



September 2020

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2020 Topics in the Tropics

The Veterans Caucus Is Made Up Of People who Care

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide up-to-date information to the members of the Veterans Caucus. The Board of Directors strive to ensure that the members are well informed and to foster a greater sense of community, and to build morale.

Please consider helping not only the Caucus, your fellow members but also the profession as a whole by considering to volunteer in some capacity within the organization.

If interested, please contact TJ Bonjour, President, at

TJbonjour@veteranscaucus.org

Message from the President

September 1, 2020

Dear Caucus Members,

On behalf of the Veterans Caucus and the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support as we continue working for Veterans, PAs, and the next generation of PAs. I am excited as we usher in the new decade, continuing the focus managing resources supporting our annual scholarship and award winners, promoting professional education, development, and charitable giving.

Despite AAPA Nashville being cancelled in May, the Caucus still awarded \$32,000 in PA student scholarships to well deserving PA students as each will soon be on the medicine front lines. Our relationships with our military service chapters are stronger than ever as we continue working hand in hand for the betterment of all. It is also noteworthy to welcome our newly elected President-Elect, Pam Lucas, Secretary, Mark McKinnon, Director-at-Large, Johnnie Gilpen, and our Student Representative, Richard Tang!

I am pleased to announce another successful Topics in the Tropics — Jamaica conference held December 2019 where participants earned 18 hours of Category I CME. It was great seeing everyone while recharging and reconnecting.

Regarding Topics 2020, the Veterans Caucus has been monitoring the coronavirus situation with the health, safety, and well-being of our guests and members in mind. However, after careful consideration of the ongoing spread of COVID-19 overseas and in the United States, the Veterans Caucus Board of Directors decided not to conduct the Topics in the Tropics 2020 Annual Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, December 9 - 12, 2020. The Caucus Board of Directors arrived at this difficult decision after consulting with speakers, vendors, and other meeting participants, and gathering information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities.

Message from the President-Cont

Ultimately, the global nature of our meeting, rapidly escalating health concerns regarding the coronavirus, and ongoing travel and other restrictions made it impossible for us to hold the meeting at this time. We urge those who were planning to attend the meeting to expedite travel cancellations. Your 2020 registration fees can be applied to your registration fee for our 30th Anniversary Conference in Cancun in December 2021 avoiding any increase in fees or you may request a refund instead. Looking forward to next year, please SAVE THE DATE....., December 8 -- 11, 2021 will be the Veterans Caucus 30 Anniversary of Topics in the Tropics and we look forward to seeing you in Cancun!

This year's Caucus goals are to increase our membership by 20%, optimize our new website and social media platforms, and to rekindle industry sponsorships focused on Veterans and our membership while continuously driving onward giving back through our robust scholarships, local charity partnerships, and annual keystone CME event.

*"In this age, I don't care
how tactically or
operationally brilliant you
are; if you cannot create
harmony - even vicious
harmony - on the*

Topics in the Tropics -- CANCELLED

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Cancun Mexico

"Lectures till ONE; then Fun in the Sun"

“Did you know?”

Reward There are several members of the Veterans Caucus who are experienced VA “Compensation and Pension Disability Medical Examiners” as VA employees, VA contractors or as private practice C/P examiners. As veterans, we know that navigating this C/P disability system can be daunting and our organization stands ready to assist Veteran PA’s and Veteran PA students in helping our fellow vets get ‘between the navigation beacons’ into port!

Remember, that getting your VA disability rating might help you obtain forgiveness of any outstanding student loans.

If you have any questions about a military service injury or medical condition or how to work your claim with the VA, please reach out to us thru the Veterans Caucus website at <https://www.veteranscaucus.org/contact/> We will get back in touch with you ASAP and see how one of our Veteran Caucus members with VA C/P experience can assist you.

We welcome your inquiry.



