



## MEETING MINUTES / 19 DECEMBER 2017

### ATTENDANCE:

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

Absences: Showell, Armbruster, Newstadt, Sarg and Seppala

Guests: Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC), Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Liz Byers-Jiron, Vivian Starnes, Kim McMullen, Dave Skocik

### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for Washington state train accident victims  
Wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and holiday season

### MEETING MINUTES:

Johnson requested minutes change of "Sussex Central High School" to "Cape Henlopen High School"  
Approved with changes, motions: Lardizzone and McMullen

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

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

Kim Butler is the new Associate Director

Center is recruiting for Chief of Staff and Nursing Executive positions

- Nursing position will work with University of Delaware nursing program

Center is recruiting for Choice Program Leadership position

- Choice program will be transferred to clinical section, same section overseeing CBOCs

Human Resources has been consolidated to oversee multiple medical centers

- New director to be named

Most Georgetown CBOC positions have been filled

Still seeking 19K square foot expansion for Dover CBOC, received headquarters expansion approval

Center is sponsoring Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Suicide

- Seeking program ideas

(Magner) Can you discuss the regional benefits officer closure?

Building needs to be refurbished, to fix physical issues

Occupants will ensure temporary relocation, no long term closure, long-term improvement

(Baldwin) Who does the adoptive housing grants?

Regional benefits office

(McMullen) Will the Dover CBOC's service expand when the facility expands?

Yes, there will be additional services and equipment

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

90 residents

Christmas party was successful

Home, compared to homes nationwide, is a lower costs for Delaware veterans

Facing challenges competing with civilian employer, they are providing higher salaries for nurses and social workers

- Next year may consider "right sizing" staff if unable to retain

Working a grant for a dining room expansion project

(Stewart) Is there an employee pay increase plan?

Difficult because pay is tied into the state employment system and they would need to assess civilian pay scales

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

Not present

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Marc Garduno, VFW, Department of Delaware

Requested consideration to legislation expanding the trust fund to include “General, Under Honorable Condition Discharges,” “National Guard members who did not serve on Title 10 orders,” and “surviving spouses of veterans.”

Does not believe the commission clearly defines who is eligible for the fund and donors may not understand the term “veteran.”

Since trust fund is comprised of public funds accurate statistics must be compiled. There is no way of determining how many veterans and/or surviving spouses are turned away from this program. An accurate count will help determine the actual extent of a need for this population

Requests the commissions legislative support is retrieving the loss in 20% of Grant in Aid Funding from 2017 – 2018 legislative year. If funds cannot be recovered, request support to prevent future losses

Dave Rich, State Director, Department of Labor (Veterans Employment and Training Service)

Agency seeks to increase apprenticeship and credential programs

- Encouraging employers to credential and employ 18 – 35 year old veterans

- Recruiting employers to join the program

Dave Skocik, Friends of Delaware Veterans

Agency continues to ask veteran service organizations for trust fund donations but receives limited responses

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Interments – 74

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

Interments - 29

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

Not present

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

Will review veteran service organizations Grant and Aid support requests

Will consolidate proposals for commission review

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

New council members were sworn in during previous meeting

Chapter was recognized for Toys for Tots contributions

Next division meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Not present

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

Ladies Auxiliary donated \$400.00 in gift cards to Home of the Brave and \$450.00 to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund

Post 2 charitable donations:

\$30,000.00 Cape Henlopen School District Scholarship Fund

\$30,000.00 Indian River School District Scholarship Fund

\$25,000.00 Home of the Brave (male)

\$30,000.00 Home of the Brave (female)

\$10,000.00 Indian River Fire and Rescue

\$4,000.00 Delaware Veterans Trust Fund

\$1,000.00 Joseph Fabber Memorial Foundation

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Attended Wreaths Across America Ceremony

Attended Veterans Home Christmas Party

Attended Convoy Wreaths Across America Ceremony (Camden-Wyoming)

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

Attended Veterans Home Christmas Party

Attended Sussex Chapter's Christmas Party, supporting Toys for Tots donation bind

Donated \$120,000.00 toward Wounded Warrior support

Briefed commission's impact during chapter meeting.

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Toys for Tots assisted 1100 families

Over 700 veterans have been housed since the Mayor's Challenge began

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Not present

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

New Castle chapter donated \$500.00 to Gold Star Memorial, \$500.00 to Wilmington VAMC holiday food drive, and \$500.00 to Wilmington VAMC holiday program

Sussex chapter donated food cards to Dover CBOC

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Order of the Cooti visited Veterans Home, Wilmington VAMC, and VFW National Home for Children (Michigan)

Council meeting, at Legislative Hall, scheduled for 8 January

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Tarabicos-Grosso law firm provided meals for Home of the Brave and Dover Air Force Base "Feed the Troops" event

- Planning function to support trust fund

Working with Donna Burns, Philadelphia VA Regional Office, Adoptive Housing Loan

- Trying to figure out loan system

Requesting support for Judy Campbell's Gold Star Memorial pursuit

The navy is sponsoring a program teaching members about transitioning into military service

First State Military Academy received an education grant

Delaware Military Academy received monies for football stadium

Working with Wilmington University's Veterans Advisory Council, seeking members

Commissioner Showell (At Large)  
Not present

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)  
Not present

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)  
Not present

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)  
Toys for Tots drive successful at both posts  
Raised \$3,000.00 for benevolent fundraiser  
Sponsored young veteran family, housing and provided gifts  
Scholarship Fund, \$1K available for six children of veterans  
National Veteran Legal Program is legitimate and assists with legal issues  
Army Wounded Warrior Program's Delaware position ends in June, clients will be seen in Philadelphia  
Women's Tea will be 10 or 24 March

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)  
Wilmington University veteran students will assist Veterans Home residents on Christmas Day

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF: Requests 10, Granted 6 (60%), Awarded \$7,158.40 and Balance \$68, 721.00

**TERM EXPIRATION:**

None

**EVENTS:**

Listed on agenda

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

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

Commissioner Johnson will be out of state January - March

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

Holiday Party at Delaware Veterans Post 2

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 16 January 2018 at 10:00 AM**

**LOCATION:**

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference Room**