

NH STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 7 February 2023

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

OFFICERS and VOTING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Chairman - Paul Loyd

Vice Chair - Andrew Patterson

Secretary - Denise DeBlois

Treasurer - Kelly Dobens

Chair Emeritus - David Kenney

Chaplain - Armand Soucy

Air Force Association

Kevin Grady (prim)

Air Force Sergeants Association

Martha Gladu (alt)

American Legion

Bill Roy (alt)

AUSA - Col. Cross Chapter

Greg d'Arbonne (prim)

Catholic War Veterans

Denise DeBlois (prim)

Robert Guldner (alt)

Armand Soucy (alt)

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

Disabled American Veterans

Rick Borrazas (prim)

Andrew Patterson (alt)

Korean War Veterans

Marine Corps League

Military Officers Association (MOAA)

Peter Burdett (prim)

William Luti (alt)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Laurence Miller (alt)

National Guard Association of NH

Peter Duffy (prim)

Steve Greco (alt)

NH Army Retiree Council

Mike Rice (alt)

NH National Guard Enlisted Association

Mike Rice (alt)

NH Veterans Association

Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (Camp Resilience)

Steve Veinotte (alt)

Reserve Officers Association of NH

David Kenney (prim)

Rolling Thunder

Bruce Garry (prim)

Robert Brown (alt)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Leon Rideout (prim)

Paul Lloyd (alt)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-41)

Raymond Goulet, Jr. (prim)

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

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Sen. Regina Birdsell

Rep. Terry Roy

COMMITTEE ADVISORS/AGENCIES:

VAMC, Manchester, NH - Kevin Forrest, Director
NHNG - Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General
NH Veterans Home - Kimberly MacKay
Margaret “Peggy” LaBrecque, Sage Emeritus
Martins Point - John Reed
State Veterans Council - Jim Adams
Easterseals/Veterans Count - Andrea Christoffels

GUESTS:

An alternate from Martin’s Point was present. Name unknown.
Miguel Moralez - US-SBA
Stephanie Higgs - Easterseals/Veterans Count

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; attendance on file.

No edits to minutes of last meeting on 3 Jan 2023; approved and placed in the record.

Treasurer’s Report: Account balance is \$652.67. No change.

Comments from Vice Chair: Andrew Patterson - he is moving to North Carolina in a few months

Comments from Director Emeritus: David Kenney - none.

Guest Speakers: All speakers provided handouts.

1. Bill Sloan, Jerry and Ramona Branch - Cathedral of the Pines

It is open to people of all faiths. It was built in honor of a son who served. Ideas are welcomed to preserve the presence and honor.

Tour of Honor - April 1st to October 31st.

2. Jim Hradecky and Joe Hradecky - Johnny Mac Soldier's Fund (JMSF)

JMSF provides scholarships for kids who lost their military parents. No donation is too small.

3. Martha Glade - Military Women's Memorial

The 25th Anniversary was held last year in Arlington; trying to get as many women registered as possible. Card has QR code or go to: womensmemorial.org

SUPPORTING AGENCY REPORTS:

Manchester VA Update: Director Kevin Forrest oral report.

A lot has been going on in the past 72 hours.

VA is back online as of today. Services are restored.

On Saturday (3 days ago), the VA lost water and heat due to the arctic temperatures.

The patients in the CLC were evacuated to Boston and White River Junction VA's

Credit is given to the boiler room operator.

There was a small pipe break in the new building.

Personnel update:

New Congressional liaison - Ken Christopher.

Chief of Urgent Care - expected in April 2023.

Chief of Medicine - interviews are finished.
Chief of the Spinal Cord Program - Neurologist.

Facility Update:

The Dental Clinic opens today.

The Operating Room is closed until September. Looking at possibility of a mobile OR.
Other:

Veterans Compact Act - All vets in crisis can go to any Emergency Department free of charge.

Travel claims - Hit an all time low - 2000 backlog.

Tilton CBOC - closed this week; virtual care only.

DMAVS Update: Warren Perry gave an oral report.

NHSVC (Shawn Buck): nothing to report.

NHOVS (Bill Gaudreau): nothing to report.

Dept of Military & Veterans Services: Amy Cook - moved to NAMI Prevention

DMAVS website - multiple grants are posted; Coordinator is Heather Grant.

DMVAS You Tube Page - 5 to 7 minute videos on Ask the Question.

There is a video on the stellate ganglion block for PTSD. This procedure is immediately life changing.

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

Resident status: 127 veterans (117 men and 10 women). Average age is 84.

Two new admissions since last month.

Covid - 2 residents and 4 staff.

A Remembrance Day is being held for all those who passed away in 2022.

Next LNA class will be soon.

Recruiting is in progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Change meeting time: there was some discussion and the majority do not want to change it.
2. Elections: will be held in June. We will need a Vice Chair and Treasurer.
3. Amend the By-Laws: this will be reviewed next month. A hand out was provided this month.
4. Grant expanding mental health care to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS:

Kevin Grady, Legislative Chair, gave a brief report and update on LSR's.

HB 163 - passed as written.

HB 189 - update provided.

HB 206 - made it through the house.

HB 229 - motion to oppose (not support) passed.

HB 330 - motion to support passed.

HB 543 - motion to follow approved. Must include definition of a veteran.

SB 45 - motion to support passed.

SB 174 - motion to support passed.

SB 26 - motion to oppose passed. Sponsor looking to amend. Do not want to see this bill move. Motion to send a letter to the Senate approved.

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

Trevor McAden ((Gov. Chris Sununu): brief report.

Chris Scott (Senator Shaheen): brief report.

Justin Troiano (Senator Hassan): brief report

Molly Small (Rep. Annie Kuster): not present.

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

Upcoming Events:

1st Wednesday - Monthly POW/MIA Vigil - 1900 at Veteran's 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

1st Friday - Monthly POW/MIA vigil - 1900 at Pine Grove Cemetery, Salem, NH

Next meeting date: Tuesday, 7 March 2023

Adjourn Meeting: 1855

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise DeBlois, Secretary