



## **Commissioned Officer's Association (COA)**

### **Overview**

The Commissioned Officer's Association (COA) is an organization that was formed to protect the interests of the Commissioned Corps officers of the U.S. Public Health Service. The COA is dedicated to improving and protecting the public health of the U.S. by addressing unmet health needs and providing support for more than 7,000 members.

The COA is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of the PHS Commissioned Corps officers. With more than 50 local branches, COA plays a vital role in addressing the needs of its members both within the U.S. and globally. COA serves as a legislative aide, a media consultant, and a career development specialist to its members by providing:

- Representation and advocacy
- Education and training for health professionals
- Studies and research
- Collaboration with related organizations
- Dissemination of public and professional information

Recent achievements in legislative advocacy include the Senate passing of amendments that will fix the Survivor Benefit Plan and provide for concurrent receipt of military retiree pay and VA disability compensation. The COA also provides educational opportunities such as the U.S. Public Health Service Scientific and Training Symposium, held annually.

*Please visit their website (<http://www.coausphs.org/>) and consider membership in both National COA and your local branch!*

### **Mission**

The mission of the COA is to improve and protect the public health of the United States by advocating for the Commissioned Corps and its officers. In meeting its commitment, the COA will provide comprehensive member services, conduct representation and advocacy, conduct education and training for health professionals, conduct studies and research, collaborate with related organizations, and disseminate public and professional information.

## **Membership**

COA members are:

- active regular (Assimilated)
- active reserve
- inactive reserve
- retired
- former Commissioned Officers of the USPHS
- students in the field of public health

## **Why Join COA?**

COA offers its members a number of benefits:

### *Annual Meeting*

With a mixture of business and pleasure, COA's annual meeting invites colleagues from around the country to gather to discuss new scientific presentations while stimulating open forums about health related issues. <http://www.phscofevents.org/>

### *Capitol Hill Representation*

COA legislation on Capitol Hill continually supports all Commissioned Corps officers - active duty, inactive reserve and retired.

### *Local Representation*

COA branches generate new venues for meeting fellow officers within your local area while providing a forum for the discussion of concerns within the Commissioned Corps.

### *Financial Planning Seminars*

COA sponsors periodic financial seminars organized by our local branches to help our uniformed service members, active and retired, plan for the future.

### *Insurance Programs*

COA enables members to participate in several low-cost insurance programs, including Group Term Life, Long-Term Disability (LTD), In-Hospital Cash Plan, and Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D). With the exception of the LTD plan, participation in these programs may continue after leaving the PHS as long as membership in COA remains current. COA Group Insurance Programs information can be found on: [www.coainsurance.com](http://www.coainsurance.com)

### *Communications*

*FRONTLINE* - Winner of the 2004 APEX Award for Publication Excellence - is COA's newsletter which provides reports on monthly activities and items of interest to COA members about the Corps and the Association.

### *Members Web Site*

COA members have access to a “members only” section of the web site that offers up-to-date member news and resources.

### *Hertz Rental Discount*

Members enjoy discount rates on Hertz rentals throughout the United States at Hertz locations and participating licensees.

### **Partners**

PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health is an affiliate of the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service. It was established to support the efforts of the U.S. Public Health Service by providing an array of programs and services including education and research efforts and an annual conference. For more information please visit [www.phscof.org](http://www.phscof.org)