

NH STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 6 December 2022

Location: ECTC, 722 Riverwood Dr., Pembroke, NH

OFFICERS and VOTING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Chairman - Paul Loyd

Vice Chair - Andy Patterson

Secretary - Denise DeBlois - (voted in 6 Dec 22)

Treasurer - Kelly Dobens

Chair Emeritus - David Kenney

Chaplain - Armand Soucy

Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Legion

AUSA - Col. Cross Chapter

Catholic War Veterans

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

Disabled American Veterans

Korean War Veterans

Marine Corps League

Military Officers Association (MOAA)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

National Guard Association of NH

NH Army Retiree Council

NH National Guard Enlisted Association

NH Veterans Association

Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (Camp Resilience)

Reserve Officers Association of NH

Rolling Thunder

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-41)

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS - non voting

Governor's Office - Trevor McAden

Senator Maggie Hassan - Justin Troiano

Senator Jeanne Shaheen - Chris Scott

Congressman Chris Pappas - Brett Lavasseur

Congresswoman Annie Kuster - Molly Small

COMMITTEE ADVISORS/AGENCIES:

VAMC, Manchester, NH - Kevin Forrest, Director

NHNG - Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General

NH Veterans Home - Kim MacKay

Margaret "Peggy" LaBrecque, Sage Emeritus

Martins Point - John Reed

State Veterans Council - Jim Adams

GUESTS:

Cathy Kuhn and Ginger Munson - Easter Seals NH

Major Ray Wilson and MSGT Collins - Army Soldiers For Life

Cristopher Arnold - New England Region Dept of Defense-State Liaison

OPEN MEETING/CALL TO ORDER:

Paul Lloyd, Chairman, convened meeting at 1700.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman

Invocation: Armand Soucy

Welcome - Remarks of the Chair: None

Secretary's Report:

Meeting has a quorum; 17 voting members present; attendance on file.

No edits to minutes of last meeting on 1 Nov 2022; approved and placed in the record.

Treasurer's Report: Account balance is \$652.67.

Comments from Vice Chair: Andrew Patterson - none.

Comments from Director Emeritus: David Kenney - none.

Guest Speaker #1:

Cathy Kuhn (Chief Operating Officer at Easter Seals) and Ginger Munson (Project Advisor).

They spoke about the Military and Veterans Campus in Franklin, NH, Project Overview.

Easter Seals is in charge of the project.

A handout was sent electronically to SVAC members.

Projected completion is June 2024.

Components of the project: housing for veterans and family, retreat center with beds, recreation therapy, hub of services, and financial sustainability.

There were lots of questions and discussion.

Guest Speaker #2:

Major Ray Wilson and MSGT Collins spoke on Army Soldiers For Life.

They gave an overview of Why and How. This is an active duty Army program out of Arlington, VA which began in 2012.

Mission is to connect and engage. Over 40,000 organizations for veterans are registered with the IRS.

This is an ETS sponsorship program. It links veterans with mentors in the community. They are looking for mentors to participate.

There were questions and discussion.

Guest Speaker #3:

Christopher Arnold, New England Region Department of Defense Liaison Officer.

He spoke about Personnel and Readiness, and support services. He mentioned a key issue on Licensure Exemption for Military Family Child Care Providers.

He submitted a power point presentation.

SUPPORTING AGENCY REPORTS:

Manchester VA Update: Director Kevin Forrest not present

DMAVS Update: Shawn Buck gave an oral report.

Wreaths will be taken down at the NHSVC on January 7, 2023.

Amy Cook resigned from the Dept of Military & Veterans Services and will be moving onto a new opportunity. Her last day is Dec 29th.

NH Veterans Home: Commandant Kimberly MacKay gave an oral report.

No COVID in the NHVH. Need to be 3 or less to stay off of "outbreak" status.

Resident status: 126 veterans (117 men and 9 women).

Maximum number of residents is 131 due to staffing.

The budget was presented to the Governor for 2024/2025.

Public Affairs Officer Sarah will be doing a 30 second commercial with WMUR on Dec 12th.

Thank you to the DAV for the pizza party.

Thank you to all VSO's for donations.

Pear Harbor Remembrance will be on Dec 7th at 2:30 pm. Guest speaker is Shawn Buck.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Election of a Secretary.

Denise DeBlois, Catholic War Veterans primary voting member, volunteered to serve as Secretary. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS:

Kevin Grady, Legislative Chair, gave a brief report and update on LSR's. There are 6 new bills.

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS: Written reports attached or emailed separately if submitted to Chair.

Chris Scott (Senator Shaheen): brief report.

Justin Troiano (Senator Hassan): excused.

Molly Small (Rep. Annie Kuster): brief report.

Brett Levasseur (Rep. Chris Pappas): brief report.

Upcoming Events:

Services for Sgt. Alfred Sidney (POW-MIA) in Littleton, NH on Dec 7th and 8th.

Army-Navy game on Saturday, Dec 10th.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Adjourn Meeting: 1818.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise DeBlois, Secretary