



Commissioned Officers Association  
U.S. Public Health Service

Fort Detrick Branch

Fort Detrick COA Branch  
Meeting March 6, 2007

**Members Attendance**

LCDR Rick Gussio, President, (NIH/Ft. Detrick)  
LCDR Candido Alicea, Vice President, (NIH/Ft. Detrick)  
CDR Lisa Barnhart, Secretary, (NIH/Bethesda)  
CDR Amy Anderson, Member, (FDA)  
CDR Katherine Berkhausen, Member, (FDA)  
CDR Kristen Everett, Member, (FDA)  
CDR Jeff McKinney, Member, (NIH)  
LCDR Linda Ellison-Dejewski, Member, (NIH)  
LCDR Cynthia Rubio, Member, (FDA)  
LT Sally Hu, Member, (FDA)  
Anne Kenny (DoD readiness/fitness consultant), Guest Speaker

- I. Introduction of Members Attending.
  - A. New member Linda Ellison-Dejewski welcomed/introduced.
  
- II. President's Report/Announcements:
  - A. LCDR Gussio announced:
    1. PT testing will be held on Friday, 4/20/07 at 1700 and will include running and swimming at the Ft. Detrick Fitness Center.
    2. The passing of Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Koop, spouse of Dr. C. Everett Koop, and former First Lady of the PHS Commissioned Corps.
    3. Per Section 10-207, Subsection (q) of the Maryland Code, PHS retirees retiring after July 1, 1991 may claim \$5000.00 state income tax exemption, which was approved by the Maryland legislature last year for the 2006 tax year.
  
- III. Administrative and Committee Reports:
  - A. Treasurer's and Fund Raising Activities: CDR Lisa Barnhart reporting for LCDR Leigh Ann Matheny
    1. No updates to report.
    2. Decision made during this meeting to donate \$250.00 to the Commissioned Officers Foundation scholarship fund.



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- B. Social Activities: LT Sally Hu, Chair. We will conduct 3 to 4 events this year.
    - 1. Picnic Subcommittee: date remains July 28<sup>th</sup>. No other report.
    - 2. Santa Pizza & Bowl Subcommittee: no report
    - 3. Dining Out Subcommittee: Dress will be SDB with Dinner Dress optional if officers express interest.
    - 4. Need Chairs and Vice Chairs for all
  
  - C. Membership: Chair: CDR Amy Anderson; Vice Chair: LCDR Linda Ellison-Dejewski,
    - 1. Membership numbers: at present 75 to 79 with two new members, and one resignation reported since the last meeting. CDR Anderson has sent welcome letters to new members.
  
  - D. Professional Committee: LCDR Cynthia B. Rubio, Chair.
    - 1. LCDR Rubio announced via phone, prior to this meeting that she spoke with Col. Phillips (Barquist clinic commander) and he is very open to having PHS officers volunteer for clinical time in the Ft. Detrick facility. Officers should follow-up with LCDR Rubio if interested. He especially needs mental health personnel (especially with alcohol and substance abuse certification), pharmacists and nurses.
  
  - E. Awards Committee: Chair and Vice Chair positions vacant.
  
  - F. Resolutions Committee: CDR Thomas L. Doss, Chair. LCDR Gussio reported continuing resolution of Hazardous Duty Award for BSL3, BSL4 assignments to the National COA.
  
  - G. Fundraising Committee: LCDR Leigh Ann Matheny, Chair (absent).
    - 1. LCDR Gussio reports raffles will be planned for every event.
  
  - H. Community Activities Committee: Chair: CDR Jeff McKinney;
    - 1. Science Fair at Walkersville High School to be held on 3/24/07. Judges still needed. Volunteers should speak to CDR McKinney. Required uniform: Service Dress Blues.
  
  - I. Election Committee: Chair: LCDR Rick Gussio;  
Vice Chair: CDR Amy Anderson,
- IV. New Business
- A. LCDR Rick Gussio: 2007 meeting dates/times discussed; to be posted on website.



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- B. LCDR Rick Gussio provided a brief overview of the plan for Officer Deployment Experiences to be presented at the 11 September 2007.
  
- V. Round the Table
  - A. Final Comments from Members and Attendees
    - 1. No comments.
  
- VI. Guest Speaker: Anne Kenny, “Tips for passing your APFT”.
  
- VII. Date and Time for Next Meeting:
  - A. The next Fort Detrick COA Branch Meeting will be May 8, 2007 from 1900-2000. The guest speaker will be CAPT Richard Potter (ret.), and will present “How to Use Space-A Travel”

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

LCDR Rick Gussio  
President, FTDET COA Branch  
[gussio@ncifcrf.gov](mailto:gussio@ncifcrf.gov)  
301-846-5791

Submitted by:

CDR Lisa Barnhart  
Secretary, Ft Detrick Branch COA  
[lbarnhart@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:lbarnhart@niaid.nih.gov)  
301-496-5270