmacy" ([www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) or download the Instagram app).
  - e. As a reminder if you're not already a fan of the Facebook page, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/USPHSPharmacists>.
    - i. Click on the "Like" icon to follow.
  - f. With the addition of Instagram to our social media initiative, please help to raise awareness of the USPHS Commissioned Corps and the Pharmacy category by using #USPHS and/or #USPHSPharmacy in your social media posts relating to the USPHS and the Pharmacy category.
    - i. Additionally, if your posts involve physical activity/fitness, we suggest you use #USPHSAthletics.

- ii. When using these hashtags, please ensure your post is appropriate and relevant to USPHS and USPHS Pharmacy.
    - iii. As a general rule, we do not recommend more than two to three hashtags per post, and using the correct hashtags will help people to find relevant posts when they're searching for keywords and phrases associated with USPHS Pharmacists and the USPHS.
  - g. Comment policy for social media: all viewpoints are welcome, but comments should be respectful and relevant to either the pharmacy profession or the USPHS Commissioned Corps.
  - h. Remember to please limit your use of social media to outside of normal duty hours.
- 8. Professional development opportunity for D.C. metro area officers
  - a. This opportunity is for qualified PHS Pharmacists at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center (KACC) Pharmacy.
  - b. KACC Main Pharmacy and the Fort Meade PX Pharmacy serve the beneficiary population of the Fort Meade, Maryland area.
    - i. Pharmacies are staffed by nine pharmacists and 20 pharmacy technicians.
    - ii. Pharmacies fill new and refill prescriptions generated by military treatment facility providers throughout the National Capital Region, as well as civilian network providers in the surrounding area.
    - iii. Goal is to provide safe and efficient medication management services to all covered beneficiaries that call Fort Meade home.
  - c. Criteria for consideration:
    - i. Officer is required to work two scheduled work shifts each calendar month, preferably more.
    - ii. Officer must have supervisor approval to work two scheduled work shifts each month.
    - iii. Officer commits to work an entire shift on each assigned day.
      - 1. Each shift is nine hours and includes a one hour lunch break.
    - iv. Officers willing to commit for a minimum of at least one year will have priority consideration.
    - v. Officer must adhere to an agreed-upon pharmacy work schedule each month prior to the actual work month (e.g. Officer must confirm March's schedule in February).
    - vi. Days scheduled to work in the pharmacy must be incorporated as part of the officer's normal work schedule by the supervisor.
    - vii. KACC is relying on the PHS officer to work on each agreed upon day each calendar month.

- d. The ideal officer must receive instruction easily from civilian pharmacy staff. The pharmacy staff will determine where the pharmacist will be assigned on each scheduled shift.
  - e. If required by the Agency, the selected officer must complete an outside activity form (HHS 520).
  - f. Please submit a CV and a letter of commitment signed by the officer and his/her supervisor to CDR F. Ray Ford (forest.ford@fda.hhs.gov) by February 28, 2015.
  - g. Please do not contact KACC Pharmacy directly.
9. Next PharmPAC meeting will be held on May 7, 2015 at 1400 EDT.
- a. Call-in number: 855-828-1770; passcode: 17874411.
  - b. Agenda will be distributed via the pharmacy listserv.

**h. Physician Category: LCDR Judith Eisenberg**

- 1. No updates

**i. Scientist Category: LCDR Qiao Bobo**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. Next SciPAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 1200-1300 EDT.
  - 2. The Scientist Category Social event will take place at Ormsby's (<http://www.ormsbysatlanta.com>), 1170 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30318 on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1800-2100 EDT.

**j. Therapist Category: LT Peter Arroyo**

- i. Current activities/updates
  - 1. USPHS Therapy Category application window will open on April 27, 2015 and will be open through May 15, 2015.
    - a. There is neither a target number nor a cap on the number of applications that will be accepted, therefore all eligible applicants could be boarded.
    - b. Applicants must have secured a diploma and state licensure, and passed the national registry exam, as applicable.
      - i. Students and unlicensed graduates are not eligible to apply.
  - 2. The next TPAC Meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2015 at 1200 EDT.

**k. Veterinarian Category: LCDR Samantha Pinizzotto**

- i. No updates

**VII. New/Old Business**

- a. None reported

**VIII. Final Announcements/Adjournments**

- a. LCDR Otto urged all junior officers to attend the next Journeyman Speaker Series (JSS).

