



MEETING MINUTES / 21 NOVEMBER 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Baldwin, Bradley, Johnson, Lardizzone, Lopez, McMullen, Newman, Seppala, and Stewart **80%**

Absences: Magner, Newstadt, and Sarg

Guests: Courtney Stewart (Deputy Secretary of State), Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC) – via telephone, Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC) – via telephone, Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Liz Byers-Iron, Vivian Starnes, Kim McMullen, Dave Skocik, Addie Houston

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for service members and veterans lost to suicide

Introduced Deputy Secretary of State, Courtney Stewart

Discussed involvement with Wilmington VAMC to address veteran suicide and presented Delaware 2014 Veteran Suicide Data Sheet (attachment).

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: McMullen and Lardizzone

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Public Affairs (via telephone)

Highlighted the Veteran Suicide Data Sheet noting 24 suicides during 2014

- Medical center will address this issue with the state

“Be There” Veterans at Risk for Suicide campaign, featuring Tom Hanks is available at #Be There for Veterans and Service members

Center is seeking a Chief of Staff

TeleHealth has begun with the veterans home

Good reviews are coming from the Sussex CBOC

Seeking 19K square foot expansion for Dover CBOC

Preparing for the “Choice Program” transition to eliminate current wait time and distance requirements

- Program moving under clinical leadership

(Baldwin) Does suicide go beyond 2014?

Latest fact sheet ends with 2014

(Lopez) When will “Choice Program” transition occur?

Change is dependent on personnel (clinical) relocation

Telephone system update

- Call center handles between 700 – 900 telephone calls

- Team to review customer service and equipment (software) to improve service, will collaborate with veterans

- Focus on returning customer's telephone calls

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

92 residents

Gold unit construction's delays are impacting occupancy

Admissions Nurse and Executive Assistant are resigning

- Nine employees have left for non-state employment, higher wages

Tele-Health Program with Wilmington VAMC is moving slowly, especially the mental health element (Armbruster) How do we stand with fire and evacuation scenarios?

Emergency evacuations are practiced, fire marshall inspects yearly, and a disaster plan is in place

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Addie Houston, Scent Detection Project with Canine Handlers

Program is designed to diagnose pre-cancerous conditions

Seeking veterans to help with the project, those with cancer and those with dog handler skills

Pathologists and medical providers are involved, National Institute of Health input

Handout attached

Judy Campbell, Gold Star Family Memorial

Seeking finances for memorial at Delaware Memorial Bridge memorial section

- Seeking placement by Sunday, 30 September 2018

Liz Byers-Jiron

Give a Vet a Smile Program has 215 veterans, 34 dentists, and has provided \$100K's in care

Women's Tea will have a March 2018 date

Stand Down Kickoff is 28 January / 1300

Victory Village has 24 beds

Dave Skocik

Trust Fund Dinner \$19K

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 81

Interviewed for conservation technician positions

Equipment concerns were presented to Deputy Secretary of State during her visit

(Armbruster) We should consider a five-year plan (equipment/facilities/personnel) for cemeteries

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 31

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Not present

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Still accepting ideas for potential legislation

Various veteran service organizations are asking for Grant and Aid support

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

New council members elected during previous meeting

Five Airmen assisted during bridge ceremony, ceremony posted on wing (base) website

Next division meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Departmental Convention is scheduled for 13 – 14 July

National Commander's Delaware visit is scheduled for 14 – 16 March

Vice National Commander is from Delaware

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

Post 2 sponsored a Veterans Day ceremony

Chaplain visited Home of the Brave, received "wish list," auxiliary will assist with granting

Requested support for White Clover sales, proceeds help Delaware Veterans Home

Mid-winter meeting scheduled for 8 December, Baltimore MD

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Attended Delaware Veterans Home meeting with Wilmington VAMC and Friends of Delaware Veterans Home meeting

Attended Veterans Day Parade, World War I Memorial Dedication, and Trust Fund Dinner

Participated in Kent County Veteran Service Officer job interviews

Participated in organization Department Service Officer recertification training

Attended Cheer Veterans Dinner and Wilmington VAMC Veteran Service Officer meeting

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

Boston Trauma Center visit 2 – 3 November

- Following up TBI/coma veteran patient's condition, now walking

Will donate check during DelVets dinner

Attended Delaware Tech (Owens) Women in Service Breakfast

Sussex Central High School recognized Korean War Veterans on 2 November

Attended Arlington National Cemetery's salute to Korean War Veterans on 11 November

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Toys for Tots box is located in DCVA lobby

- Program assisted 800 Kent County families last year

Provided Delaware Tech (Terry) POW/MIA Chair Dedication comments

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Not present

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

Not present

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Working on youth essays and oratorical submissions

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Briefed retired Navy Admirals on education, 2 November

Performed Barnes and Noble book signing (Carrier to Classroom), 4 November

Navy Memorial Speaker, 10 November

Soliciting Gates / Longwood Foundation for veteran assistance, 4 December

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

ASIST (suicide prevention) at Biden Center, 29 – 30 November / 0830 – 1630

DNG Holiday Concert, Dover Downs, 6 December / 1900, donations support Food Bank of Delaware

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)
Not present

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)
Chapter meeting featured Commissioner Charles Baldwin
Coatsburg Village Salute to Veteran, presented commission coin to veteran helper
Pencader Heritage Museum, Wreaths Across America event, 16 December / 1000
- Working toward Korean War exhibit, interviewed 95 y/o Korean War veteran for exhibit input

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)
Veterans Day breakfast at Post 2
Scholarship Fund, \$1K available for six children of veterans
Benevolent event, funds helping others, 10 December
Army Wounded Warrior position is being considered for deletion

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)
University of Delaware Military Ball, funds for disabled veterans, 11 November
Wilmington University / Delaware Tech, encouraging students to visit Delaware Veterans Home to serve
Christmas Day dinner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 5, Granted 5 (100%), Awarded \$7,201.97 and Balance \$67,433.00
Armed Service Exposure and Prevention Program Mentors Needed
New Kent County Veterans Service Officer is Josh Matticks

TERM EXPIRATION:

None

EVENTS:

Listed on agenda

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Submit Legislative Recommendations (CLOSED)
Review By-Laws (OPEN)

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

None

SPECIAL SESSION:

Delaware Veterans Home Snoezelen Room Overview
- Commissioners voted to approve \$18,000.00 for the room. Funding will come from the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home account.
- Commissioner Baldwin abstained from voting

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference Room