

VOSH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Orlando, Florida
Sunday, November 15, 2009

President Larry Hookway called the VOSH INTERNATIONAL (“VOSH”) ANNUAL MEETING to order at 8:10 am EST.

Dr. Larry Hookway, President, VOSH International made opening comments

Dr. Hookway gave thanks to VOSH’s major sponsors: Walman Optical, Essilor and Vistakon; discussed upcoming optical conferences, including WCO Refractive Error Conference, September 22-24, 2010 in South Africa; discussed highlights of year 2009 for VOSH International; presented statistics re: visually impaired and VOSH’s challenge in the future: the balance of short term missions and with more sustainable care; and acknowledged future goals of VOSH and it’s chapters.

Roll Call by Secretary/Treasurer Charles Covington:

AZ: Stephanie Mastores
CA: Greg Pearl
Del Val: Christine Smith
Honduras: Jeff Marshall
IL: Natalie Venezia
IN: Jeff Marshall
IA: Barbara Sheetz
KA: Dale Cole
MI: Michael Listenberger
MN: Bob Boeding
Of New England: Lee Lerner
Netherlands: Annemieke Coops
Northwest: Paul Caletti
OH: Larry Hookway
OR: Ann Edmonds
Quebec: Pierre Labine
Southeast: Paul Anderson
Vosh Texas Lonestar: Nelson Riviera

Student chapters:

Indiana University: Kacie Monroe
University of Missouri, St. Louis: William McAllister
University of Alabama, Birmingham: Alex Keith
New England College of Optometry (Massachusetts): Nicole Ross, Iris Miller
SUNY State College of Optometry (New York): Dina Solanky
University of California, Berkeley: Melanie Akau, Charlie Ngo

Also present from VOSH International:

Bina Patel
Mike DeRossier

Jeff Forrey
Marcela Frazier
Nelson Riviera
James Vaught
Natalie Venezia
Deborah Wright
Harry Zeltzer

Speaker: Dr. George Woo

Topic: The State Of Optometric Education In Greater China And How VOSH Can Help In The Effort

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

Discussion of the political makeup, educational opportunities and requirements, professional qualifications as it relates to optometry in Greater China. The need in Greater China is great for free optometric services and free glasses and medical attention. Discussion of opportunities to become involved in optometric care in Greater China, including through the WHO Fellowship program, as well as exchange programs with many of the USA Optometry schools. VOSH contributes by extending its Fellowship program, the Technology Transfer Program, and particularly the need for teachers in clinical practice.

Topic: We Appreciate Your Help — The Secrets Of Cahaba Valley Health Care's Success

Edwina Taylor. RN, RNP

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

Introduction by Marcela Frazier

Discussion of Cahaba Valley Health Care (organized 2000), its background, its current challenges, and its future. (Cahaba Valley Health Care is a nonprofit organization based in central Alabama dedicated to providing access to quality healthcare for the underserved, primarily Hispanic, communities.)

Topic: Addressing Human Resources While Strengthening Health Systems: An Evaluation Of Eye Care Service Provision

Dr. Imran Khan

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

Discussion of how VOSH works to strengthen optometric systems around the world. Discussion of statistics and the failure of the overall health system and what is the role of VOSH in remedying this. What are NGO's doing about it? A lot of monetary funding goes into capital projects.

Objectives: Need to promote long-term sustainability and to strengthen overall health systems. Health systems made up of several components: need a balance among these components:

Discussion of how VOSH can contribute:

Leadership/Governance:

- Make contacts and work with the local governments and ministries of health, local people, service clubs,
- Long term commitments in communities,
- Avoid duplication of services and build coalitions

Health work force:

- Strategic planning: need to collect data: assess ocular conditions, priorities of population, assess the local needs create local professional linkages in area

- Increase number of trained eye care providers/creation of training and educational programs
- Continued success- monitor and evaluate training programs and equipment donations

Service delivery:

- Outreach/screenings
- Work with existing infrastructure: repeat missions to same place
- Reduce burden on existing system

Information:

- Measuring and standardizing exit visual acuities and collect refractive data and statistics- WHO has protocol to access on their web site

Financing:

- Support for people who cannot afford eye care
- Clinic and equipment supplies

Medical Products/Technology:

- Contribute equipment, supplies and repair and training for use of new technology (Instant Vision Assessment Device per Dr. Woo)

Topic: Current OGS Projects; Available OGS Grants For Sustainable Projects

Dr. Vic Connors

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

Introduced Optometry Giving Sight (www.givingsight.org) and its relationship with VOSH.

