

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
December 18, 2015
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
 - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optomestrist_Positions.asp
or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
http://www.navao.org/documents/12_2015/Open_Optomestrist_Positions.pdf
 - b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)
<http://www.va.gov/ICARE/index.asp>
 - c. Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
<http://www.diversity.va.gov/programs/pwd.aspx>
 - d. Office of Resolution Management (ORM) – <http://vaww.va.gov/orm/>
(three related links: EEO Complaint Processing
<http://vaww.va.gov/ORM/EEOcomplaint.asp> ; Alternate Dispute
Resolution (ADR) <http://www.va.gov/adr/> + VA Directive 5978; and
Resolution Support Center <http://www.va.gov/orm/RSC.asp>)
 - e. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
 - f. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
 - g. Improve Your Customer Service Skills – TMS training coursework
(<https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/login.jsp>)
 - h. Locality Payments Under President’s Alternative Plan January 2016
 - i. Dr. Townsend comment. There will be 13 new locality pay areas and a total of 46 starting this next year.
 - ii. There will be a 1% pay increase as well as additional locality payments that are currently being approved by the omnibus bill.
 - iii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_2015/locality-payments-under-presidents-alternative-plan-january-2016.pdf
 - i. 2016 TSP Limits
 - i. Dr. Townsend comment. You can now change what you can contribute to decrease your taxable income. You can contribute up to \$18,000 in 2016. If you over the age of 50 you can contribute an extra \$6,000/day in catch up contributions.
 - ii. Jeff Chiara comment. A clarification for TSP limits and catch up contributions. Just a reminder that elections can be made in the January of the year you turn 50.
 - iii. http://www.navao.org/documents/12_2015/Thrift_Savings_Plan_2016_Contribution_Limits.pdf
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Brough
 - a. Dr. Brough comment. No new updates to report at this time.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. No new updates to report at this time.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
 - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. The first module for the Low Vision Continuum of Care course has been sent to COPE and the second module will be sent next week. She wanted to thank all the modules and course leaders who have contributed so much to the process.
5. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin - unavailable for comment.

6. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger – unavailable for comment.
7. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/Mancil/O'Connor/White - unavailable for comment.
 - a. **One Source Document Site:**
<http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
8. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program – Dr. Selvin – unavailable for comment.
9. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Mandese/Peterson – unavailable for comment.
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Brahm
 - a. Dr. Fischer comment. They are reviewing the low vision provider list. About 40% of the low vision providers have the wrong taxonomy codes. They are in the process of contacting those providers to correct this.
12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough
 - a. Dr. Brough comment. No new updates to report at this time.
13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
 - a. Dr. Cantrell comment. No new updates to report at this time.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:
<http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh
 - a. Dr. Singh comment. They are continuing to update links on the current website.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt/Dalton – unavailable for comment.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. They are getting a lot of inquiries about advertising for Optometrist.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Engelke
 - a. Dr. Engelke comment. The early bird deadline is Dec 30th to register for the AFOS/SECO meeting in Atlanta.
 - b. AFOS is seeking nominations for Optometrist and Jr Optometrist of the Year Award. Please nominate any deserving optometrist for these awards. More information is available on the AFOS2020.org website.
19. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Gustafson
 - a. Dr. Wong comment. The 2016 membership drive is underway and she would like to encourage existing members to renew their memberships and encourage those who are not already members to join.
 - i. Registration information can be found on the website NAVAIO.org. The deadline for membership renewal is January 31st, after which, a late fee will apply.
 - ii. During the membership drive they are offering opportunities for a free membership for the 2017 year. For more information, please refer to the NAVAIO website.