

MINUTES  
GIFT FOR YANKS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF  
February 20, 2022 at 12:30 P.M.  
Department Library

1. Call to Order at 12:30 P.M.

Darell Bishop opened the meeting of the Department Gifts For Yanks Committee at 12:30 P.M.

2. Salute to the Colors

The Colors were saluted.

3. Invocation, Ken Ellis, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman gave the opening invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Darell Bishop led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Roll Call: Andrew Klingler, Gifts For Yanks, VAVS & VHA Coordinator

**Members present:**

Robert Steggemann, Department Gifts For Yanks Chairman- Not Present  
Chester Kendzierski, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chairman- Not Present  
Mike Homan, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman- Present  
Ken Ellis, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Present  
Darell Bishop, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-Present  
Daniel Goodman, 6<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Present  
John Barnhart, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-Not Present  
Robert Schmoll Jr, 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman-Present  
Bill Dittebrand, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Present  
Holly Lewis, 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman- Present  
Floyd Burk Jr, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Present  
Stanley Popek, 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Present  
Robert Burgess, 14<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- Not Present

**Guests Present:**

Andrew Klingler, Gifts For Yanks, VAVS & VHA Coordinator  
Scott Palider, VA&R, Legislative Coordinator

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

Floyd Burk Jr, 11th District Chairman moved, seconded by Holly Lewis, 10th District Chairwoman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

**MOTION PASSED**

## 7. Sub-Committee Meeting Discussion

Ken Ellis 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman discussed that all of the gifts from this year had been distributed out successfully.

## 8. Unfinished Business-

### a. Distribution of old gifts-

Stanely Popek 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman inquired about acquiring some of the extra gifts and it was noted that there was an opportunity for all the members to retrieve extra gifts from the back. It was also pointed out by Holly Lewis 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman, that not all the committee members had received their personal gifts from this year's operation. The committee also brought up the questions on why there was an excess of gifts remaining from this year. This excess was attributed to the COVID restrictions in some facilities.

### b. John Tepper inquired about the monies remaining for the Chillicothe VA. It was determined that the VAVS coordinator had passed away and the district did not request funds. Holly Lewis 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman presented to the committee a need for a manual that thoroughly explains the special request process.

## 9. New Business-

### a. Gift Card Proposal- Darell Bishop 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman proposed that this year the committee consider that the gifts for this upcoming Christmas be gift cards. Andrew Klingler, Department Gifts For Yanks Coordinator, presented the proposition given by the gift card company Signature. Robert Schmoll Jr 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman voiced his concerns over gifts in the past had been manufactured in China. He agreed that gift cards were a great way to help veterans and that the funds would not be used for Chinese made products. Stanely Popek 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman motioned for the 12 month expiration gift card option which was \$3.06 per card this motion was seconded by Robert Schmoll Jr 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman. The committee then requested that the usage of the gift cards would need to be tracked if possible.

**MOTION PASSED**

### b. Budget Review- Darell Bishop 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman presented to the committee that in the past few years the committee has given the American Legion Auxiliary \$11,000 every for them to purchase gifts and other items for the Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Chillicothe VA facilities. This allotment had not been approved in the past and it was determined by the committee that this would need to be changed. Holly Lewis 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman motioned that \$8,000 be designated towards the American Legion Auxiliary to be used at the Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Chillicothe VA facilities with \$2,000 going to each. Holly stated that the committee is given a report on how the donated funds were used. The American Legion Auxiliary has somewhere stated that the Gift For Yanks had donated funds when distributing the materials. Stanely Popek 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman, seconded the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

### c. It was brought up that the committee will have Andrew Klingler, Department Gifts For Yanks Coordinator, send in a request to American Legion Charities for \$50,000. This amount will help the Gift For Yanks Committee reach its fundraising goals. Stanely Popek 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman motioned that the committee will wait until the May meeting to determine the budget after a finance report is mailed out to the committee. Holly Lewis 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman seconded the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

The committee requested that Andrew Klingler, Department Gifts For Yanks Coordinator, set up the meeting after all district conferences have occurred.

- d. Holly Lewis 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman presented a recommendation that the committee change the name of the Gift For Yanks Committee. Darell Bishop, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman, communicated that they must first separate from the VA&R Commission before the committee changes the name. It was determined that the committee had reported directly to the DEC in the past. Mike Homan 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative, moved that we create a resolution that the committee will report directly to the DEC. Stanely Popek seconded the motion.

**MOTION PASSED**

- e. The committee requested that Andrew Klingler, Department Gifts For Yanks Coordinator, send a monthly breakdown of all district's donations along with the total donation amount. Andrew would also need to send out letters notifying VAVS representatives on the upcoming April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

10. Good of the Legion-  
None

11. Benediction- Ken Ellis, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman gave the benediction.

12. Adjourned- Meeting adjourned at 2:01 P.M.