

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES**

**July 19, 2013
3 p.m. Eastern Time**

1. Announcements:
 - a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2013/Open_Optometry_Positions.pdf
 - ii. http://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/open_VA_Optometrist_Positions.asp or <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/>
 - b. VA Core Values and Characteristics (I CARE)
 - c. <http://vaww.va.gov/default.asp>
 - d. Continuous Readiness in Information Security Program (CRISP)
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/CRISP/>
 - e. Professional Development: VA MyCareer (<http://mycareeratva.va.gov/>)
 - f. VHA Directive 2013-008, Infectious Disease Reporting
 - i. This Veterans Health Administrative (VHA) Directive establishes requirements for the mandatory reporting of infectious diseases designated as reportable to local, district, and State public health authorities, and territorial entities legally authorized to receive such reports.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2013/VHA_Directive_2013-008_Infectious_Disease_Reporting.pdf
 - g. VHA Handbook 1601A.03, Enrollment Determinations
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides information on the policies for administering Public Law (Pub. L.) 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, which required the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish an enrollment system, and title 38 Code of Federal Regulations Section 17.36 which established categories of Veterans who are eligible to be enrolled.
 1. http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2013/VHA_Handbook_1601A.03_Enrollment_Determinations.pdf
 - h. IL-10-2013-007, Mark Wolcott Awards for Clinical Excellence
 - i. This Information Letter announces the acceptance of nominations for the 2013 Mark Wolcott Awards for Clinical Excellence. Established in 1996, this award program recognizes outstanding Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care practitioners who are deserving of special recognition for their contributions in enhancing clinical care. It was named after Mark Wolcott, MD, who dedicated over 40 years of his life to serve and improve the quality of health care for VHA's Veteran population.
 - ii. http://www.navao.org/documents/07_2013/IL_10-2013-007_Mark_Wolcott_Awards_for_Clinical_Excellence.pdf
2. Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Selvin
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The Optometry Service Field Advisory Committee meeting and the joint meeting with ophthalmology is scheduled for July 23-24 in Washington DC at VA Central Office.

3. Optometric Education Programs/ORMatch Results - Drs. Messer/Slagle
 - a. Dr. Slagle comment. The Office of Rural Health is requesting proposals for FY 2014 to fund rural providers and health care staff training and education initiative (RPSTI) pilot sites. This award allows for the implementation of locally developed plans to establish a training and continuing education program within VA Medical Centers and associated rural clinics that mainly serve rural and highly rural Veteran populations. Please [contact Nancy Maher](#), ORH Program Analyst for more information. The deadline is August 30th. Please contact your Rural VISN consultant if requests are to be made.
 - b. Reminder that the supervising optometrist must be present for any and all procedures the student performs or the attending should perform the procedure themselves. Attendings must re-document and re-test specific exam elements performed by students unless they are done in the presence of those attendings. These policies are all taken from the TMS Medicare teaching facility guidelines and other third party insurances abide by these guidelines as well, so it is important to be familiar with these policies.
4. Optometry Productivity Workgroup - Drs. Bennett/Horn/Selvin
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. Optometry was included, for the first time, in the physician's productivity data in 2012 and there are several specialties moving on the "fast track" to becoming compliant with labor mapping. Ophthalmology is one of those specialties. An email has been sent out detailing proper coding for residents and the billing that goes through the attending optometrist. This helps to determine productivity.
5. Electronic Medical Records/Information Technology Issues - Dr. Ballinger – unavailable for comment.
6. 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>
7. Teleretinal Imaging Screening Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They have finalized the Age Related Macular Degeneration screening templates and criteria. They will be discussing the pilot sites that will be implementing this screening.
8. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Barker
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. They are looking to update the expiring policy on the Ocular Disease Specific and Visual Function exam. They are in communication with the polytrauma office and will be discussing how best to proceed next week.
9. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Dr. Eldred – unavailable for comment
10. Low Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Chan-O'Connell/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
11. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Brough – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Boyer/Horn
 - a. Dr. Townsend comment. The 14 day wait time has increased from last year. We are seeing many more patients from before. Please continue to work with leadership to improve wait times and decrease missed opportunities.

13. VA Optometric Research & Development - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
<http://vaww1.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/research.asp>
14. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Hamilton/G. Singh
 - a. Dr. Singh comment. Nothing new to report.
15. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment. Please continue to send in updates to the service directory.
16. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang
 - a. Dr. Wang comment. She is not able to make any changes to the directory at this time due to a problem with the link, but continue to send in updates.
 - b. In regards to the AOA meeting, there was a great turnout and interest at the VA Residency table set up during the meeting.
17. AFOS Report - Drs. Hunter/Wasik
 - a. Dr. Wasik comment. AFOS is the 10th largest affiliate to the AOA and was in attendance at the AOA meeting. There were two main resolutions presented at the meeting which involved paraoptometrics as well as changing how the date of membership is calculated for the AOA. For example, an optometrist who graduates from optometry school would start paying first year dues, but if the optometrist went on to do a residency and a fellowship they want to make sure these individuals were still considered first years after their training. That has been confirmed.
 - b. They had a nice membership appreciation reception and about 100 people in attendance. She wanted to encourage the new residents and fellows that are interested in becoming AFOS members that the dues are \$45 and the registration fee for the meeting prior to AAO is \$25. The preliminary schedule for the meeting in Seattle can be found on the website. They also have a revamped poster session. The poster session will be peer reviewed and will have a published abstract. There will be an email blast with more information very soon.
18. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Please mark your calendars for the annual NAVAIO Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, October 24, 2013 in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Seattle. More details will be provided on our website as the date gets closer.
 - b. Please note that the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) requires passage of the ACMO examination for those applying via Career Path #1 and, on August 1, 2013, both residency training with emphasis in medical optometry and passage of ACMO will become mandatory for all applications for ABCMO board certification in the specialty of medical optometry. For more information about ABCMO, please visit their website at www.abcmo.org.
 - c. Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of NAVAIO President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President and Vice-President have a two term limit and Dr. Storer and I have both reached our term limits. The Secretary and Treasurer may serve an indefinite number of terms. **Please submit your nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to our Teller of Ballots, Dr. Gay Tokumaru, via email (gay.tokumaru@va.gov) no later than July 31, 2013.** Please login to the members area of the NAVAIO website for

descriptions of each position. Nominations may come from any member for him or herself or for another member and will be kept confidential by the Teller of Ballots. Once the nomination period has closed, the Teller of Ballots will contact the individuals receiving the most and second-most number of nominations for each office and those who wish to run will be asked to submit a brief profile and statement for publication on our website prior to the election. Elections will be held online and only members with active membership for 2013 will be able to vote.