

ODVS Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 29, 2015

LeRoy Clendenen convened the meeting at 10:40 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
Merle Pratt, AMVETS
Don Youngblood, Army & Navy Union
Tamara Puff, Attorney General's Office
Mary Ann Janning, Catholic War Veterans
Paul Haller, County Commissioner's Association of Ohio
Ken Marcum, Disabled American Veterans
Saul Laub, Jewish War Veterans
Ed Zoretic, Korean War Veterans
Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association
LeRoy Clendenen, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Cliff Riley, Vietnam Veterans of America
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
John McCoy-MOAA

Visitors:

Barbara Taylor, Congressman Jordan
Dan Eakins, ODVS
Steve Ewing, ODVS
Tim Funk, Stockhand Horses for Healing
Lisa Benton, Stockhand Horses for Healing
Peter Cline, Vetmotorsports.org
Keith Brock, CA
Karen Kish, ODVS
Steven Strodbeck, DAV
Philip Alexander, DAV
Heather Lane, VCAS
Robin Carlin, OVH/ODVS
Brian Mead, CCAO
Jenny Cawper, Pharmacy Rep.
Lisa Valentine, Ohio Senate
Greg Kowalski, ODVS
Don Jones, VVA
Matt Whitehead, Governmental Policy Group
Eileen Corson, ODVS
Jonathan Field, ODVS
Tim Espich, ODVS
Michael Dustman, Office of Senator Rob Portman

Excused:

William Eberle, Marine Corps League

Carl Price, Military Order of the Purple Heart
April Philiopoulos, Women's Veterans Advisory Committee
Ted Bruner, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Commissioners

Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Agenda-

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

Bills and Communications

- OSACVSO has appointed Edward Zackery to fulfill the duties of the Medium County Representative to the ODVS Advisory Committee.
- The American Legion Department of Ohio reappointed Suzette Price as their representative to the Advisory Committee.
- AMVETS have named Merle Pratt as their representative for the year 2015-2016.
- The Ohio Attorney General's Office has re-appointed Tamara Puff as their representative to the Advisory Committee.
- The Military Officers Association of Ohio has appointed Colonel John McCoy representative to the Advisory Committee.
- The OSACVSO has re-elected Jon Warmeling as the Large County representative to the Advisory Committee.
- The Catholic War Veterans have appointed Mary Ann Janning as their representative to the Advisory Committee.
- The Vietnam Veterans of America has appointed Cliff Riley as representative to the Advisory Committee for 2016.

Sub Committee Report

- No reports given

Guest Introductions

LeRoy Clendenen introduced the new Director of the Department of Veterans Services, Mr. Chip Tansill.

- Director Tansill spoke briefly about his goals within the department and his plan to achieve these goals.
- He believes that it important to partner with everyone. He appreciates everyone's opinion and ideas.
- His other goal is to reduce unemployment within the Veteran Community.

Director Tansill then introduced:

- Rocco Parro as the Nursing Home Administrator to the Veterans Homes.
- Robin Carlin as the Superintendent of the Veterans Homes
- Greg Kowalski as the Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Veterans Services to include the Veterans Homes
- Lori Good as Patrick Finical's replacement.

Guests in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and make limited comments.

Legislation

- Steve Ewing introduced Rep. Rob Sprague for presentation of HB 248- To prohibit certain health care plans and the Medicaid program from denying coverage for opioid analgesic drugs with abuse-deterrent technology based solely on cost.
- Keith Brooks-Pharmacy Manufacturer attempting to form an initiative for better federal formularies.
- Designation for Aug 7th to be Purple Heart Day in Ohio-looking for input from the service organizations.

- HB 18-To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag.
- HB 116-PASSED To provide for partial drug prescription refills for the purpose of synchronizing multiple prescriptions for one patient.
- HB 155-Waive the small business startup fees (\$99)
- HB 173-To authorize county recorders to issue Ohio veterans identification cards.
- HB 242-To designate the fourth Sunday of July as Blue Star Mothers/Family Day.
- HB 293- To create the Home Accessibility Grant Program to be administered by the Director of Development Services, and to make an appropriation.
- HB 310-Distinguished Flying License Plate
- HB 327- To extend eligibility for the enhanced disabled veterans homestead exemption to veterans whose disability rating is less than total but who have been judged by the Department of Veterans Affairs as unable to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation as a result of service-connected disabilities.
- HB 244-To designate the tenth day of November as Armed Services, Peace Officer, First Responder, and Dual Service Recognition
- SB10-To establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits.
- SB 219-To allow taxpayers to contribute all or a portion of their income tax refunds to a Metropark and Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)

New Business

- Rocco Parro gave a brief overview and slide presentation of the new Great Room at the Georgetown Ohio Veterans Home. There is a grand opening planned for later in November. He mentioned that both home are part of the Eden Registry, a program that promotes the elimination of the three plagues that effects the aging population, loneliness, boredom, and helplessness.
- Karen Kish spoke on behalf of April Philiopoulos regarding the Women's Advisory Committee. The women's conference was a huge success. She received a lot of positive feedback and the over whelming theme was time for the women to just 'talk'. The women's committee is working on ways to make that happen.
- Eileen Corson the Communications Officer for the Dept. gave a briefing about upcoming marketing events.
- There is a need for a 'Rules Sub Committee" to update the Advisory Committee Rules as listed in the Ohio Revised Code. LeRoy asked for volunteers to participate on the committee. Labor, ONGA, Attorney General, AMVETS, AL, VFW and ANU representatives volunteered.
- Dr. Heather Lane presented information on the Veterans Companion Animal Service (VCAS). The Service finds quality dogs for military members, families and veterans. The program assists in finding the right dog for the participants. Then they provide the proper training for the dog, and teaches participants proper commands, any veterinarian fees, food, and supplies will be offset, if not completely covered by VCAS
- Stockhands for Healing was presented by Tim Funk. They offer effective and creative equine-assisted therapy to disabled veterans.

Elections 2015-2016

- Nominations for Chairman-Merle Pratt nominated Mr. LeRoy Clendenen/David Ridenour and Jon Warmeling seconded the nomination. Roll Call

- Nominations for Vice Chairman- Jane Roland nominated by Suzette Price/seconded by David Ridenour.

Adjournment

Next Advisory Committee meeting to be determined.