

## NH STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Date: 2 February 2021**

**Location: Virtual ZOOM**

### **OFFICERS and VOTING MEMBERS in attendance ( ✓ ):**

Paul Lloyd - Chair  
Diane Domenicis - Vice Chair  
Denise DeBlois - Secretary  
Armand Soucy - Chaplain  
Kelly Dobens - Treasurer  
David Kenney - Chair Emeritus

#### **Air Force Association**

✓ Kevin Grady (prim)                      Gavin MacAloon

#### **Air Force Sergeants Association**

Bob Heichlinger (prim)                      Ray Hayes (alt)

#### **American Legion**

✓ Mike Lopez (prim)                      Robert Blais (alt)                      Ollie Brooks (alt)

#### **AUSA Col. Cross Chapter**

✓ Greg d'Arbonne (prim)                      ✓ Ed Harrington (alt)

#### **Catholic War Veterans**

✓ Denise DeBlois (prim)                      ✓ Robert Guldner (alt)                      ✓ Armand Soucy (alt)

#### **Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association**

Ray Schwendeman (prim)                      Larry Ward (alt)

#### **Disabled American Veterans**

✓ Andrew Patterson (prim)                      ✓ Robert Guldner (alt)

#### **Korean War Veterans**

✓ Mike Lopez (prim)                      Conrad Perreault (alt)

**Marine Corps League**

Shawn Carboni (prim)      Mark Lindsley (alt)      ✓ Chris Peirce (alt)

**Military Officers Association (MOAA)**

✓ Peter Burdett (prim)      ✓ Bob Jaffin (alt)      Joe DiChiaro Jr. (alt)

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**

Patty Fowler      Tony Fowler

**National Guard Association of NH**

✓ Peter Duffy (prim)      Roy Hunter (alt)      Mike Horne (alt)

**NH Army Retiree Council**

✓ Frank Musmanno (prim)      ✓ Mike Rice (alt)

**NH National Guard Enlisted Association**

Mike Lestage (prim)      ✓ Mike Rice (alt)      Jack Howley (alt)

**NH Veterans Association**

✓ Kelly Dobens (prim)      Mike Young (alt)      Doug Crooker( alt)

**Reserve Officers Association of NH**

✓ David Kenney (prim)      Mike Horne (alt)      BG John Pappas (alt)

**Rolling Thunder.**

✓ Bruce Garry (prim)      Keith Hurrell (alt)      ✓ Diane Domenicus (alt)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

✓ Darwin Beeman (prim)      ✓ Russ Norris (alt)      ✓ Paul Lloyd (alt)

**Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-41)**

✓ Ray Goulet (prim)      Alan Grant (alt)      Patti Fowler (alt)

**Legislative Members (Voting):**

Al Baldasaro  
 ✓ Regina Birdsell  
 ✓ Bob Guida  
 Patricia Klee

**LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS: (non-voting):**

**Governor's Office** - Jane Graham  
**Senator Maggie Hassan** - Justin Troiano

**Senator Jeanne Shaheen** - Chris Scott  
**Congressman Chris Pappas** - Patrick Carroll  
**Congresswoman Annie Kuster** - Tom Giancola

**COMMITTEE ADVISORS/AGENCIES:**

Kevin Forrest, Director, VAMC Manchester, NH  
Dr. Brett Rusch, Director, VAMC White River Junction, VT  
BG David J. Mikolaities - Adjutant General NHNG  
Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General- NHNG  
Shawn Buck, NH State Veterans Cemetery  
Margaret LaBrecque, NH Veterans Home  
Amy Cook, DHHS  
John Reed, Martin's Point  
Barry Conway, Sage Emeritus  
Jorge Dreusicke, American Legion

**GUESTS:**

Wayne Barrows: Co-owner of TMS Collaborative - today's guest speaker.

A special guest speaker, Senator Maggie Hassan, spoke briefly later in the meeting.

**OPEN MEETING/CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Loyd, Chairman, convened meeting at 1700.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman

**Invocation:** Armand Soucy

**Moment of Silence:** For all service members who have passed since our last meeting.

**Welcome - Remarks of the Chair:** Paul welcomed everyone. He reminded he members and guests that we discuss politics but not party politics.

**Introduction of New Members/Guests:**

One guest was introduced: Wayne Barrows

New member: Armand Soucy. He is with CWV and is the new SVAC Chaplain.

