

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**8/17/17**

Attendees: Mary Beth Shea, Tracey Smith, Ron Girona, Sam Wan, Genevieve Davis  
Guest presenter re: privatization: Russell Lemle

**Welcome Tracey and Genevieve (Mary Beth Shea)**

- Orientation to Executive Committee
- Overview of the different calls/committees

**Choice Update (Russell Lemle)**

1. Dr. Lemle received an email from NOVA to receive feedback on what to support/not in terms of Choice.

- Could be a great document for the four organizations to collaborate on, forward on to Veterans Affairs committees
- Noted the importance of continuing those relationships and promising that organizations are reaching out to AVAPL

*Questions/Actions:*

Committee to review document and make edits as needed.

2. Phil Longman & Susanne Gordon recently published a piece for the American Legion.

- VA Social Workers page posted it, also was included in daily news briefs.
- Notable due to their history of political stances, these documents are a counterforce to privatization
- AVAPL was not credited for some content developed by the organization, Russell is communicating with them to make sure they include that in future pieces
- Dr. Lemle sent it to NOVA who then sent it to Veterans Affairs committees

*Questions/Actions:*

**\*\*Do we know if Director Shulkin is getting any of these?**

Not 100% sure. Don't know how to find that out. Hesitant to send anything directly to him.

**\*\*Should we send it to AVAPL?**

Dr. Smith to send the study out to the listserv. It is already on the advocacy page.

3. Dr. Lemle has heard the legislation related to choice is slow moving due to a desire to make it bipartisan. This could be helpful, if they are willing to receive feedback.

*Questions/Actions:*

- Consider crafting a message on what would not be good to give up in the name of compromise.
- Consider making a call out to the AVAPL community to contact their representatives and to those on the committee with some talking points
- Lemle and Smith to take the lead on this

**Treasurer's report (Sam Wan):**

-Report sent to the committee - membership is at \$58,760, conference account is at \$10,916, waiting on APA reimbursement for site visitor workshop at \$5138

-Anticipated to have spent approx. \$9000 on the DC summit. Still finalizing budget. Processing travel reimbursements for EC attendance at APA.

-One award broke during delivery. Will replace. Need to check on whether folks got them and if there were any other issues.

-Working on finalizing VAPLC hotel contracts (2019 and 2020, 2018 has already been signed). Conference planning committee have agreed to have these contracts signed. Background: Conference moved to this hotel (from the Hotel Contessa) due to space needs. Discussed the potential problem with continued increase in attendance; noted that there are more problems with travel in VA, which could make this a non-issue. There are typically between 180-210 attending the conference. With the contracts, we are committing to a minimum revenue of approx. \$85,000. We typically spend approx. \$50,000 (85% of our budget) on food. If looking at potential cost savings, breakfast, snacks, and lunch are a package deal so unable to break apart easily and would lose the "bundle" discount. Potentially could cut back on "social hour" bartending and/or appetizers. In summary, noted that we are getting good value with the Westin as we get a better deal through concessions due to the long relationship the hotel has had with the conference.

- 497 members this month, will need to prepare for the membership drive. Also there has been some confusion about who qualifies to be an honorary member, defined in bylaws as retired members. Will change this in Memberplanet to make it more clear who is eligible.

*Questions/Actions:*

-Sam to reach out to award recipients to verify receipt

-President to sign contracts.

-Committee to vote on date change of membership to be official (Calendar year instead of fiscal).

-Dr. Wan to clarify who qualifies to be an honorary member.

\*\*Should leadership in VACO be given opportunity to be an honorary member?

Discussed how this could be interpreted as a conflict of interest if it is given. Dr. Smith will reach out to leadership to discuss usefulness of actual membership.

**Mid-winter meeting (Mary Beth Shea):**

-Dr. Shea has reached out to DAV make sure it would not conflict with their mid-winter.

Discussed potential weeks – preference was for March and not February.

Order of preference decided:

1. March 5
2. March 19
3. Feb 12
4. Feb 5

-Orientation to new committee members on what these meetings include (VACO, VSOs, APA, and Congress). Discussed use of leave (AL when advocating, AA other times). Discussed importance of dates (not too early, especially after an election as people are just moving in; not too late, so they have time to consider prior to their Spring recess)

*Questions/Actions:*

Dr. Shea will confer with Heather Kelly to set a week that works. Upon setting a date, Dr. Shea will announce it to the group immediately so room reservations for hotel can be made. Need to make hotel reservations ASAP.