

**Meeting Minutes**  
**USPHS Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC)**  
**16 March 2009**

**Location:** 409 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW Suite 330, Southwest Federal Building

**Teleconference Line:** 866-642-7575; Passcode: 9531573

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	CAPT James Bresette	Secretary	AIANCOAC	IHS
Present	CAPT Rita Lookingglass	Representative	AIANCOAC Chair	IHS
Present	CAPT Gina Pahona	Minority Recruitment Subcommittee Chair	AIANCOAC	IHS
Excused	LCDR Michael Weahkee	Secretary (Acting)	AIANCOAC	IHS
<b>Absent</b>	LCDR Saini Parmjeet	Vice Chair	APAOC Chair	HRSA
Present	LT Leorey Saligan	Representative	APAOC	NIH
Present	CDR Sheila Merriweather	Representative	BCOAG	OS
Present	CDR Sean-David Waterman	Liaison	BCOAG Chair	OS
<b>Absent</b>	LCDR Candido Alicea	Representative	HOAC	NIH
<b>Absent</b>	CDR Jeasmine Aizvera	Cultural Competency Workgroup Lead	HOAC Chair	NIH
Present	CAPT Laura Aponte	Chair	HOAC	OS
Present	LCDR Wanda Chestnut	JOAG Representative	JOAG	OPHS
				IHS

**I. Call to Order and Council Roll Call**

- MOLC Chair CAPT Laura Aponte called the meeting to order at 14:35 EST. Council roll was taken by the MOLC Secretary, CAPT James Bresette. A quorum was established with 3 of the 4 minority liaison committees in attendance (BCOAG joined later in the meeting, represented by CDR Sheila Merriweather).

**II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- CAPT Aponte called for a review and approval of the minutes for the January 26, 2009 meeting. CAPT Aponte noted LCDR Weahkee's fine job as acting MOLC secretary for the January and February meetings during CAPT Bresette's deployment to Afghanistan.
- LT Saligan and LCDR Merriweather noted changes to prior MOLC meeting minutes.
- CDR Merriweather moved to accept the minutes as changed. Motion carried without opposition. Minutes approved.

### III. Reports

#### CHAIR Report – CAPT Laura Aponte

- CDR Marta Guerra will chair the MOLC Awards luncheon at the 2009 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium now scheduled for 4 June.
  - CDR Merriweather is providing historical perspective and consult.
  - A distinct luncheon theme separate from the Symposia theme is being sought.
  - Suggestions for a luncheon key note speaker are also solicited.
  - Recommendations should be provided to CAPTs Guerra ([mguerra@cdc.gov](mailto:mguerra@cdc.gov)) and Aponte ([laura.aponte@hhs.gov](mailto:laura.aponte@hhs.gov)) by 23 March.
  - CDR Merriweather stated the luncheon is free.
- “Officers in action” photos representing the diversity of officers and their professional disciplines are being solicited for use on the MOLC booth at the Symposium. Please provide photos to CAPTs Guerra ([mguerra@cdc.gov](mailto:mguerra@cdc.gov)) and Aponte ([laura.aponte@hhs.gov](mailto:laura.aponte@hhs.gov)).

#### SG-PAC Chair Meeting- CDR Sean-David Waterman

- CAPT Aponte and CDR Waterman discussed having MOLC to present at BOTC with CAPT Kelly, ([david.kelly@hhs.gov](mailto:david.kelly@hhs.gov)) Commissioned Corps Training and Development Division. CAPT Kelly stated while the curriculum is full and it would be difficult for all Councils (e.g. APAOC) and Committees (e.g. PACs), MOLC members would be welcome to attend the course graduation ceremonies.
- To access PHS athletic gear/merchandise, go to <http://home.comcast.net/~phsmultisport/site/?/home/>
- No specific guidance had been provided in response to the previous month’s dues question. However, donations for specific purposes and functions are allowed from officers. An account will be set up through the Commissioned Officers Foundation to manage the MOLC funds at a service fee of 1%.
- Withdrawals from the account are conducted by sending an email request to Ms. Hayden, along with the necessary information (dollar amount, who to make the check out to, purpose, address, etc.). [Thayden@coa.usphs.org](mailto:Thayden@coa.usphs.org).

#### AIANCOAC Report – CAPT Rita Lookingglass

- CAPT Lookingglass reported that the AIANCOAC held its most recent meeting on February 19, 2009.
- This meeting focused on setting the annual goals and objectives of the various subcommittees and establishing the leadership and membership for each committee.
- Discussion was also held about the need to update the AIANCOAC website with the new committee’s information.
- The By-laws and Charter were reviewed.
- AI/ANCOAC coins arrived and are ready for sale.

- Discussion related to the preparations for the annual COA conference took place, specifically about the need to host the MOLC Booth and help sponsor the Awards luncheon.
- Continuing to solicit AIANCOAC Awards nominations
  - Leadership Award
  - Annie Dodge Wauneka Award
  - Flag Officer Award
  - Senior Officer Award
  - Jr. Officer Award

#### APAOC – LT Leorey Saligan for LT Parmjeet

- LT Saligan reported that the next APAOC training meeting will be 2 April 2009.
- Next general meeting will be April 15, with possible training session
- Assembling photos of APAOC officers in action
- Sending theme and guest speaker name to CAPT Aponte for review.
- Voting members are finalizing the nominee list for the eight APAOC awards
  - APAOC is currently voting for recipients of 3 awards: RADM Kenneth Moritsugu award (for junior officers), RADM Samuel Lin award (for senior officers), CAPT Allan Lock Service Award (for an APAOC member).