**Secretary's Report:** Meeting has a quorum.

A motion to accept the minutes of January 5, 2020 was made by Ray Goulet, 2nd by Dave Kenney. Unanimous. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kelly reported a balance of \$802.67. She will send the balance sheet to the Chairman.

**Comments from Chair Emeritus:**

Dave Kenney commented that the video tribute to those that were lost at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in 2020 was very well done. It is incredible how many veterans we lost.

New website: for the Veterans Heritage Learning Center: [VHLC.org](http://VHLC.org)

The website has a form so you can put your information on the web. It is interactive with information about your story.

**Guest Speaker:** Wayne Barrows - Co-owner of TMS Collaborative in Exeter, NH.

TMS - Trans-cranial Magnetic Stimulation

Mr. Barrows is the son of a Marine and thanked the members for their service. There are 2 clinics in New Hampshire - one in Exeter and another in the northern NH. TMS does a light stimulation of the brain for depression and PTSD. The light stimulates the left or right prefrontal cortex depending on the diagnosis - PTSD, depression or both. It is an emerging technology for PTSD. The data for helping veterans is in its infancy. This is a service available to veterans. Veterans can ask their provider for the service in order to get a referral. He wants to get the word out to the soldiers.

Wayne stated that the clinic is wildly busy. Hundreds of people are interested. He feels it is important to reach out to the veteran groups. Help those who helped us. Each month, one to two people are selected who do not have the means to pay. They are treated for free. The VA has all the information.

Barry Conway had several questions.

Question: Has this protocol been around for a while?

Response: About 20 years. It has been FDA approved for 10 years. The machine costs about \$100,000. The full course of treatment is 36 sessions, 5 times per week. It is a commitment.

Question: Do patients come back after 36 sessions?

Response: Eighty percent of patients get relief. About 20-25 percent come back in 1-2 years. A lot of people are getting significant relief. TMS works on an area of the brain to fire neurons.

Question: Are medications also involved with this?

Response: Usually the patients are drug resistant.

Question: Can someone ween off the drugs?

Answer: Someone with PTSD, can ween off drugs better. The drug regime is not changed until after the sessions.

Question: Is this covered by VA and other insurances?

Answer: 100 percent for VA through Community Care (Optum). Every insurance is taken for non veterans except Medicaid. A lot more folks can be served if Medicaid were easier to work with. Mr. Barrows wants to craft a letter tp Governor Sununu regarding Medicaid.

Andy Patterson had a comment and a question: Community Care will pay 100 percent if the veteran is rated 100 percent for PTSD.

Question: Do you have literature to place in the DAV's new resource center?

Response: Yes. It will be sent to Chairman Paul Lloyd along with contact information. If someone is particularly struggling, let them know.

Kevin Forrest had a comment: He will follow up. He appreciates this and will reach out. Dr. Rusch, a psychiatrist, is listening and interested.

Wayne added that the clinic is open for visits.

## **SUPPORTING AGENCY REPORTS:**

### **Manchester VA Update:** Kevin Forrest

He had a quick update. He would like to leverage using the chat box. He can answer individual problems offline. He has been very busy.

Personnel Updates: The VA is on a second search for a Chief of Staff. The director of Pain Services will be retiring. They are looking for a replacement. The VA is aggressively looking for Environmental Management Services candidate. They need 41 Covid hires to augment the work force.

Facilities Update: Clinical services is opening in the fall of 2021. The Mountain Entrance is opening at the end of 2021. The Women's Health Clinic begins construction in 2022. The loop road is currently under design. The second Special Care building is under design. The ground breaking is in 2022.

Covid Updates: Vaccinations are a priority. One thousands of vaccines have been giving so far to ages 75 plus, homeless, those on dialysis and to paid caregivers. VA is starting to give second doses this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. First

doses are given on Thursday and Friday. Hopefully the volume of vaccines will increase from the VISN and the community.

Hot Topics: the TeleHealth Program - iPad's are available for veterans for their appointments. Veterans need to reach out to their provider team for a consult.

The Secretary of the VA is having a virtual orientation and a link will be provided.

Andy Patterson had a few questions.

Question: Regarding the Covid vaccine, should veterans ages 65 and up and those with high risk conditions sign up with the state or through their PCP for a referral to the state.

