

SWPAG Meeting Minutes
1430 - 1530 EST, 09 September 2015
Dial-In Number: 866-707-3095
Participant Code: 5330621

Leadership Present

Chair, CDR Scott Eppler

Secretary, LCDR Alexia Blyther

CDR Malaysia Gresham, Policy Chair

CDR Todd Johnson, Awards Chair

CDR Todd Cesar, Readiness/Deployment Chair

LCDR Holly Berilla, Mentoring Chair

LCDR Tricia Booker, Communications Chair

LT Cara Alexander, Membership Chair

LT Robert Van Meir, Recruitment and Retention Chair

Membership Present

CAPT Jay Seligman

CAPT Wanda Finch

CAPT Elise Young

CAPT Brenda Gearhart

CDR Julie Niven

CDR Kymberly Spady-Grove

CDR Marivic Fields

CDR Tarsha Cavanaugh

CDR Jonathan White

CDR Tina Bryant

CDR Sonjia Howard

CDR Todd Lennon

CDR Timothy Pappalardo

CDR Jerry Mahlau-Heinert

LCDR Andrea Cunningham

LCDR Kimberly Jones

LCDR Valarie Gardner

LCDR Christine Nemeti

LCDR Marlene Nicholson

LCDR Kari Harris

LT Tyson Baize

Chair Report –CDR Eppler

- Requested Motion to approve Minutes-minutes approved
- Attendance Verification
- Revisions are currently being made on voting membership. Thanks to LT Alexander, CDR Williams and CDR Gresham for work on voting membership. We hope to have process completed soon. Nominations will be out within next month. The final announcement to be made in final SWPAG meeting in December.

Subcommittee Reports

- Awards -LCDR Todd Johnson
 - Final action for year will be looking at SW of the Year award. Criteria will be examined for SW of Year and Junior SW of Year and will look at any new criteria to be added. This will be sent out by the beginning of November.
- Career Development- CDR Eppler reports for CDR Watkins
 - CDR Watkins is working a need assessment for CDR Development.

- Communications- LCDR Tricia Booker
 - Currently working on Newsletter hopefully finished by the end of this week and put out by next week.
- Membership- LT Cara Alexander
 - Preparing for the roll out of the voting membership. Voting Membership will be rolled out when Bylaws are approved. Application and accompanying forms are ready to go. People should be on look if they are interested in applying. Prospective nominees will provide a current CV and letter of interest or intent.
 - CDR Eppler adds, if you nominate someone to be in a voting membership role please make sure that nominee is aware and agrees with nomination.
- Mentoring-LCDR Berilla
 - HSPAC will be sending out survey to all HSO's pertaining to mentoring. Please complete so that we can make sure SW needs are met. It will go into other means of mentoring as well as successes and barriers. We are also updating Welcome Packet for calls to Active Duty. We continue to cover OBC with outreach activities. Also, we are updating Career Development and Mentoring Tool. Lastly, we are updating Meet and Greet Spreadsheet-two of our member officers are scheduling meeting with Regional Points of Contacts for Meet and Greet.
 - CDR Pace asked question regarding redefining the purpose of Meet and Greet function- LCDR Berilla' response – "we want to make sure everybody has the same focus and purpose of the Meet and Greets."
- Policy-CDR Gresham
 - We have updated the by-laws; once they are approved we will roll out the Voting Membership opportunity. The goal is to increase opportunities for leadership within the SWPAG. We are also working on AMSUS Joint Federal Partners Meeting including a Lead from each Service including the Coast Guard. We will be moving forward with this effort for this year too, CDR Sonjia Howard and LCDR Holly Berilla will be leading this effort. We will piggy bag off this committee and formulate a SW Month Planning Committee. Please contact CDR Howard and LCDR Berilla regarding participation opportunities.
- Readiness/Deployment-CDR Todd Cesar
 - The Newsletter for the quarter is out so please take a look because we are submitting another tip. HQ is looking to disseminate info in Jan 2016 about uniform and on Jan 27 to send out proposal to local vendors. Check SWPAG website for Readiness for Checklist. Congratulate to SW's for being #1 in HSO category for Readiness status. Last week we completed 2nd APAN (Partners Access Network) training. Looking at using this training during deployments as other services already use.

- Recruitment and Retention-LT Van Meir
 - CDR Eppler send shout out to CDR Howard for Years of Service (3) to SWPAG!
 - LT Van Meir congratulates CDR Howard on Promotion.
 - Currently, developing surveys that do not do the same things as other surveys. Also, working on Welcome Letter and Welcome Video. Sending Welcome Video to new recruits, already sent up to Leadership. We worked with Army on video. Lastly, we are continuing to put articles in Newsletter.

OPDIV/Career Discussion

- CDR Jonathan White
 - CDR White currently serves as the Senior Adviser for Strategic Initiatives, Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF programs carry a 52 million dollar budget which is the biggest portion of the human services budget under HHS. ACF includes 70 human services programs. These programs are focused on vulnerable populations primarily including children, youth and families.
 - Currently working to develop strategies and plans for cross cutting initiatives for trauma, integration, and internal processes for the Agency. Now functioning as a Macro Social Worker.
 - Most Current initiative is to expand opportunities for PHS hiring. Billets for PHS officers have doubled. Met today to brief Deputy Director on PHS Hiring and the Advancement of Highly Skilled Social Workers. Best opportunities for PHS officers in ACF at this time include Policy, Grants Management, Operational Planning or programs for Vulnerable Populations. Please reach out with questions at email address Jonathan.White@acf.hhs.gov

- CDR Eppler thanks CDR White for Excellent Presentation.

New Business Items

- CDR Howard-reiterated that AMSUS will be in San Antonio TX December 1-4, 2015. There will be a 2nd and 4th Friday Planning Committee. Please send email to CDR Howard if you are interested in participating. CDR Howard will send a solicitation email to the rest of SWPAG regarding opportunities.

- CDR Todd Johnson-asked if the proposed initiative with the VA is a “dead” issue. CDR Eppler responds that he will follow up with CDR Gresham and Buckingham on this issue. CDR Eppler requests that CDR Johnson send him an email.

- CAPT Seligman-regarding MOU with VA, as of last month DCCPPR is still reviewing MOU with VA, it has to be signed by two Federal Department Heads so this could take a while.

Future SWPAG Meetings

- Dec 9 1430 EST