Formed a partnership in 2008 with VOSH. OGS are the financial support “enablers”, is a global fundraising program and assists VOSH by raising funds and looks to support sustainable vision care and local training, and infrastructure.

Discussion re OGS relationship with VOSH: To date OSG has committed to give VOSH \$75,000 per year given in June of each year. June 2008 and June 2009; Florida Project, Tijuana optometric school project, Nicaragua Presbyopia study

Discussed Grant Opportunities. National OGS committee will set aside funds to look at domestic sustainable programs. Grant applications will be available through VOSH website

Discussed Goals of OGS for 2010

Encouraged VOSH Members to will be ambassadors for OGS- benefits all, will provide you slides and presentation to spread the word about OGS

Topic: Report On The International Agency For The Prevention Of Blindness (IAPB) Programs

Dr. Jerry Vincent

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

Discussion about Initiative Vision 20/20-the Right to Sight and IAPB International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. www.iapb.org

Vincent encourages that VOSH be active in the IAPB meetings and that the same person attend to participate in the committees and interact with the other agencies. Broad Theme: need general development and

partnership with non-optical agencies- service organizations, local infrastructure such as water and trash services. VOSH can be by attending and participating with IAPB. (VOSH is a member). Also can help with looking ahead at trends etc.

Note: by Larry Hookway: VOSH attended to IAPB meeting in Argentina last year. Well received and networking with NGO and trying to collaborate.)

**Topic: Update On The VOSH International Nicaragua Project
Dr. Greg Pearl, President Elect VOSH International**

Report re:

- “Pro-Vision” Clinic in Managua- Clinic established in July 2009, partnered with ophthalmologists in Nicaragua. VOSH has MOU with a surgeon, screenings in the field with an ophthalmologist. The clinic has 3 exam rooms, optical lab, clinic director and three paid staff, more equipment is on the way. Walman sponsored with a \$350,000 grant. We are at the end of the 2nd year of a 5-year grant.
- Public Health Nurse Training- collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MinSa), VOSH and (Pan-American Health Association PAHO)- program envisions 20 public health nurses from 10 Regional health clinics, proficiency tests, donated equipment and training by VOSH and MinSa, partnering with Lions, Rotaries to sell eye glasses, etc.
- Optometry School-National University of Optometry School- will lead to the first 4-year program which will lead to licensed optometrist. Program of study anticipates 4 years and 1 year of social service in the rural areas. NAN and VOSH are collaborating to develop the program building on the VOSH clinics and trained nurse programs established by VOSH. VOSH looking at establishing an optometric library in English. VOSH needs help recruiting optometric educators. Possibility of offering scholarships in order to get the students from the rural areas to attend the program and to return to help their community and surrounding rural areas to provide vision care. Hope to produce 25 well trained optometrists each year to work toward sustainable eye care system.

Topic: Report On Vision 2020 USA

Dr. Ruth McAndrews, Immediate Past President VOSH International

Report on background and goals of Vision 2020. Discussed why women are more visually impaired than men, the disease and the access to care and solutions towards which to strive.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:05 p.m. EST

Meeting reconvened for the afternoon session at 1:20 p.m.

Presentation: Humanitarian of the Year Award To Max Bruss, Vosh/Southeast Chapter President

Paul Anderson presented a VOSH Clock to Max. Comments of gratitude made by Max Bruss.

Topic: Committee Reports

Technology Transfer Program - Dr. Jeff Forrey

Update of the progress for the program for donated equipment, refurbished and shipped with a \$25,000 grant from Esther B Kahn Foundation, with \$7000 remaining for the program. Money spent on shipping paid by the donors. TTP Committee will be now chaired by VOSH Board member, Michael DeRosier.

Report by Dr. Foustina Edu from Benin City, Nigeria gave a summary of her chapter. Max Bruss and VOSH/International presented 2 suitcases of equipment donated by VOSH/International to the VOSH/Nigeria. Mission planned for 2010. She extended an invitation to all VOSH chapters to come and help with her missions. She acknowledged the donations and expressed grateful appreciation.

Update on international mentorship program – Dr. Patti Fuhr.

- Register schools and students to submit applications and seek support from local ODs.
- Donate a (web based) lecture- Vosh Southeast will lead this effort
- VOSH scholars donate time
- Donate books or journals
- Canned lecture series –how to run a VOSH mission

The committee welcomes more members.

FVI Report & Awards – Dr. Ann Edmonds

FVI program initialed 2000, more information available on VOSH website

- Dr. Christine Smith
- Dr. Larry Hookway
- Dr. Greg Pearl

Topic: Report On Programs Being Done By International Centre For Eyecare Education (ICEE)

Dr. Nelson Rivera

See Biographical Sketch (attached)

ICEE is an optometry-based NGO, which embraces a strategy aimed at eliminating uncorrected refractive error through education, advocacy, research and infrastructure. Its goals are consistent with the aims and principles of Vision 2020 and are guided by sustainability, empowerment and care.

