BOARD ACTIONS

The Board of Directors met in Washington, DC on June 8. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a Board conference call on April 21 were approved as presented.
- Treasurer Kevin Rudeen presented the ASAHP financial report. A motion was approved to establish a Board subcommittee to review strategic committee requests for plans. Board Members Barry Eckert, Peggy Valentine, and Julie O’Sullivan Maillet will serve on the subcommittee. Board Members also had an opportunity to discuss the Association’s investments with staff from Merrill Lynch.
- A motion was approved to extend for the next five years ASAHP’s contract with Capitol Hill Partners (CHP) to manage the Association.
- A motion was approved regarding a proposed bylaws change for Policy and Procedures Language for Nondiscrimination and Sexual Harassment. The proposed change will be submitted to the ASAHP membership.
- Director Teri Stumbo, Chairperson of the Nominations & Election Committee, presented to the Board the candidate slate for the 2016 election.
- Director Peggy Valentine, Chairperson of HRSA’s Interdisciplinary Committee on Community Based Linkages, indicated that the Committee’s report was sent to Congress.
- Past President Richard Talbott reported on activities of two groups in which ASAHP is represented; National Academy of Medicine and the Health Professions Network.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

Data collection for the 2016 study opens on September 12. Now is a good time to determine who will be assigned responsibility for collecting data. A User’s Guide is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled “Members.” It has proved to be immensely valuable for newcomers to the study.

The survey is managed by staff at Creighton University. Contact has been made with them regarding some possible additions to the study. Items under consideration are as follows: paid preceptors, adjunct faculty use, pay and degrees; faculty vacancies and length of vacancy, pay and position; certificates and levels; and, pre- and post-doctoral programs. Once a draft has been developed, it will be sent for review and distribution to deans and directors.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Among the five major goals of the Association’s Strategic Plan, part of the implementation of Goal V calls for recruiting additional corporate and employer members. Director Barbara Wallace has begun to contact corporations about membership in ASAHP. She indicated that interest has been positive from the organizations that were contacted. Clinical and rehabilitation entities have been approached thus far, but a broader spectrum of potential partners also will be pursued.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year, the Association sponsors the Scholarship of Excellence Program for allied health students enrolled in its member institutions. In 2015, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions. This year’s competition attracted 37 applications. They are being reviewed by ASAHP Past Presidents who are doing the assessment independently of one another. They will submit their recommendations by July 30, 2016.
ASAHP STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ARM

A proposed activity to implement Goal IV of the ASAHP Strategic Plan is to create ASAHP student chapters and develop pre-boarding, onboarding training, with the latter focus on how students can leave academic programs and go directly to work without extensive orientation at the workplace. In pursuit of that objective, seven individuals have been selected as the founding leadership of the new student arm of the Association. They are:

Lee Drown (Ithaca College)
Sarah Essler (Texas Tech University)
Tyler Kallasy (Utica College)
Aimee Murray (University of Missouri)
Sara Nelson (University of Oklahoma)
Collin Peterson (St. Louis University)
Heather Watkins-Jones (Stockton University)

The group will be aided by the efforts of ASAHP Past President Richard Oliver (University of Missouri), John Sigg (Ithaca College) and Ken Johnson (Webber State University) who will assist in the development of bylaws and guidelines to help each ASAHP member institution to develop a local or regional chapter. These students will meet during the upcoming Association’s Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA and their costs for attending the event will be supported by ASAHP.

A parallel development of interest to the Association’s Board of Directors is to explore developing a closer alignment with Alpha Eta, a national honor society for allied health students. A representative of that organization presents awards during the Awards Dinner at the ASAHP Annual Conference each year. The notion of forging closer links between the two organizations can be discussed at this year’s Annual Conference in New Orleans.

CANCER MOONSHOT INITIATIVES

A Cancer Moonshot Summit that was held in Washington, DC yesterday furnished an opportunity to announce dozens of initiatives to accelerate efforts to combat this disease. Among them, it was announced that an Oncology Center of Excellence will be created within the FDA. IBM’s supercomputer Watson is teaming up with the Department of Veterans Affairs to try to revolutionize cancer care for veterans. The recently launched Genomic Data Commons (GDC) at the National Cancer Institute will benefit from the addition of data from 18,000 adult patients with a diverse array of cancers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

As patients shoulder more out-of-pocket health care costs, they increasingly need and seek guidance from clinicians about the costs of care. Resources to support clinicians in having cost-of-care conversations exist, but they need to be embedded into the clinical workflow in order to be implemented broadly and must be optimized for improving conversations with vulnerable populations in particular. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) released two calls for proposals to support cost-of-care conversations across different vulnerable patient populations, care settings, and geographic areas. The submission deadline is July 27, 2016.

Up to $900,000 will be awarded for integrating cost-of-care conversation resources into the clinical workflow, with individual grants up to $250,000 for studies of up to 12 months. Information can be accessed at http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2016/integrating-cost-of-care-conversation-resources-into-the-clinical-workflow.html?rid=b9DqDr_nbyVqMCzAWLsAxFXYXWIRNIAH&et_cid=599485.

Up to $1 million will be awarded for testing messages, best practices, and other principles for cost-of-care conversations with vulnerable populations, with individual grants up to $250,000 for studies of up to 12 months. Information can be accessed at http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2016/optimizing-cost-of-care-conversations-between-clinicians-and-vulnerable-patient.html?rid=b9DqDr_nbyVqMCzAWLsAxFXYXWIRNIAH&et_cid=599485.

FEDERAL OVERTIME RULE

An Issue Brief from the American Council on Education (ACE) summarizes the new federal overtime rule and the impact it will have on campuses, offers perspective on how to comply with the new regulation, and answers some questions presidents and other senior campus leaders may immediately be asking. The new rule raises the salary threshold to $47,476 from its current level of $23,660, which will convert many lower level, salaried employees into hourly workers eligible for overtime pay, such as non-faculty employees who are admissions recruiters and student affairs officers.