

ODVS Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 21st, 2016

LeRoy Clendenen convened the meeting at 10:35 AM at the American Legion Post 171, 393 E. College Avenue, Westerville, Ohio. The meeting was opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call

In Attendance:

Suzette Price, American Legion
Don Youngblood, Army & Navy Union
Mary Ann Janning, Catholic War Veterans
Paul Haller, County Commissioner's Association of Ohio
Ken Marcum, Disabled American Veterans
Ed Zoretic, Korean War Veterans
Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association
LeRoy Clendenen, Veterans of Foreign Wars
David Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners
Jane Roland, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Jon Warmeling, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Ed Zackery, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers
April Philiopoulis, Women's Advisory Committee
William Eberle-Marine Corps League
Carl Price-Military Order of the Purple Heart
Robert Mackin-Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commission
John McCoy-Military Officer Association of America

Visitors:

Dan Eakins, ODVS
Steve Ewing, ODVS
Brian Mead, CCAO
Eileen Corson, ODVS
Jonathan Field, ODVS
Angela Sullivan-Attorney General
Samantha Allen-Sierra Club

Excused-

Saul Laub-Jewish War Veterans
Cliff Riley-Vietnam Veterans Association
Merle Pratt-Amvets
Ted Bruener-OSACVSC

Previous Meeting Minutes-

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a roll call vote.

Agenda-

The agenda was approved after a motion and roll call vote.

Bills and Communications-

Nothing to report

Sub Committee Report-

There is a need to look at committees and what they do and review the membership of the committees. If any committee has anything to report. Nothing to report

Guest Introductions-

Guests in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and make limited comments. Guests-Samantha Allen-USMC Veteran, Sierra Club, OSU Grad. Presenting opportunities for veterans concerning wind power through a settlement with AEP.

Old Business-

Administrative Roll Call Vote- the Rules Subcommittee, consisting of members of the Advisory Committee and staff members of OVDS met to change the scope of how the process of the Advisory Committee is conducted. The approach to change was conducted in tiers: first looking at grammatical changes, then items that would be good to change but not vital, then changes that are vital to the rules that affect the way the meeting are conducted.

Revised Code does not permit alternates. Alternate may come to the meeting and take notes, but do not have a vote unless appointed by the respective organization.

LeRoy reminded the committee that the changes to the rules must be presented to JACARR to be approved, thus this will NOT be the last time for the roll call vote. It may take 30, 60, 90 days for the approval.

Roll call vote to approve changes to the Rules as presented. Passed.

New Business-

Committee Tasks and Purposes

Director Tansill- Suggested taking a look at what the subcommittees do. Advocate for change, we can spend our time doing more.

He would like to see the Advisory Committee to get more involved. ODVS will attempt to present ideas prior to the monthly meeting to have organizations digest and then provide feedback. Pushing more things to the subcommittees. Developing more ideas for the subcommittees.

Question regarding what are the subcommittees and what members are on the committees (Education, JACARR, MIRF appeals)

Subcommittees to meet outside the full committee setting are to follow the open meeting laws. The meeting requirements must follow those of the Sunshine Laws, much like for a formal subcommittee.

The idea was suggested of having an ad hoc committee when a subcommittee is needed. The idea that members do not know what committee they are on points to question the necessity of standing subcommittees. If we do have a subcommittee meeting, it can be held either prior or post the advisory committee meeting. There is a desire to have shorter Advisory meetings. The goal is to make them shorter.

Discussion regarding the need to change the way MIRF is structured. It was initially devised for money to family members for travel to their loved one that had been injured during combat. Currently it can be used as a one-time grant for any service member that can prove injury in combat. It is a one-time grant.

We know MIRF is going to change.

Appointment of an Advisory Committee member for the Veterans Hall of Fame Committee. Leroy Clendenen has completed his 6 year term. Time to elect a new member for the Hall of Fame committee. Leroy gave a brief description of the responsibilities of the committee member. Requirements for the position were not available. Questions regarding the ability for Reservists to be a committee member. CVSO must vet the DD214 for submission of Hall of Fame submissions. No obligation in the code 5901-4 that would prevent reservists from being on the Hall of fame executive committee.

5901-1 definition the term veteran, then again in respects to financial assistance. Discussion follows about the definition of training.

Victor Wilson volunteered, Dave Ridenour Volunteered-vote for the volunteer, 3 year term, 1 time renewal.

Appointment by the Chairman Clendenen selected Victor Wilson as the next member from the Advisory Committee to the Hall of Fame Executive Committee.
Chairman asked to take the break out of the meetings.

