

Mid- Atlantic Acquisition Council
Meeting Minutes from Wednesday May 8, 2019
10:00 – 12:00

Host:

GSA

Attendees:

Stacy Buechele, GSA FAS
Paul Ferguson, GSA PBS
Bob Vitelli, GSA FAS
Frederick Hilliard, VA
Brian Excell- Phone, Navy
MaryLou Dickens- Phone, Navy
John Straino- Phone, Navy
Chris Callendar, DoL
Dan O’Sullivan, DHS FPS
Lucy Tascone, OPM
Eric Simonait, GSA FAS
Karen Price, EPA
Sue Davaro, GSA FAS
Caitlin Zaslow, GSA FAS

The May 8, 2019 meeting was hosted by GSA at the DOW building. The meeting began with a brief introduction of everyone in attendance and on the phone.

Notes

Events Planning Subcommittee Update:

- Is there an annual need for the symposium?
OPM, PBS, DOL, VA, FAS, EPA, DHS, and Navy – all vote yes
- 77 surveys back from the symposium
- Sent additional survey with positive feedback (24 responses)

Suggested Topics for 2019 MAAC:

- Reporting of Metrics
- Section 809 Panel
- Crafting Acquisitions w/guaranteed minimums
- GAO finds that the federal acquisition workforce faces training challenges
- Tech evaluation guidance and best practices

- Streamlining RFP review
- Changes in the way customers get paid
- Senior procurement executive panel
- Career opportunities for GS-13 and above
- SBA speaking on size challenge protests and what the SBA does when they receive a size challenge
- Reverse auction techniques
- Knowledge transfer to younger workforce: Learning contracting function, cost realism, familiarize new employees
- Proliferation of BIC, Category Management, strategic sources: big push across federal government as a whole- Department Heads to speak
- Soft skills: leading a team, project management, business advising, mentoring
- How to recruit, train and retain 1102s
- SBA – Navy speaker
- Facilitator for network breakout sessions
- Speed mentoring/networking sessions
- Extra IT training requirements for CO in the digital world
- GAO panel: Q&A, bid protests, specific cases/areas **** General Session ****
- Case studies from interesting projects
- PIL: myth busters, procurement innovations, “yearbook”
- Comparative evaluation: FAR 13, 8 – VA to present
- AI, Tech, Robotics- how close are we? Jeff Lau
- Acquisition.gov

MAAC 2019 Suggested Improvements:

- Smaller more focused mentoring
- Presenters from all levels
- Soft skill training
- Keep Paul McDermott
- Interactive sessions in morning
- Panels from different agencies
- Activities that force networking and introductions

MAAC 2019 Concerns:

- Creating robust agenda
- Getting speakers on board
- Navy specific topics
- Must provide CLPs

MAAC 2019 Details:

- Thursday November 21, 2019
- National Constitution Center
- FREE for attendants, \$3400 from GSA
- Milestones for Planning:
 - 5/15: Venue
 - 6/1: Save the date
 - 6/15: Agenda
 - 7/15: Presenters
 - 10/1: Open Registration
 - 11/7: Final Power points
 - 11/14: Dress Rehearsal
- Awards:
 - Cancelled awards last year because it was a sham
 - Didn't get a lot of response
 - Not totally against it... look into it after agenda
- Morning Tour: Liberty Bell? Independence Hall? Need other ideas
- MAAC Training Subcommittee
 - EPA: Karen Price
 - PBS: Paul to get us name
 - DOL: Chris to get us name
 - Navy: Al Straccolini is main POC for MAAC, Doris for training
 - OPM: Lucy Tascone for both
 - USACE: need contact
 - VA: Craig to get us name
 - DLA DSCO/Robbins Ave: need contact?

Other Items:

DOL: shared services are moving under procurement office

VA: changed name from SAO East to RPO- Regional Procurement Office

DHS: May 21-23, 2019 No Cost Critical Thinking Training (701 Market Suite 3200)

Course: FLD151, Critical Thinking

Philadelphia, PA

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 until Thursday, May 23, 2019.

It is anticipated that the class time will be 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (EST) each day

24 CLPs will be issued for attending the course

Registration: FAITAS registration is currently open at the following link:

<https://faitas.army.mil/Faitas/External/Courses/Search/Results;keywords=fld%20151;teachingSchools=DHS;city=PHILADELPHIA%2C%20PA/Details/FLD%20151>

Course Details:

The ability to think critically is a crucial skill set because an essential measure of an organization's success is its ability to overcome problems. Explore what critical thinking entails and the mindset of effective critical thinkers. Learn how to frame problems and formulate effective decision criteria to arrive at the best solution to a problem. Improve your ability to overcome obstacles to critical thinking and use creative thinking tools by applying critical thinking and problem-solving methods to your own workplace situations.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze qualities and patterns of effective critical thinkers
- Use sound methods of framing problems and thinking critically to implement solutions
- Overcome obstacles to critical thinking and problem solving
- Use various tools to promote critical thinking for problem solving
- Use creative thinking tools and methods to solve problems
- Apply critical thinking strategies to solve work-related problems

Next Meeting:

July 10, 2019

Agenda:

1. Executive Leadership Training Opportunities:
 - Gettysburg "in the footsteps of leaders"
 - Executive leadership programs: SALT- Senior Acquisition Leadership Training (Run out of Acquisition Academy: Frederick, VA: book through FAITAS)
 - OPM has FEI (Virginia)
 - Shared leadership training needs
2. Update on Training Symposium