

MINUTES  
Gifts For Yanks Sub-Committee  
MEETING OF  
11 November 2021  
10:00 A.M. Department of Ohio

1. Call to Order at 10:00 AM

The Gifts For Yanks Sub-Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Department Chairman Steggmann.

2. Roll Call: Andrew Klingler- VHA, VAVS, Gifts For Yanks Coordinator

**Members present:**

Robert Steggemann, Department Gifts For Yanks Chairman  
Ken Ellis, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman  
Darell Bishop, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairman  
Holly Lewis, 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman

**Guests Present:**

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

3. Gift Packing Dates-

- a. The sub-committee first discussed the shipment issue pertaining to the laptop bags being produced by 4Imprint. The product is not supposed to be shipped until November 26<sup>th</sup>. Darrel Bishop recommended that Andrew Klingler GFY Coordinator look into acquiring an early shipment of laptop bags from 4Imprint. This way those that need their gifts early can receive them.
- b. Andrew Klingler notified the sub-committee that because of the late delivery of the laptop bags, Department staff will package up the gifts as soon as the product is delivered.

4. Distribution-

When discussing the distribution of gifts, Ken Ellis noted that it was important to find out how many patients are in the lockdown units at the VA hospitals and Ohio Veterans Homes. This number is important to the total number of gifts per location. Ken also mentioned that he will take the designated gifts for his district unpacked and that he will coordinate the packing of his gifts separately. Holly Lewis discussed the question on how the gifts will overall be distributed and packed. Andrew Klingler replied that due to the unknown delivery date of the laptop bags that Department staff will handle the packing of gifts this year. Another issue that was brought up by the subcommittee was if the districts were going to be allowed into the designated

facilities to distribute gifts. The committee determined that Andrew Klingler will reach out to the VAVS representatives for each facility first to determine if the Legion will be allowed to give gifts. Secondly, the committee wanted a calendar or list created to display the desired information. This list will help determine the schedule of gift distribution. The next topic that the committee chairman discussed was the distribution of last year's leftover gifts. It was determined that the DEC will be receiving the cushions that was a part of their gift. The rest of the leftover gifts will be equally distributed out to the fourteen districts.

5. New Business-

Due to the unknown status of when the current gifts will be packed and ready to go, the committee determined that Andrew Klingler will notify the districts once the gifts are packed and ready for delivery. The next order of new business was to determine whether or not GFY will have a vendor table at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference. It was determined that GFY will not be having a vendor table. The fundraising items will be sold at the emblem sales table, which is ran by the Department staff. The fundraising items will include the gold pens, GFY pins, and other available items that are still available from previous years.

6. Unfinished Business-

It was determined previously on what will be done with last years gifts.

7. Good of the Legion-

Darrel Bishop presented the request the GFY program purchase new winter caps that will be for sale. Darrel also mentioned that GFY program needs to acquire new raffle tickets. The committee discussed that Andrew Klingler will look into the current status of last year's raffle tickets and the coins sets. Darrel Bishop brought up the topic of the changing of the GFY name. Along with changing the program's name, he discussed that GFY should become its own commission because the GFY is not a national program but instead falls under the Department of Ohio. They do not want GFY to fall under the VA&R Commission or be subject to their approval. This topic is to be brought up at the next GFY committee meeting. It was also discussed that the GFY program sets up a 4Imprint account that way we can change how we address the billing of gifts. The way the account is currently set up, the product needs to be paid for first before it is shipped. If a new account is set up, Department can be invoiced after the product is received. The committee then was presented the idea of changing the gifts that are given out to gift cards. The potential partners that are to be looked at include organizations such as Walmart or Amazon. Holly Lewis suggested that individuals of the committee reach out to their local facilities to see if they would be interested in that idea. Another idea brought up was that instead of going with a large chain store corporation, the GFY program would work directly with Visa. Holly Lewis then recommended that we possibly increase the total amount of the gift cards due to the savings on shipping that is usually allocated. Darrell Bishop brought up the question if the program will still be giving out the crystal eagle award. It was determined that yes, the eagle will still be given out at convention 2022. The committee reviewed the amount that had been fundraised so

far and suggested that the program run a fundraising ad in the next Ohio Legion Newspaper. It was also determined that that Andrew Klingler will work on producing new honor roll posters that can be printed in-house at the Department. The committee showed interest in having a meeting at the upcoming Mid-Winter conference. Andrew will check with the Mid-Winter Coordinator and see if committees are allowed to meet at the Conference or if there is meeting space. Andrew will notify the committee of the response.

8. Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:20AM