Legislation- Steve Ewing

Legislation is the core of what we are going to be concerned with for further meetings. We will provide information to committee members prior to future meeting, so that organizations can meet and add any input to the next meeting.

HB 18-

Prohibit the restriction of the display of Blue Star Banner, Gold Star Banner and other service flags by Manufactured Homes Parks, condo associations, neighborhood associations and landlords. Bill has reported out of Senate Committee, passed the House, now needs a Senate vote.

Amended, originally the bill did not protect the state flag, it was amended to add the state flag.

HB 121-

The bill has passed out of Senate, headed to the governor's desk. Raising the awareness of service dogs. Designating the last week of July as the Service Dog Awareness Week.

HB 173-

Veteran ID Cards-to authorize county recorders to issue Ohio Veterans identification cards. It has passed out of House committee, but has not passed out of the House, it still needs a vote and then must go to the Senate. It still has a way to go. Feedback regarding the bill is encouraged.

HB 235-

Concealed Carry-Armed Forces-to waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the Armed Forces and retired and honorable discharged veterans and to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience.

The Concealed Carry training consists of the proper handling of firearms, the laws surrounding the use of the weapon, and the allowed use of the weapon in defending yourself.

HB 423-

Public Record-Military Service-a call to military service of an individual is NOT public record

HB 424-

Public Record-Military Records-all military records off any county official will not be a public record. Putting out a summary of service from ODVS is not violating some part of the law. Feedback was requested.

HCR 28-

Toxic Exposure Research Act-to urge the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign into law the Toxic exposure Act of 2015

SB 10-

Was signed by the Governor on 12/22/2015. It notifies veterans who are on Medicaid that may be eligible for VA health care. They are referred to their local County Veterans Service Office to check their eligibility for VA benefits. The advantage to the veteran is they can avoid the 'spend down' required to qualify for Medicaid. And they may receive more robust benefit if they qualify for the VA. We have a gentleman in our office reaching out for this very purpose.

Another provision added in, grants the added homestead tax exemption to veterans receiving a total disability rating or a total disability rating for compensation base on unemployability. So, not permanent any more but total disability rating.

Jon Warmeling mentioned 'honorably discharged' was added to the provision. Tax officials are asking for verification from the VA concerning Request from the Dept. of Taxation for definitions of disability ratings, we will communicate with them to further assist in clarifying definitions.

SB 63-

Online Voter Registration-as a reminder the Advisory Committee as a body voted to support the bill last year. Carl Price of the MOPH raised the issue of two federal bills: HR 969 and SB 681. They are companion bills. Both are called the Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015.

SB 239-

To designate August 7th as Ohio Purple Heart Day. Passed on Jan.20th, 2016.

SB260-

Capital Reapportions-FY 2017 and FY 2018 The State of Ohio's biennial Capital Budget, provides appropriations for the repair, reconstruction and construction of capital assets of state agencies, colleges, universities and school districts. In some years, funds may also be allocated for community projects of local or regional interest.

Federal Legislation-

HR313-

It has become law. It grants federal employees up to 104 hours of paid medical leave if they are a veteran and have a service connected disability of at least 30%. Does not require the employee to spend down their standard medical leave that is offered to every employee, 30% service connected veterans will receive an additional 104 hours.

HR 1769/SB 901-

Toxic Exposure Research Act-neither has moved.

HR1854-

Authorizes the Attorney General grants to expand or establish veterans courts or programs to provide treatment, rehabilitation, legal, transitional, or other services to recently incarcerated veterans or training programs for justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and substance abuse personnel how to identify the special needs of veterans.

Discussion regarding HB 173 a federal law that was passed this summer out of Congress that will probably implemented in 2017 for all veterans who already have a VA ID, this would fill in the gap for all of those folks to provide them a veterans ID that would be universal nationwide. If HB173 passes, it would provide a statewide ID. Discussion was tabled until the next Advisory Committee Meeting for members to gather opinions from their respective organizations.

Directors Comments-

Director Tansill promoted the continued the success and progress the homes are making. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts regarding veterans jobs. He stressed the importance of raising awareness of the veterans homelessness situation in Ohio. He encouraged the service organizations to continue their efforts at the post level. Danny Eakins suggested that if any of the service organizations know of people in their community that are offering housing for veterans, to inform ODVS so that we can pass that information on to the Homeless Coalition of Ohio who then will be able to communicate to all agencies that provide assistance. There is a national line that can be used if you see a veteran that may be homeless. The number is 877-424-3838.

Adjournment-

Motioned to adjourn

Roll call to adjourn

Motion passed

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee Feb 18th, 2016