#### BCOAG - CDR Sean-David Waterman & CDR Sheila Merriweather

- CDR Merriweather reported that the BCOAG recently returned from their New Orleans mission.
- 26 officers participated.
- The event was very well organized and structured.
- The group provided presentations on the USPHS to a number of schools in the area.
- They received a Proclamation from the Mayor of New Orleans thanking them for their service.
- BCOAG plans to conduct a similar event hopefully once a year, but at least once every two years. They also wanted to ensure that other groups know that they are invited to participate.
- Finally, CDR Merriweather shared that the BCOAG is participating in a Share program with a local food bank in April and that officers from all groups are welcome to participate in that event as well.

#### HOAC – CDR Jeasmine Aizvera

No report.

#### JOAG – LCDR Wanda Chestnut

- LCDR Chestnut representing JOAG stated she would provide the JOAG report items after the meeting as they were not yet available. The following are highlights of the JOAG meeting minutes from Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Currently working on a tasking from RADM Williams and Romano for JOAG input on the pending Intermediate Office Training Course. JOAG work group is working with CAPT David Kelly, director of the Division of Career Training and Development.
- Over 50 officers have volunteered for the JOAG Officer Profile Database activity at OCCO on Saturdays in March through June.
- 50+ nominations for the Junior Officer of the Year Award were received, 4 for the JOAG Excellence Award, and 15 Nominations for the VADM Carmona Inspiration Award.
- The call for new voting members went out through various channels with nominations due by March 27, 2009.
- The next Inter-Services Committee Meeting occurs on April 14, 2008, 11:30 – 12:30 EDT.
- The Journeyman series has also lined up former Surgeon General Carmona to speak during the May 2009 JOAG timeslot.
- The next JOAG meeting April 10, 2009 1300 EST – CALL IN NUMBER: 877-951-4529; PASSCODE: 6846134

#### **IV. Working Groups**

Cultural Competency & Awareness –CDR Jeasmine Aizvera. No report. CAPT Aponte offered that the report may be submitted later.

Minority Recruitment – CAPT Gina Pahona

- E-mail sent out last week to interested participants. So far, 6 of 7 officers have accepted the invitation. CAPT Pahona will ensure all OACs of MOLC are included.
- Next meeting will be a 2 April conference call.
- CAPT Aponte stressed the importance of the work this group is doing.

Childhood Obesity Prevention – CDR Sheila Merriweather

- CDR Merriweather thanked MOLC Officers for their service at the Surgeon General's Roundtable held at the Gaylord Hotel for supporting this event to include those officers who participated in person and from afar. Approximately 60 youth in attendance through their contributions at the Gaylord on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. Speaker was Jeff Johnson who fully captured the attention of the youth.
- SG Obesity Prevention will continue with this event as just one venue. This working group will also be seeking other venues for the SG to reach out on this topic.

#### **V. OFRD Readiness Update** – CDR Sean-David Waterman

- OFRD continues to review the website for basic readiness. January, February, and March are the months promotion boards use for assessing officer readiness. The last day to update officer info is 31 March 2009.
- Several events scheduled in the National Capital Region to include the Cherry Blossom Festival and Capitol Police Festival upcoming on 4 July.

- Continuing Promise '09 public health continuing in Eastern Atlantic & Pacific
  - APAOC O-6 with strong leadership skills needed to lead the Pacific team
  - Spanish speakers encouraged for Eastern Atlantic missions
  - MPH candidates can get up to 30 days for MPH programs

## VI. Announcements

- CAPT Pahona discussed MOLC recognizing officers who work on behalf of MOLC and specifically for LCDR Greg Davis of the OSG.
  - CAPT Aponte noted that there is such a MOLC award described on the MOLC website.
  - CDR Merriweather acknowledged the award has been presented in the past, but it is characteristically awarded at the end of the year. However, there is a possibility that the award for a year can be presented at the COA awards luncheon in the following year.
  - In the past, the MOLC Chair Award has been presented at the discretion of the MOLC Chair.
    - E.g. CDR Margaret Bolte, <http://www.molcusphs.org/chairscorner/awards.html>
- It was noted that the MOLC website had been down the prior year due to lack of funding. CDR Merriweather acknowledged and thanked CDR Jean-Paul for his work in redeveloping the MOLC website.
  - CAPT Aponte asked members to review the website for suggestions and updates as well as an agenda item for next month.
  - CDR Merriweather will follow up with CDR Jean-Paul for how the site is operated, maintained, and funded.

## VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 15:43 EDT.
- CAPT Aponte reminded officers that the next MOLC meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2009 at 2:30 EDT.
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  - Teleconference Line: 866-642-7575; Passcode: 9531573

**Minutes prepared by:** CAPT James Bresette, MOLC Secretary  
 edited by CAPT Laura Aponte, MOLC Chair.

Respectfully submitted:

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CAPT James Bresette (AIANCOAC)  
 MOLC Secretary

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CAPT Laura Aponte (HOAC)  
 MOLC Chair