“Lifesavers Then, Caregivers Now”

**Mike Milner, DHSc, PA-C
RADM, USPHS (retired)
Compensation and Pension Examiner
VA Hudson Valley, NY**

“For many of the brave men and women who have fought on the front lines, returning home means trying to navigate a complicated and

Meet Your New Board of Directors

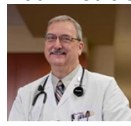
TJ Bonjour
President (20-21)



Pam Lucas
President-Elect (20-21)



Rod Grogan
Past President (20-21)



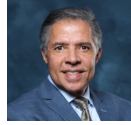
Mike Milner
Treasurer (20-24)



Mark McKinnon
Secretary (20-24)



James Cannon
Director-at-Large (19-21)



John Western
Director-at-Large (19-21)



Johnnie Gilpen
Director-at-Large (20-22)



Dallas Lipscomb
Director-at-Large (20-22)



Richard Tang
Student Representative
(20-21)



2020 Veterans Caucus Scholarships

As incoming scholarship chairperson, I'm pleased announce winners of the Veterans Caucus scholarships for 2020. Grading and notification had been done through our past president and scholarship chair, Rock Munsee. Each scholarship has been sponsored with the Veterans Caucus matches those donations.

The following is a list of the winners.

- ⇒ Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Veterans Caucus Scholarship
Justin Morris, Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin
- ⇒ Vicki Lianne Moritsugu Memorial Scholarship
John Rutledge, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ⇒ Lieutenant Ruth Cortez Memorial Scholarship
Margaret Hause University of Florida School of PA studies Gainesville, Florida
- ⇒ Lieutenant Colonel David Gwinn Memorial Scholarship
Diana Aragon, University of Florida School of PA studies, Gainesville, Florida
- ⇒ Staff Sergeant Craig Ivory Memorial Scholarship
Bassiano Martinez Junior, Heritage University of Physician Assistant Educational program, Toppenish Washington
- ⇒ Captain Frederick C Brace III Memorial Scholarship
Brian Buhner, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, San Antonio, TX
- ⇒ Veterans Caucus Scholarship
Thomas Mulhern, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois
- ⇒ Grogan Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Curran, James Madison University PA Program, Harrisburg Virginia
- ⇒ Society of Army Physician Assistants Scholarship
Benjamin Johnson, Nebraska College of Allied Health Professionals, Omaha, Nebraska
- ⇒ Society of Air Force Physician Assistants Scholarship
Ronin Sullivan, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus PA program, Colorado
- ⇒ Senior Master Sergeant Nathan L. Lipscomb Senior Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Hunsicker, Clarkson University PA program, Potsdam, New York
- ⇒ Jesse Edwards Memorial Scholarship
Mitchell Bliss, Idaho State University Department of Physician Assistant Studies, Pocatello, Idaho
- ⇒ Staff Sargent Robert V Milner Memorial Scholarship
Travis LaVerne, Drexel University, Physician Assistant Department, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ⇒ Pfc. Roger W Cummins Scholarship
Rusty Wilson, MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program, Seattle, Washington
- ⇒ Sgt. Frederick C. Brace Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Nicholas Champinand, IUPUI Physician Assistant Program, Indianapolis, Indiana
- ⇒ Albert T Kissel Memorial Scholarship
Bailey Jesse, Milligan College Physician Assistant Program, Milligan College, Tennessee

The Veterans Caucus would like to formally thank our donors for their continued support and generosity. The Caucus will be doing further fundraising activities in the near future on the website. Please look forward to that and participate to continue our benevolence to our veteran PA Students.

The official application process starts in January 2021 with notification being sent to eligible PA Programs in the next several months.

Rod Grogan
Past President
Chair, Scholarship Committee

"The Willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

George Washington

Important Dates

Patriot Day	Sept. 11
Air Force Birthday	Sept. 18
Gold Star Mothers and Family's Day	Sept. 27
Navy Birthday	Oct. 13
National Day of the Deployed	Oct. 26
Marine Corps Birthday	Nov. 11
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Dec. 7
U.S. National Guard Birthday	Dec. 13
National Wreaths Across America Day	Dec. 19

"The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live."

Mortimer Adler