Collaboration between VOSH and ICEE:

- Project in Nicaragua (the VERAS project): Sustainable eye clinic
- ICEE's Presbyopia Study in Argentina may be basis for similar VOSH study in Nicaragua
- UNAN Optometry Program

Chapter Reports:

Chapter Reports:

AZ: This is a relatively new chapter, going to Mexico in 2010.

CA: Working with FUDEM in El Salvador, report on Baja Sur outreach/mission

Del-Val: 3 missions in 2009, several upcoming

Southeast: Paraguay, Nicaragua

Honduras and IN: 20 years have had a clinic in Honduras, 45th trip to Honduras by VOSH/Indiana, lots of donated frames, next year Kenya

IL: Oaxaca, Bolivia, local clinics

IA: Iowa collaborating with VOSH in Nicaragua

KA: Peru, India, upcoming: Panama, June 2011 to Uganda

MI: 6—7 missions per year

MN: Honduras, Ecuador, future: Philippines, Peru, have thousands of frames available for payment of freight

Netherlands: don't organize own missions, but make students available for students to join other missions, encourages students, past missions Mexico, upcoming: with VA and CN and IN. May look into forming own chapter.

Northwest: several trips in 2009, held a clinic for homeless

OH: Been to Nicaragua 3 times in last 18 months, Mexico, plans to go to Jordan

Ontario: in Guatemala now

ONE: many new members, a lot of student involvement, has a student scholarship program, Nicaragua permanent program is a turnkey operation, has allocated \$8000 toward clinic in Afghanistan, started a "matching" program by local OD for glasses, many

OR: runs all trips with Pacific University, an OR prison neutralizes glasses, strives to be a sustainable chapter returning to same place

Santa Cruz (Canada): Many trips, saw 12000 patients over 4 missions last year, regular weekend clinics, officially recognized by Revenue Canada as an official NGO, 4 missions planned for next year, has many prescription sunglasses to give away.

Argentina: examinations locally, preschools, trips.

Student VOSH Chapter reports:

- Alabama: Report: History of the SVOSH chapter. Update on recent SVOSH to Zipaquira, Columbia, October 2009.
- Of New England: Report: 2009 trip to Columbia, establishment of edging lab, local vision screening program, Sharewood Free Medical Clinic
- University of California, Berkeley: Report: update 3 trips to Ecuador, Nicaragua, Ghana, Upcoming in 2010: Nicaragua, Peru, Viet Nam
- SUNY: Report: Three recent missions including El Salvador and Peru; also work locally with homeless shelters, etc.

Additional Business:

VOSH/Southeast now includes Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia

Motion made to ratify a new Student Vosh chapter in Columbia at La Salle University. Motion seconded. Vote taken. Motion approved.

Motion made to elect new members of the Board of Directors: Mike DeRossier, C. Ellis Potter, Dave McPhillips. Vote taken. Motion approved.

Retiring VOSH Board Of Directors / Elections / Introduction Of New Officers

Farewell comments by Larry Hookway. Ruth McAndrews, as outgoing President, administered oath of office to incoming president, Greg Pearl.

Installation of Michael DeRosier, as new Board Member (C. Ellis Potter, Dave McPhillips not present)

Recognition of outgoing officers: Jeff Forrey, Ruth McAndrews, Marcela Frazier and Nelson Riviera

Recognition of continuing Board Members: Vic Conners, Bina Patel, James Vaught,

Recognition of Board Support: Harry Zeltzer, Charles Covington, Natalie Venezia, Deborah Wright (not present: John Gehrig)

The following makes up the current Board of Directors for VOSH as of November 22, 2009:

Greg Pearl, O.D., FVI
President

Larry Hookway, O. D., FVI
Immediate Past President

Bina Patel, O.D., FAAO
Director

Ellis Potter, O.D., FAAO, FVI
Director

David McPhillips, O.D., FAAO
Director

James Vaught, O.D.
Director

Michael DeRosier, O.D.
Director

Victor Connors, O.D.
Director

Harry I. Zeltzer, O.D., DOS,
FAAO, FVI
Executive Director

Charles H. Covington, Sr., FVI
Secretary/Treasurer

John A. Gehrig, Esq.
General Counsel

Natalie Venezia
Board Administrator

Deborah Wright-DeMaderios
Board Administrator

President Greg Pearl made closing comments.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m. EST

Attachment: [current bio sheet](#)