Response: The VA is looking at ages 75 and up right now. The supply chain is at the VA will ramp up. The VA will not stop veterans from going on the outside. Dr. Rusch suggested that you get the vaccine from whatever avenue you can. Kevin Forrest added that veterans can go on the website to express their interest.

Question: The DAV delivered 2 new vans in September for the Transportation Program. The VA assumed responsibility and there is still no registration and no gas card. Can you help us out?

Response: Kevin said he will look into it. The VA is waiting on physicals for the drivers.

### **White River Junction VA Update: Dr. Brett Rusch**

He presented slides which included the following information: appointment information, Covid-19 vaccination data, appointments for week on 2/2/2021, process for scheduling vaccination appointments, and an overview: VHA & DHS MOU. This provided an appointment summary for FY to date 2021. Veterans are willing to use Telehealth. The VA would like to see veterans face to face at least once per year by a provider. More than 1000 vaccines have been given to employees. It is very safe to come into the VA.

The VA is receiving a larger shipment of vaccines because 97 percent of the vaccines have been given very successfully. The VA will call you when it is time. There is a process for scheduling vaccines. Priority is given to older veterans with serious conditions, those receiving chemotherapy or hemodialysis, and the homeless.

The VA is also giving vaccines to Homeland Security employees. Many are veterans. The long term strategy is to get specialty services to where the veteran lives. The VA had a nice virtual town hall on 1/28/2021.

Comment by Bruce Duffy: He received a call from the Manchester VA with pre-screening Covid questions prior to his appointment. He asked the caller about how is the parking working out and how do to approach the VA. The caller did not know since the individual works in an administrative building not the hospital. When arriving at the

VA, his temperature was not taken. Bruce wanted to know why. Kevin Forrest responded that the VA is not taking temperatures because it is not as accurate as face to face questions. Bruce also commented on an observation he made while waiting for his appointment. Chairs were not being wiped down periodically. Good job spreading things out. Kevin Forrest will bring this up with housekeeping. He appreciates the feedback.

**Special Guest Speaker:** Senator Margaret Hassan

Senator Hassan thanked the Chairman for allowing a deviation for the agenda to speak. She commented that it is good to see so many familiar faces. She thanked the speakers for all the work they are doing.

The reason she wanted to speak to SVAC tonight was to announce that she has been placed on the Senate Veterans Committee. She is really excited. She will have a direct involvement and will be better able to work on veteran issues and bills.

She mentioned the Solid Start Program. She is trying to get this into law. There will be outreach from the VA to veterans transferring out in the first year. The focus is on education and training and helping prioritize the transition to meaningful employment.

Senator Hassan mentioned the vote on the floor for Acting VA Secretary Denis McDonough.

She also mentioned the initiatives on the Green Alert Program.

She is excited to serve NH veterans this way. It would be nice to see us on a regular basis. She is looking forward to our continued input in order to recognize service to our veterans this way.

**DMAVS Update:** Shawn Buck

Amy Cook is doing mostly strategic planning and goal setting. She is working on developing the NH Veteran Friendly business Recognition Program, Ask the Question Pilot Program, and addressing the needs of Military Veteran Families in NH.

Bill Gaudreau and his team are working remotely. They still have some appointments.. very busy with burials. Full casket burials are up significantly since July and over a 3 year period. You can draw a line between the pandemic and the increase.

The NHSVC has no big events planned right now. They are busy with burials. Full casket burials have been up significantly since July possibly due to the pandemic.

**NHVV Update: Peggy LeBrecque**

She is happy to report there are no Covid positive cases in neither residents nor staff. As of January 26th, the NHVV has been taken off outbreak status. They are still doing surveillance testing two times per week due to the high spread of Covid in Belknap county. Public Health does not require testing for staff two weeks following the second vaccine dose since it is 95 percent effective. Staff and residents can still choose to continue surveillance,

The 2020 NHVV Remembrance is on Facebook and You Tube. It is emotional and moving. The NHVV lost 101 veterans in 2020 - 64 from natural causes and 37 directly related to the Covid pandemic. Approximate 60 people signed onto the Zoom Remembrance. Families were asked if they wanted to add notes to keep with the Remembrance. This helps with the grieving process and healing.

