



GIFTS FOR YANKS/VAVS MEETING

Saturday, December 9th, 2017 – 10am to 2pm
Department HQ, Delaware OH

MINUTES

1. Open

Chairman Bishop opened the meeting at 1003 am NEC Clausing gave the opening prayer Chairman Bishop led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

2. Appoint Secretary

Holly Lewis appointed as Secretary and Suzette Heller assisted.

3. Roll Call

GFY Committee Members:

Chet Kendzierski (1) Present	Paul Maurer (2) Present
Bob Steggeaman (3) Present	George Monroe (4) Present
Darell Bishop (5) Present	Daniel Goodman (6) Present
John Barnhart (7) Present	Mick Williams (8) Absent-Medical
Bill Keller (9) Absent-Excused	Holly Lewis (10) Present
Floyd Burk (11) Present	Jerry Laird (12) Present
Stanley Popek (13) Present	Dale Luzader (14) Present

VAVS Members-Location:

Dave Hurst (4) Cincinnati	Walt Crowwait (4) Cincinnati
Dennis Clausing (13) Cleveland	Ed Stockli (14) Ravenna
Gary Tarvin (4) Georgetown OVH	Mike Homan (2) Lima
Neil Miller (7) Chillicothe	Jarrett Estep (5) Mansfield
Dan Brake (5) Sandusky OVH	Leroy Brinkhoff (13) Cleveland
Gerardo Navarro-VA (7) Chillicothe	George Smith (14) Akron

4. Chrnm Bishop Open Remarks

Chairman bishop gave opening remarks and indicated that communication needs to be better between clinics, VAVS Deps/Reps and GFY Chairpersons. He also instructed that VAVS Reps/Deps signatures must be on the Special Project Requests due into Department HQ by 1 April each year. Donations will be calculated beginning in 2018 from DEC meeting in August to 31 July.

List of dates for GFY Distribution at VAMC's is available and encouraged attendance. Each year shows a decline in attendance.

5. Director Price Opening Comments:

Director Price thanked all for coming. Encouraged all to visit different clinics and hospitals. She will be in Cleveland on Tuesday to distribute special project funds and Chillicothe on Christmas Day for gift distribution. Susan is the new VA&R assistant. Encouraged all VAVS reps to take a VAVS handbook and for it to be used as a recruiting tool. Noted that VAVS reps are the lowest since she has been at department. District commanders will be receiving additional detailed information regarding GFY and VAVS programs.

6. Old Business

- a. Booklet for VAVS Reps (VAVS Handbook, legion.org) is being revised by National.
- b. Handbook for GFY program is in progress. It was delayed due to recent staff changes at department. A list of VAVS facilities was provided; please ensure list is correct. Give updates to Director Heller.
- c. All VAVS reps are asked to fill out volunteer information sheet which is needed for National roster updates. All VAVS reps have to be approved by district, department and National. VA rep noted that the VA is aware that this is a deterrent for getting volunteers due to the process of getting accepted. Security clearances are taking more time/travel than expected.
- d. It was reminded to all that VA Vet Centers were also budgeted \$500/ea for the year and not forget those facilities for voluntary services and that each clinic is budgeted \$1250 when there is an active VAVS rep.
- e. The gifts being distributed were reviewed and each package contains a GFY brochure. All items are made in the USA. Prices were also reviewed.
- f. It was suggested that a "Thank You" letter be sent to the expediting company in appreciation of their continued service and price break.
- g. Marketing the program from HQ has slowed due to staff changes at Department. Finance director is working through sending out checks. GFY payments are being processed at the end of every month.
- h. Sub committee meeting for marketing at mid winter - Darrell Bishop, Suzette Price, Holly Lewis

7. New Business

- a. Chairman Bishop noted the new certificates for Posts have been emailed out. These are used by the posts to recognize donors. Hard copies were available at the meeting. Director Heller will make available a writeable pdf document on the ohiolegion.com site on the GFY page. District certificates for Posts will be distributed to District GFY Chairperson.
- b. Donations are down. Only have 32k of 222k needed so far. Need to get back on

track. Reports will be sent monthly including breakdown of post donations by district.

- c. Question was asked about the model of care in the CBOCs. Director Heller noted that models of care are always evolving.
- d. Plaque quality was discussed. Had to go with a new plaque last year due to costs. Want it to be something that can be engraved. Director Heller will investigate.

8. Good of the American Legion

- a. Sandusky distribution is 12/21. They could use help. Starts at 10am.
- b. 12/16 is wreaths across America. Ohio veterans home has over 900 wreaths and could use help.
- c. 12/16 Georgetown Ohio veterans home has wreaths across America and gift distribution.
- d. Traveling wall will be coming to Chillicothe VA on 9/19-9/21/18

9. NEC Clausung gave the closing prayer. Chairman Bishop closed the meeting at 11:11 am. Lunch and fellowship was had by all.

Submitted by: Darell Bishop (5), GFY Chairman
Suzette Heller, VA&R Director
Holly Lewis (10), GFY Chairman/Secretary