Section Chair, Dr. Debbie Hettler welcomed almost 25 section members to the annual PHEV section meeting at the 2018 San Antonio AAO meeting at 7 PM on November 8, 2018. Dr. Weaver moved and Dr. Verma seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the minutes posted from last year’s section meeting. VIP guests Dr. Pete Kollbaum, liaison AAO trustee, and Dr. W. Lee Ball, Director, Professional Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Vision are expected at some point during the meeting. 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 (559 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 5th Annual Peters Award Lecture was awarded to Dr. Robert D. Newcomb, a former President of the American Academy of Optometry, Navy Veteran, founder of the National Association of VA Optometrists and faculty at UAB School of Optometry as well as The Ohio State University College of Optometry. The Section moved to set the number of people for the Awards committee to five. Kent Harrington chaired the committee with award committee members Lisa Jordan, Howard McAlister, Robert Kleinstein and Pat Yoshinaga. The members were reminded that the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) fund for the Peters Award is still accepting donations.

Sandra Wang-Harris was thanked for organizing the PHEV booth. She listed and in turn thanked booth volunteers that included Drs. John Hayes, Lisa Jordan, Sandy Block, Richard Hom, Ruth Hyatt, Stan Hatch, Jackie Davis, Fred Soto, and Kevin Jackson. Dr. Ruth Hyatt will transport the booth materials to the Academy in Orlando for next year. Additions to the booth will include recent diplomates and their path to diplomate status. Ruth Hyatt and Nadine Furtado reported on the Fellows Doing Research SIG-T-REX booth that was originally sponsored by the PHEV section and had many subjects through the boooth during the exhibit hall.
Drs. Brian Hatch, Stanley Hatch and Karl Citek along with the liaison trustee reported on their work with the bylaws revision project. A revision of the PHEV consistent with the approved template was drafted and passed at this meeting after a motion by Dr. Kleinstein and second by Dr. Wingert and will be reviewed by the AAO Board of Trustees.

Dr. Fred Soto reported on the two-hour program on Telehealth, and Telemedicine which was held in a packed room and well received. Several suggested topics for next year were discussed in view of the opportunities associated with the World Council of Optometry Meeting that will be also at the same time. Topics discussed included blue light, other hazardous radiation, uncorrected refractive error, Vision 2020 in 2019. See https://www.iapb.org/vision-2020/, WHO World Report on Vision, expected April 2019. See http://www.who.int/blindness/vision-report/en/ International optometric education, myopia epidemic, eye protection, international screening, and any other topics that become an opportunity. Dr. Karl Citek will attend the planning meeting for next year.

Dr. Patrick Yoshinaga presented information about the Tuesday Prep course provided by Dr. Citek. Seven diplomate candidates and numerous instructors enjoyed nearly 10 hours of presentations, on topics ranging from public health history and ethics to vision standards for job requirements. The highlight, of course, was the presentation on tropical diseases as we enjoyed our lunch by Dr. Yoshinaga who kept it relevant, entertaining, and light (some of the images notwithstanding!). In addition, thanks were expressed to Drs. Hettler, Verma, Jackson, Hatch, Jordan, Block, Soroka, Dain, and Weaver. The course started precisely at 8:03 AM and concluded at 6:06 PM.

Dr. Weaver reported that we have two new PHEV diplomates at this meeting, Drs. Ruth Hyatt and Hector Santiago. The PHEV Section now has 37 Diplomates: 29 Clinical, 6 Emeritus, and 2 Retired. We have 21 Candidates, including 4 new applicants from this year’s Diplomate Prep course.

The meeting was concluded with a reminder to plan to attend next year in Orlando!