

COA Veterans Affairs Committee

October 22, 2024



VA Buddy Check Week

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A graphic for VA Buddy Check Week. On the left, a hand in a military-style uniform sleeve reaches up with fingers spread. A silver ring is on the ring finger. In the top left corner is a white star with three horizontal lines below it. To the right of the hand, the text "HEY VET" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below that, "Checking in on you" is written in black. At the bottom right, a blue arrow-shaped box contains the text "VA Buddy Check Week" in white, with "Oct. 21 - 26" below it.

Types of non-profits

Types of non-profits (partial list)

- **501(c)(3) charitable organizations (COF)**
 - The most common type of 501(c) nonprofit, these organizations have charitable, educational, or religious missions. They are non-profit and donations made to them are tax deductible.
- **501(c)(6) trade and professional associations (COA)**
 - These nonprofits include chambers of commerce, business leagues, and real estate boards. Their purpose is to promote good business conditions.
- **501(c)(7) social and recreational clubs**
 - These nonprofits have social activity or recreation as their primary purpose. Examples include alumni groups, country clubs, athletic leagues, and hobby clubs.
- **501(c)(8) fraternal societies**
 - These organizations operate under the "lodge" system and provide programs and activities for members. Membership is based on a common goal or ties.
- **501(c)(10) domestic fraternal societies and associations**
 - These societies can collect funds to support charitable, scientific, literary, educational, religious, and fraternal goals.
- **501(c)(19)**
 - Organizations that support members of the Armed Forces (VFW, American Legion, etc.)

About the Organizations

COA Executive Director Takes Road Trip With OSG Senior Leaders

by Jacqueline Rychnovsky, COA
Executive Director

It was an unforgettable road trip—735 miles, nine site visits, and five hotel stays. I have been excited to share my six-day Oklahoma experience (including travel days) where I joined the Deputy Surgeon General (DSG), the Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Director, the Oklahoma City Area Director, and others for a site visit to eight Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal facilities in Oklahoma. The idea of this trip grew from a conversation I had with RADM (Ret.) Kevin Meeks in 2022 when he said, "You should visit officers in Oklahoma, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience." He was right.

DAY 1, MONDAY

The trip began with a visit to the National Service and Supply Center (NSSC) Pandemic Warehouse where we met with officers stationed at the Oklahoma City Area Office. The mission of the NSSC is to provide supply support to federal, tribal, and urban IHS care facilities in Oklahoma and across the nation. Here, we toured an enormous, modern, climate-controlled warehouse stocked floor to ceiling with supplies that are well rotated and able to be quickly distributed on a moment's notice. We enjoyed meeting with officers and civilians, and many emotional stories were shared about their important work, both during the pandemic and today. There was not a dry eye in the house when revisiting stories from the pandemic. In addition to learning about the Strategic



Leaders visit the Chickasaw Nation. (Left to right) CAPT (Ret) Rychnovsky, RDML Battese, Governor Annatubby, RADM (Ret) Meeks, RADM Hinton, RADM Watts, RDML Schobitz, Mr. LaRoche, RDML Wottle, and RADM (Ret) Grim.

Stockpile Procurement Program where products can be purchased that are unavailable to the private sector, we learned that they also house products for the Flu Pandemic Plan and other emergencies.

Next, we traveled to the First American Museum in Oklahoma City and were greeted by Adrienne Lalli Hills, Director of Community Engagement. During this visit and tour of the 175,000 square foot museum we learned about the collective histories of the 39 distinct First American Nations in Oklahoma today.

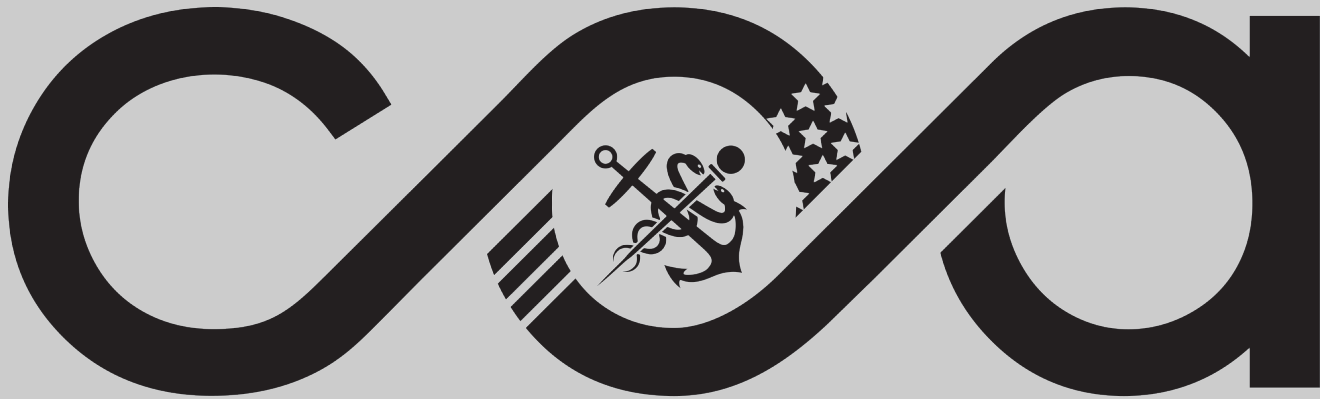
The day was not over, as we then drove to the El Reno Health Care Facility, an IHS facility. We toured the facility, met with many of the 13 officers assigned to the El Reno, and Clinton Service Unit, along with Cheyenne & Arapaho tribal officials.