With the close of the outbreak, they can get residents out a little more. Peggy smelled cookies baking today. She observed tai-chi with social distancing. Residents feel like things are getting back to normal.

The doctor for the NHVV will be retiring June 20, 2021 which is the end of his contract period. Dr. M has been there for many years and will be missed. An RFP has been posted for Primary Care and Medical Director Services.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

#1. Membership for Camp Resilience: This was submitted last year. Dave Kenney and Paul Lloyd vetted them. Everything about the organization has checked out. Other than Ed Harrington, SVAC has not seen anybody from Camp Resilience.

Comments by Dave Kenney: The issue here is that the By-Laws were updated to make sure there is a consistency of attendance for any new organization not just Camp Resilience. It requires that a majority of meetings be attended (70%) prior to being voted on.

Ed Harrington from Camp Resilience has been to some of the meetings. Dave does not know if Ed was representing Camp Resilience or another organization. It has been an unusual year for obvious reasons. We have not been able to meet physically. It has been a challenge across the board. Dave would say that Camp Resilience is an actively participating organization. It is up to the Board to take a vote.

Mike Lopez asked if they have been informed of the virtual meetings. Ed Harrington responded that Kurt Webber was not aware of the attendance requirement.

Ed attended the meetings with two hats. He is Greg D'Arbonne's alternate for AUSA. Ed pledges that both he and Kurt will participate. No excuses. He added that Kurt gave a presentation about one and one half years ago on Camp Resilience. SVAC is a valuable organization to be a part of.

Ed mentioned that Camp Resilience is an all volunteer organization except for one young lady. Over 650 veterans went through the program, some with their families, and some with their spouse. About 22-24 retreats are planned. Camp Resilience has a very dedicated group of volunteers. They have a commitment to help. They are requesting inclusion in this forum.

Dave Kenney added that a dual role is no longer extraordinary or unusual. Several folks are wearing two hats. That is not an issue.

Chairman Paul Lloyd recommended that we do not vote tonight. He will send the information to the whole Board to review. It will be brought up next month. He will have Kurt give a short synopsis of the Camp Resilience organization if time permits.

#2. Alternate Location for Veteran's Day Ceremony: Deputy Adjutant General Warren Perry wanted to address the membership on this issue. The Adjutant General is looking for an alternate location to do the Veteran's Day Ceremony. Traditionally, it has been at the NHSVC. Veteran's Day is about the living not the dead. It is a good time to revisit not having a statewide Veteran's Day Ceremony. Keep it to the local cities and towns and organizations. He wanted us to discuss it, get our thoughts, so he can give feedback to the Adjutant General.

Andy Patterson, DAV State Commander, was involved in the virtual Veteran's Day ceremony. He agrees that the cemetery is for Memorial Day. He feels the State should have a Veteran's Day Ceremony so that veterans can see their state leadership and give thanks. Andy suggested Veterans Park in Manchester. It is huge and can hold hundreds of people. There are flags for each of the services. Manchester is the largest city. A Vietnam Memorial will be dedicated there in the spring.

Peggy LeBrecque mentioned that she would love to have the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the NHVH in the Pavilion or by the pond after the Covid pandemic. The ceremony at the NHVH has typically been held one day off from Veteran's Day so the residents can attend the ceremony at the NHSVC. The NHVH town hall has a 120 person limit.

Dave Kenney said that they would be looking at 300-400 people and a lot of cars. He asked if there would be any chance of having it at the Aviation Facility. The organizations can still sponsor the event regardless of where it is.

Warren asked: Is there a statewide ceremony or not? Who will host it? SVAC or another organization? He is happy to do it at the Aviation Facility. What is the way ahead so we can make a plan?

It was mentioned that the Aviation Facility has easy access. There is plenty of parking. People can go in the hangar in bad weather. The thought is that we want a statewide ceremony. Everything is right there.

Mike Lopez said that he does not think there should be a permanent location. He asked what are the logistics of the state hosting a Veteran's Day ceremony or having something on a rotation basis. We need to be in the community.

Greg D'Arbonne said that a lot of us have local ceremonies at the same time as the state one. We should rotate it around the cities. There should not be one state ceremony. He agrees with the Adjutant General. It is about the living.

Warren Perry said he appreciates the feedback. He thought that is where most of SVAC would go. There is value in having a ceremony and value in moving it around.

**LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS:** Kevin Grady - Legislative Chair

An email was send out with a brief synopsis of the LSR's being tracked. There were two hearings last week and they went as expected. Two were voted on last time.

HB 117: Relative to the use of force at National Guard facilities. This was a carryover from last session. He expected it to sail through.

HB 361: Relative to Gold Star Family decals for motor vehicles. This one did not have the language last time. Kevin assured Warren that this is to waive the \$10 fee. It sailed through.

HB 580: Requiring the approval of the Governor before the NHNG can be deployed overseas. We are trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

Three other bills needs the opinion of SVAC.

HB 317: Relative to the treatment of veterans' disability payments in determining child support. This one is very controversial. NH would be the first to do this. There was some discussion. There were comments on this made by Senator Bob Guida, Senator Regina Birdsell, Representative Jess Edwards, Warren Perry, Mike Lopez, and Greg d'Arbonne.

Comments by Warren Perry: The Department will watch and see. He takes no position. He will not speak for DHHS. He wants to remain neutral. It puts children first or veterans first. What is required for taking care of children? Federal law doesn't prohibit

it and doesn't allow it. State law is not contrary to federal law. It is more complicated than it seems. The law does not define gross income. The law leaves it to the states to define gross income. The courts make that decision. In the case of Rose vs. Rose, the Supreme Court said that disability pay is not just for the veteran, it is for the veteran and their family. Once the VA makes a payment to a veteran, there is no jurisdiction over the money. Income is income. The federal law regarding child support is kind of silent on disability income. The federal law does not say whether it is included or not included. There is an emotional impact to the veteran and to the child. Do not confuse child support with alimony. Pensions can be garnished for child support. There is a lot of precedent from other states. It is vague how it is defined. The hearing is tomorrow. The Bureau of Child Services from DHHS has an attorney, Matt Hayes, who will testify. He is aware of both sides.

Kevin Grady asked: Do we want to take a position on this bill or just follow it? He will advocate for our position.

Andy Patterson made a motion to follow HB 317. Seconded by Ray Goulet. Unanimous. Motion carries.

HB 443: Relative to an extended term of imprisonment for assaulting military personnel. He referenced NH RSA 651.6. This bill would add "a member of the armed forces" to the list. There was some discussion and comments by Greg d'Arbonne and Sen. Birdsell. There was concern that you do not always know if a National Guard member in uniform is on duty.

Mike Lopez made a motion to support HB 443. Seconded by Ray Goulet. Unanimous. Motion carries.

SB 120: Relative to physician assistant medical services through the Manchester VAMC. It is common practice to be supervised by a doctor with an out of state license. This bill is to close the loophole in the rules and to clean up the language.

Barray Conway commented that he is a member of the NH Professional Licensure Board. The Board has no problem with reciprocity.

Kevin Forrest said he cannot formerly endorse this bill since he is a federal employee. It makes sense. The VA did not ask for this. The language should read "physician assistant with a NH license."

Kelly Dobens made a motion to support SB 120. Seconded by Ray Goulet. Unanimous. Motion carries.

LSR #1066: Relative to the NHNG enlisted Incentive Program. This is Senator Sharon Carson's bill and we don't have the language yet.

Warren Perry wrote this one. He cannot say much because it is pending legislation. The AG determined that recruiting is the number one priority in the state. The purpose of the bill is to give a \$500 incentive payment to any retired NG member or to a current member who recruits someone into the Guard. This payment would come from General Funds with a cap of \$25,000. It would come from the Scholarship Program which is a separate fund. The Scholarship Program is not an educational incentive program for NG members to go to a NH college. This fills the gaps in the GI bill and comes from separate appropriations.

Kevin Grady said we will be better informed when we meet again in March. We are not ready for a decision or opinion yet.

### **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS:**

**Jane Graham (Governor's Office):** Not present

### **Chris Scott (Senator Shaheen):**

He thanked the committee for all everyone is doing. He thanked the NHVH for forwarding the video tribute. The staff was moved by it. He also thanked Kevin Forrest for working the the family of a female World War II veteran in a rehab facility in Bedford. She needed to be vaccinated and missed the registration. The VA team gave her the vaccine at the nursing home. He thanked Kevin for going outside of the box.

