AAO Public Health and Environmental Vision Section
2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Section Chair, Dr. Debbie Hettler welcomed almost 30 section members to the annual PHEV section meeting at the 2017 Chicago AAO meeting. Introduction of VIP guests included Dr. Pete Kollbaum, liaison AAO trustee, and Dr. W. Lee Ball, Director, Professional Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Vision. Members were reminded that 2020 will be the renewal year for all diplomates granted before 2015 and Diplomates should stay involved and keep a tally of individual points to assure renewal. Section minimum requirements as listed by the AAO Board of Directors were listed and include; Have 100 Fellows verified every six years (604 current members of the Section), have a Diplomate program, have a process for Diplomate renewal over a six-year period based on a uniform point system across Sections, produce five new diplomates every six years, have no more than two Diplomate tracks*: clinical and research, propose and implement an Annual Meeting Symposium each year, which can be in partnership with one or more other Section(s) or Special Interest Group(s), generate at least one newsletter per year, whether print or electronic, have elected officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair (if applicable), Program Chair, Diplomate Chair, Adopt standard Section Bylaws, as approved by the Academy Board of Directors, hold a Business meeting at the Annual Meeting, and submit an annual Section activity report to the Board of Directors.

The 4th Annual Peters Award was awarded to Mel Shipp OD, MPH, DrPH, the first optometrist to lead the APHA as President. The American Public Health Association is the leading national public health organization in the United States. He presented a well-received lecture earlier in the meeting. A reminder the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) fund for the Peters Award is still accepting donations with a current balance of $37,750. The link to award winners and donations is http://www.aaopt.org/AOF/henry-b-peters-memorial-award-public-health-and-environmental-vision. The committee for next year’s award selection was identified as Dr. Harrington, chair and Drs. Lisa Jordan, McAlister, Kleinstein, and Yoshinaga as members.

Dr. Kevin Jackson presented information about the section’s participation in the development of the action plan and the NASEM meeting on behalf of the Academy. Input was provided but the actual meeting was somewhat confrontational between different organizations that were present. The AAO executive director will coordinate the final report discussing vision improvement in collaboration with ophthalmology groups.

Dr. Sandra Wang-Harris was thanked for developing the inaugural PHEV booth in the exhibit hall this year and arranging the staffing. Discussion on modifications and shipping the pieces for next year was discussed. Brian Hatch will coordinate the PHEV booth for the San Antonio meeting next year.

Dr. Fred Soto, Program Chair Report reported on this year’s symposium. There were greater than 70 people in attendance. The symposium was challenged by a last minute speaker cancellation and audio visual issues, but was still well received. We had several excellent Symposium topics suggested for this year’s Symposium including the following; Surveillance (pulling folks from CDC and the local Chicago area in follow up to the NASEM report) and Myopia Control (looking at the public health implications of myopia both in the US and overseas.) Suggestions for topics for next year include; myth busters and blue light, joint commission on hypertension, a joint Interdisciplinary program planned by Dr.s Sandra Block and Linda Casser, healthcare compliance, enforcement and fraud and health care law topics, and telemedicine issues.

Dr. Karl Citek reported on the Diplomate prep course, which went well and had six people enrolled, and almost 20 people in the room for most of the day. Dr. Barbara Cohn will shadow Dr. Citek next year in anticipation of coordinating this course in the future. Diplomate Chair Dr. Jeff Weaver announced that we have 18 candidates in the pipeline to become a diplomate, which breaks down to 2 that applied but are not yet approved, 3 approved that took the test in the past, 5 more that took the test this year and interviewed at this year’s meeting, 3 working on projects, 5 delayed but still in process of working on their projects and 3 people defending their projects at this meeting. There will be a process change made to allow Diplomate candidates who enroll in the Prep course to potentially be eligible to take the PHEV test.
A bylaws change was made at this meeting to specify that active fellows in AAO will be eligible to vote in items during the PHEV section meeting. A committee consisting of Dr.s Brian Hatch, Stanley Hatch and Karl Citek will look at our current bylaws and recommend further changes for action at the next meeting in San Antonio next year. Elections for our Section Program chair-elect were conducted, and Dr. Karl Citek was unanimously selected. After the reminder of the dates of next year’s meeting in San Antonio November 7 - 10, 2018, the meeting was concluded.