After a 2-hour drive to Lawton, Oklahoma, we checked into our second hotel of the trip and rested up for Day 2.

DAY 2, TUESDAY

The day began with an early trip to the Lawton Indian Hospital, an IHS facility. Here we had a meet and greet with 27

see **ROAD TRIP** on page 8



COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mission and Vision: COA

The mission guides the organization today; a vision statement reflects the impact of the organization in the years to come.

- Mission of COA

To protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers

- Vision of COA

To be the vibrant, proactive, nationally-recognized member-based organization that supports and advocates for the USPHS Commissioned Corps and its active duty, reserve, and retired Officers

About COA

■ History

- 1951:** Founded by John McInerney, George Archambault, and Thomas Foster
- 1970's:** First Executive Director hired
- 2000:** PHSCOF formed
- 2005:** Switched from 501(c)4 to 501(c)6 status
- 2020:** Converted to 100% virtual office during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2024:** Serves more than 4,000 members annually (75% active duty/25% veteran officers), 5 full-time staff (shared with COF), 1 part-time service contractor, 80+ Local Branches, and over 65 national volunteers
- 2026:** Will celebrate our 75th Anniversary



PHS COMMISSIONED

OFFICERS FOUNDATION

Mission and Vision: COF

The mission guides the organization today; a vision statement reflects the impact of the organization in the years to come.

- Mission of COF

To empower and inspire current and former U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers to improve all people's health.

- Vision of COF

We will be recognized as America's preeminent leaders and trusted sources in public health.

About COF

■ History

- 2000:** Foundation established under COA
- 2005:** Anchor & Caduceus Society merged with COF
- 2007:** Assumed responsibility and funding for the USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium
- 2012:** Received \$620K bequest from CAPT Robert Lathrop
- 2018:** Received \$4.6M bequest from CAPT Barclay-Giel; Seed Grant Program established.
- 2025:** Will celebrate 25th anniversary

Sources of Revenue

\$2.0M Combined Budget

COA

- Membership dues
- Affinity program royalties*
- Investment income*
- Individual donations*
- Frontline advertising*
- University partners*

COF

- Individual contributions (including CFC)
- Legacy gifts
- Investment income
- Sponsorship and exhibitor support for annual meeting

- * denotes minimal contribution

About the Boards/Committees

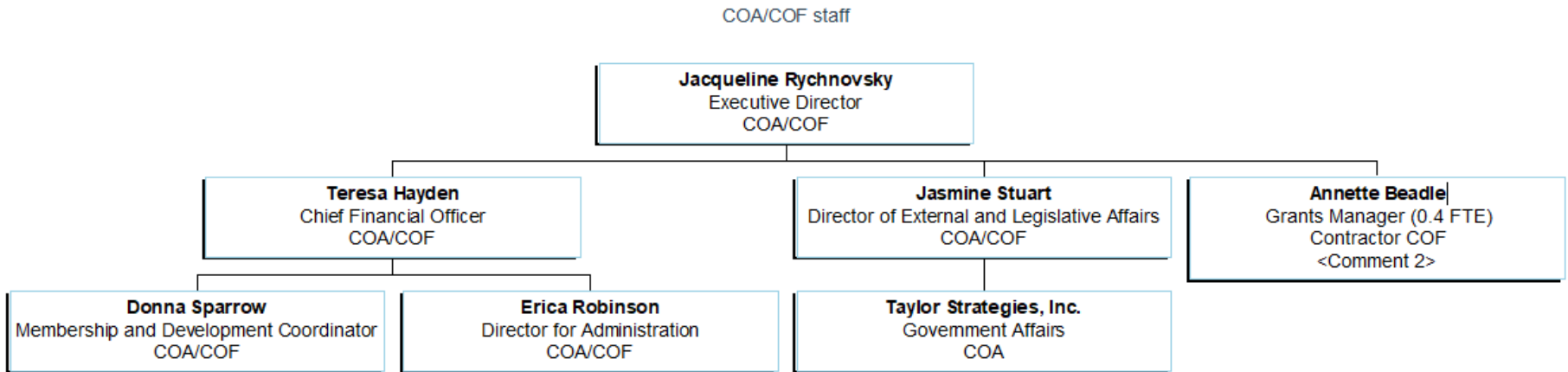
COA

- Executive Committee
- Awards
- Communications & PR
- Constitution & Bylaws
- Legislative Affairs
- Local Branch
- Outreach
- Retired Officers

COF

- Executive Committee
- Collaborative Partnerships & Alignments
- Communications and Awareness
- Education & Training
- Engagement
- Finance & Audit

Organizational Structure



- COA
 - Your Corps – Your Causes

- COF
 - Forging Leadership for Generations