

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE  
CONFERENCE CALL  
MINUTES  
October 17, 2014  
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
  - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
    - i. Ms. Gernhart comment. Please check out the links for available open optometry positions.
    - ii. [http://www.navao.org/documents/10\\_2014/Open\\_Optometry\\_Positions.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/10_2014/Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf)
    - iii. [http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open\\_VA\\_Optometrists\\_Positions.asp](http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrists_Positions.asp) or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
  - 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. Announcements: ACES has sent out approvals to those that can attend the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Denver. If you have been approved to attend and cannot attend, please contact [Jeanne.cashman@va.gov](mailto:Jeanne.cashman@va.gov) so those on the waitlist for the conference can attend.
    - i. Dr. Brough comment. An approval also went through for AFOS.
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They are working on the minutes to the meeting they had in September.
3. Optometric Education Programs – Drs. Slagle/Messer
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting the funding requests for next year’s trainees to the Office of Academic Affiliations through your facilities leadership was October 15.
4. COPE Approved EES Coursework – Dr. Hetrick
  - a. Dr. Hetrick comment. She is coordinating the COPE Continuum of Care Low Vision course and there are 53 faculty members signed up to work on 9 modules. The module team leaders have been notified, but she is waiting for the project manager assignment before they move forward. She needs two co-leaders for the steering committee and she is trying to spread the work around so it is not a huge burden on anyone.
  - b. If anyone has a COPE approved education that would lend itself to a TMS application or online learning opportunity, they are now COPE approved providers through TMS and Dr. Hetrick can help you with 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.  
**One Source Document Site:** <http://onesourcedocs.com/member/index.html>
8. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. There were about 232,000 Veterans screened in the last fiscal year. The program is still going well. Dr. Selvin also had an opportunity, recently, to inform Secretary McDonald about the Teleretinal program.
9. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker – unavailable for comment.
10. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred/Dr. Rakoczy – unavailable for comment.
11. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
12. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough
  - a. Dr. Brough comment. Nothing new to report at this time.
13. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Cantrell/Varanelli
  - a. Dr. Cantrell comment. They are setting up a VANTS line and they have quite a few volunteers for the workgroup.
14. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.  
**VA HSR&D Centers of Innovation (COINs) and Resource Centers:**  
<http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/>
15. VHA Optometry Service Websites – Dr. G. Singh – unavailable for comment.
16. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
17. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory – Drs. Wang/Swift
  - a. Dr. Wang comment. There are about 1900 in the resident database and about 1000 of those receive the open optometry positions email.
  - b. The VA will be represented at the student networking reception at the Academy meeting to recruit residents for next year.
18. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik
  - a. Dr. Townsend comment. AFOS will be collecting items for the St. Joseph's Home for Veterans during the AFOS meeting at the registration desk. The residents there need nonperishable food items, hygiene items, books, DVDs, cleaning supplies or monetary donations.
19. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Wong/Thomann
  - a. Dr. Wong comment. They are actively engaged in the planning the business meeting and reception for NAVAIO at the Academy Meeting in Denver, CO. This year the event will be at the Hyatt Regency Denver on Thursday, November 13, 2014. More information is posted on the website at NAVAIO.org. She is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker will be Linda Casser, professor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry-Salus University.
  - b. For the second year, NAVAIO will offer eight \$250 Resident Scholarships. The scholarships are sponsored jointly by the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) and the International Engineering Technology Foundation (IET). The application period closed on October 15, 2014, but they received an extensive number of applications from qualified VA residents and the recipients will be announced by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

20. Dr. Townsend comment. Wait times are still elevated for Veterans who wish access to optometric care and there is a lot of contracting out for these exams. We saw over 1.25 million Veterans last year which was about 7% more than the last year.