



## MEETING MINUTES / 18 JULY 2017

### ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Bradley, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Sarg, Seppala, and Smith  
**71.2%**

Absences: Baldwin, Hampton, McMullen, Newman,

Guests: Jim Coty (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Liz Byers-Jiron (Delaware Stand Down), Carol Johnson-Krumm (New Century Hospice), Art Jenkins (Controller General), Brendan Mackie (Senator Coons), Dave Moseley (Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans), Roger Bundy (Gloria Smith), and Jack Tillman

### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for 16 Marines killed in aircraft accident (Mississippi)

### MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Newstadt

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

#### Wilmington VAMC – Jim Coty, Public Affairs

Georgetown CBOC will be opening late summer

- Access card readers are being installed
- August/September projected for activation (soft opening)
  - - Patients will be notified via mail/telephone of official building change
- Press release/ribbon cutting will be scheduled

Dover CBOC will be expanding, taking over the entire building

New program: Tela-ICU will begin in August

- Cincinnati VA health team will monitor patients, making ICU/ER a 24/7 operation

(Bradley) Stated the Nurse Call Center number did not work

Will check on the system

(Sarg) Is tele-health connected at Delaware Veterans Home?

Status unknown, will inquire

Choice program funding is reducing usage and authorizations

- Program will continue after next fiscal year

**\*\*Email response to meeting questions\*\***

Mike Amos, Chief of Staff stated Delaware Veterans Home tele-health equipment is being ordered this week and a Telehealth Technician is scheduled to begin orientation on 23 July. There is not a “go-live” date

Parking garage project is delayed because all bids were over the budget requirement

Nurse Call Center process is working

**Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:**

102 residents, five recent admissions will make a 107 total  
Bathing suite project is progressing with an anticipated September 2017 opening  
The Gold Suite will be totally renovated  
Dishwasher breakdown issues will amount to \$61K in repair costs  
State Senator Simpson led funding for parking lot repairs/resurfacing

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Not present

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Brendan Mackie, U.S. Senator Coons Office**

Discussed Senator Coons' recent voting actions, specifics can be found on the senator's website  
- Supported VA military bill and VA military construction support  
Some Veteran Service Organizations could receive funding for medical support or building upgrades  
Concerned about VA's ability to view DoD medical records  
Office supported 65 Veterans through case management

**Liz Byers-Jiron, Delaware Stand Down**

Reminder Delaware Stand Down is 22 September  
Working on unexpected insurance coverage concerns  
50 vendors have registered  
Give a Vet a Smile Program has 183 enrollees and 30 dentists  
Named new director of Victory Village  
- 15 male residents  
- Planning to add female veterans to the second floor  
- Planning to add families to the third floor

**Carol Johnson-Krumm, New Century Hospice**

Hospice for Heroes Veterans Program  
- Team received training for veteran needs  
- Helps when insurance does not cover  
- Bills medicare/aid and other insurances

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**

Interments – 75

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments - 31

**Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

Veterans Watchmaker Initiative's grand opening is 13 September / 1000 at the Odessa facility  
- First training class will begin in September

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

(Sarg) House Bill 112 allowing state licensing/commissions to recognize military education, training, and experience passed. It is awaiting the governor's signature  
House Bill 281 provided grants-in-aid for certain veteran organizations

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Not present

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Departmental Convention was 12 – 14 July, Dover Downs, Commander MaryAnna Moderhak was installed  
Sons of the American Legion donated \$9K to the Home of the Brave

National Convention, 18 – 24 August, Reno NV

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

Annual crab race fundraiser was recently held

National Convention, 5 – 12 August, Norfolk VA

Lunch will be provided at August commission meeting at Post 2

Commissioner Smith (DELVETS)

Delaware Veterans Posts 1 and 2 baseball teams played each other

Working toward sponsoring a Delaware Veterans Home cookout

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Attended Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home meeting

National Convention, 29 July – 1 August, New Orleans LA

Currently unfilled (KWVA)

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Highlighted Governor's event acknowledging housing for the 500th Delaware Homeless Veteran

- A total of 527 Veterans have been housed

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Individual Unemployability is Safe

- Department of VA Secretary rescinded cuts for disabled veterans' individual unemployability benefits once they're eligible for Social Security payments at age 62

Senate Proposes TRICARE cuts to pay for readiness

- Defense authorization bill supports increased pharmacy copayments and a repeal of grandfathered TRICARE fees

- Healthcare changes should not be considered

Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP)

- Current legislation does not allow survivors to receive both SBP and Dependency and Indemnity

Compensation in full

- Contact congress to request support of both full payments

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

Assisted a Navy widow retain her home, paid residential fees for two months

- Referred for financial assistance and discovered possible Dover AFB housing eligibility

Mission BBQ Pledge of Allegiance, 5 August / 1200

National Purple Heart Day, Mount Vernon VA, 7 August

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Not present

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

National Guard Headquarters' (Biden Center) address has changed from 250 Airport Road to 1 Vavala Way in honor of retired General Vavala

National Guard Association of the United States Convention, 7 – 12 August, Louisville KY

- General Vavala will receive the Montgomery Medal, National Guard's high level recognition

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Attended Wilmington VAMC, Veterans Service Officers' meeting and discussed Secretary Shulkin's priorities  
Wilmington VAMC wants to increase patient base

- Are they recognizing patient income limitations for enrollment?

- Discussed physician affiliation with Rowan University and University of Delaware residents

- Did not mention lack of ortho providers

New Castle County Executive Matt Myers addressed the Jewish War Veterans

The Jewish War Veterans' Executive Committee gave a financial contribution to Delaware Stand Down

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

National Convention, 1 – 6 August, Billings MT

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

Not present

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF: Requests 5, Granted 3 (60%), Awarded \$2903.00 and Balance \$45,782.00 + \$25,000.00 (State of Delaware) = \$70,782.00

Future meetings will utilize the television monitor

- Power Point

- Migration to electronic versus paper products

- Commissioners will submit discussion points before meeting

#### **TERM EXPIRATION:**

Smith – 2 August

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

World War I Memorial (OPEN)

- Projected Saturday, 4 November dedication, following Veterans Day parade (0900)

May Meeting with Lt Gen Timmons (CLOSED)

August Meeting at American Veterans' Post 22 (OPEN)

- Vote taken / approved to hold 15 August meeting at American Veterans' post

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

Commissioner Sarg mentioned the Dover AFB Air Show, 26 – 27 August, with a social event on 25 August

#### **SPECIAL SESSION:**

None

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 15 August 2017 at 10:00 AM**

**LOCATION:**

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**