

Report to the COA and COF Boards

Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach and Other Activities

1-30 September 2019
(condensed version)

3 – Jim sent a letter to Vice President Pence—a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents—asking him to intervene on behalf of the USPHS in the dispute with the Smithsonian over the design of the National Native American Veterans memorial

4- John met with Arizona Coalition for Military Families to confirm they provide resources for USPHS members and their families. They do. COA Local Branches in Arizona may volunteer to assist the Arizona Coalition, especially in support of their growing efforts to reach service members and veterans living in rural parts of the state.

5 - John met LT Sandra McCabe at Phoenix Indian Medical Center to discuss Local Branch support of the 2020 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

6 - John attended a meeting of the National Board of Public Health Examiners, of which he is a Director. NBPHE oversees the Certified in Public Health exam. COA members can receive a discount to sit for the exam and a free study guide.

- John met with Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Health Services, to discuss state health department support for the USPHS Symposium at the Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel. ADHS is all in.

- John spoke with staff for Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA) regarding the proposed Ready Reserve Corps legislation. Congresswoman Eshoo is interested in being a lead cosponsor with Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX).

-Jim drafted letters to members of the Smithsonian Board of Regents and hand-delivered these letters to the Congressional members of the Board. A sample of these letters is on the COA website at

https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/nativeamericans/letter_to_members_of_smithso.pdf

-Jim met with the Executive Director and several board members of the FDA Alumni Association. The meeting took place at their request and centered on how they could model their association after COA in some particulars. John is going to give them some tips on website design and social media engagement.

7 - John spoke at the Tucson COA promotion ceremony for RADM Francis Frazier and six other officers

9 – COA placed an ad in *Roll Call*, one of the two newspapers that focuses on Capitol Hill. It highlighted COA's objections to the current design of the National Native American Veterans

Memorial and called on members of Congress to reach out to the Smithsonian and ask them to modify the design to include the USPHS and NOAA

-Jim sent a third letter to the new (as of 16 June) Smithsonian Secretary asking him to reconsider the design of the Smithsonian's National Native American Veterans Memorial. The letter included a copy of the *Roll Call* ad (which mentioned him by name) and can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/nativeamericans/letter_to_smithsonian_secret.pdf

-Jim sent a letter to Martin Baron, Executive Editor of *The Washington Post* asking him why his reporters did not want to cover the story of the Native American Veterans Memorial's omission of the USPHS and NOAA. He included a copy of the *Roll Call* ad.

10 - At a meeting with Express Scripts management, Judy presented the case of a COA member (and PHS pharmacist) who had been incorrectly told that his daughter lacked prescription drug coverage. He was told to pay \$1,361 immediately or his case would be referred for collection. She worked with our member and Express Scripts for several weeks to get the problem solved. Her purpose on 10 September was to thank Express Scripts for fixing their mistake, but also to suggest how this kind of situation might be avoided in the future.

12 – Jim met with two AMSUS exhibitors to discuss with them the possibility that they might exhibit at the Symposium

13 – John spoke with officials at the Maricopa County Health Department regarding a potential RAM free clinic held in conjunction with the 2020 USPHS Symposium in Arizona. The county health department will be very helpful. RAM staff have asked us to hold off on planning, until RAM determines its schedule for 2020 and whether it could handle an event in Arizona in June.

18 - John met with staff for Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) regarding the proposed Ready Reserve Corps legislation. Senator Rounds will be the Senate lead cosponsor and would like to introduce legislation in the remaining six weeks of legislative activity this session of Congress. John also met with Senate HELP majority and minority staff to discuss legislative counsel review of the language.

-Jim participated in a meeting of the Veterans Day National Committee

19 - John spoke with staff for Senator Doug Jones (D-AL) regarding the proposed Ready Reserve Corps legislation. Senator Jones will consider joining Senator Rounds as a lead cosponsor.

20 – John and Jim attended a PHS promotion ceremony at FDA headquarters in Rockville

23 – Jim met with staff and leadership of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). He will be speaking at their annual conference in Colorado Springs. He made an introduction for them with Deputy Surgeon General RADM Erica Schwartz, as they would like to have an MOA with the USPHS.

- John worked with retired RADM Helena Mishoe to launch a new COF-sponsored program titled the RADM Mishoe Diversity "Believe" Scholarship for High School Seniors. Information is available on the COF website.

24 - John spoke with staff for Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) regarding the proposed Ready Reserve Corps legislation. Senator Van Hollen will consider joining Senator Rounds as a lead cosponsor.

28 - Judy attended the monthly meeting of The Military Coalition's Health Care Committee. She also attended a follow-on presentation by Kaiser Permanente, which wants to get into the military marketplace. Kaiser is about to launch a demonstration project in Atlanta. (More on that later).