Chris put in a plug for the combined CBOC (Keene and Brattleboro) to be on the east side of the Connecticut River.

### **Bipartisan Bills:**

**Ensuring Survivors Benefits During Covid Act:** This ensures that all service-connected disabilities are accounted for when a veterans' cause of death is due to Covid.

**Emergency Care for Veterans During Covid Act:** This ensures veterans enrolled in VA healthcare get reimbursed for the cost of emergency services during Covid.

**Veterans Claim Transparency Act:** This reinstates the pre-decision review of VA rating decisions by VSO's 48 hours before it is sent to the veteran.

He mentioned another bill which would amend Title 10. It would extend eligibility to retired pay.

### **Co-Sponsored Bill:**

Retired Pay Restoration Act: This ensures concurrent receipt of both retired pay and any service-connected disability pay. Currently, a veteran needs to be rated 50 percent or higher to receive both.

**Justin Troiano (Senator Hassan):**

He thanked the committee for allowing a deviation in the agenda for Senator Hassan to speak. She was excited to share the news with everyone. She was working behind the scenes to get on on the Senate Veterans Committee.

January 16th: Senator Hassan met with 50 members of the NH Army and Air National Guard at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland for the Inauguration. They were deployed for security and the Senator wanted to meet them.

January 2nd: The Senator along with other senators called on the new President to return the POW/MIA flag to its rightful place atop the White House with the American flag. He referred to the NH POW/MIA flag Act.

January 28th: Senator Hassan introduced a bill for bipartisan support to improve state and government cybersecurity infrastructure. This was introduced due to the solar winds attacks and continued cyber attacks due to Covid. The NHNG had a role in this. States are authorized to use the National Guard in this role. The NG is limited in its role to support this.

Senator Hassan urged for a veterans relief package to address the backlog of medical service record requests. The 50 million in funds for the NPRC should be used immediately to make critical investments to reduce the backlog. The NRPC needs to modernize record management.

February 1st: The Senator attended a deployment of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Regiment of the National Guard. They are deploying to the Middle East for Operation Spartan Shield. She attended this virtually.

**Tom Giancola (Rep. Annie Kuster):**

Congresswoman Kuster attended the deployment ceremony in Pembroke. It was a great event to send folks off and recognize the work the National Guard is doing across the state.

January 27th: The Congresswoman co-sponsored a bill on Veterans Covid-19 Emergency Care Act. This was introduced by Congressman Pappas. This makes it easier for veterans to seek emergency care in the community by granting prior authorization.

January 29th: Rep. Kuster joined in a bipartisan letter to urge President Biden to prioritize PFAS cleanup.

HR 355: Rep. Kuster voted in favor of legislation to approve a waiver for Retired General Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense. He normally would have had to wait 7 years after active duty. He retired 5 years ago. The waiver was approved.

December 17th: Rep. Kuster co-sponsored the Military Domestic Violence Prevention Act. This is a family advocacy program with in DOD responsible for prevention, education and treatment related to domestic abuse in the military. Trained advocates and clinicians offer support to new and existing parents.

### **Patrick Carroll (Rep. Chris Pappas):**

The first bill Rep. Pappas submitted last week was the Veterans Covid-19 Emergency Care Act. There are issues with the ER under Covid.

Co-sponsored Bills:

HR 230: Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans.

HR 345: Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act.

HR 50: Express support of the House of Representatives for the naming of new or undedicated facilities of the VA after minority veterans to reflect diversity of all who served.

National World War II Commemorative Coin Act.

Meetings: Rep. Pappas attends monthly update meetings with TriWest. TriWest is the biggest offender of backlogs. Rep. Pappas had a meeting with CEO Dave McIntire. He also met with the NH Hospital Association. One hospital was having problems with TriWest. The majority of claims have been taken care of. It is stressful for veterans to get bills in the mail.

### **Good of the Order:**

None.

### **Calendar of Events:**

1st Wednesday- Monthly POW/MIA Vigil - 1900 at Veterans Park, Manchester, NH.

4th Tuesday - Monthly POW/MIA Vigil - 1900 at Langdon Park, Portsmouth, NH.  
Every Thursday - Weekly POW/MIA Vigil - 1900 at Hesky Park, Meredith, NH.

**Next meeting date:** 02 March 2021

**Adjourn Meeting:** 1905

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M DeBlois  
Secretary