

American Legion Department of Ohio  
VA&R Standing Commission  
4 pm, Library  
March 11, 2023

1. Called to Order 4:01 pm
2. Salute the Flag
3. Prayer
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call

| District | Name               | Substitute                              | Attendance |
|----------|--------------------|---|------------|
| 1        | Patrick Grzybowski | Dean Boyer                              | X          |
| 2        | Vacant             | Tim Shaw                                | X          |
| 3        | Michael Blackwell  |   | X          |
| 4        | Jerry Perry        |   | X          |
| 5        | Darell Bishop      |   | X          |
| 6        | David Cook (chair) |   | X          |
| 7        | John Tepper        |   | X          |
| 8        | Donald Capps       | Excused for membership/ post activities | -          |
| 9        | Frank Adley        |   | -          |
| 10       | Bob Rhode          |   | X          |
| 11       | Vacant             |   | -          |
| 12       | Traci Washington   |   | -          |
| 13       | Leroy Brinkhoff    |   | X          |
| 14       | Bob Carson         |   | X          |

6. Introduction of Guests: Department Coordinator Palider, Alt NEC Ron Chapman, 4<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Buxton
7. Previous minutes were approved on the 12.3.2022 DEC.
  - a. Rhode wanted minutes amended since he was in attendance.
    - 7.a.i. Bishop (5) made the motion Rhode (10) seconded.
      - 7.a.i.1.a.i.1.a.i. MOTION CARRIED
8. District Reports
  - a. 4<sup>th</sup>: Cincinnati VAMC is allowing volunteers in but only with COVID testing.
    - 8.a.i. Cerner system at Cincinnati VA is going under training in June.
  - b. 5<sup>th</sup>: Post 118 donated \$3k to Cleveland Fisher house.
  - c. 7<sup>th</sup>: Chillicothe is starting to open up too, but testing is still needed. They're looking to open to activities on the floors. Vet appreciation baseball game coming up in June (tentative)
  - d. 10<sup>th</sup>: Distributed gift cards at Wade Park. 500+ of them went out. The wade park

**"Veterans Strengthening America"**

# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007  
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veterans were very grateful. District wise they're giving VA&R reports and telling the members to go to the VA and file a claim if anything is wrong.

- e. 13<sup>th</sup>: Wade Park is saying they'll open back up in May.
  - f. 14<sup>th</sup>: Akron is not allowing visits to the CBOC unless its individually wrapped cookies in an approved kitchen. No coffee. Ravenna is allowing any and everything for donations. Wade Park is looking for donations, on the department Facebook page asking for underwear, socks, toothbrushes, haircare products (M/F). April 15th @11:30 am, Post 566 Akron will be having a veteran's outreach event to reach out to VA, our DSO, county veteran office.
    - 8.f.i. Will work with anyone who needs help getting registered with VA or VSOs.
9. Old Business
- a. Washington Conference VE&E from Blackwell (3)
    - 9.a.i. Talking on addressing veteran education and fighting homelessness.
      - 9.a.i.1. Will send a written update to Scott Palider
  - b. Veteran Treatment Court Funding?
    - 9.b.i. Bishop (5) requested department check on the funds of veteran treatment courts, Department had close to \$10K in 2017ish. Does the Department still have that money? and if so, we need to get it out to courts.
      - 9.b.i.1. Coordinator Palider to check on this as well as with local courts to see what they could use money for.
        - 9.b.i.1.a. Look to find common cause issues and how to help avoid repeat offenders.
        - 9.b.i.1.b. Summit County Courts take about \$200 per month according to Carson (14) for snack like items.
  - c. Motion by Bishop (5) to do the Department VA&R Awards at Mid-Winter, Second by Rhode (10)
    - 9.c.i.1.a.i.1.a.i. Motion carried.
10. New Business
- a. DSO Report
    - 10.a.i. Reminded commission to help find a Cleveland DSO
  - b. 118<sup>th</sup> Congress Legislative Priorities related to VA&R
    - 10.b.i. Mental Health
    - 10.b.ii. Suicide Prevention
    - 10.b.iii. TBI/PTSD
    - 10.b.iv. VA Recruitment, Retention, and Modernization
      - 10.b.iv.1. Advanced training for VA employees
    - 10.b.v. Women Veterans
    - 10.b.vi. Minority Veterans
    - 10.b.vii. MST Survivors
    - 10.b.viii. Future of VA Healthcare
    - 10.b.ix. PACT Act Implementation

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- 10.b.ix.1. National Projects that we will have 450K backlog of claims related to PACT Act
- 10.b.x. Concurrent Receipt
  - 10.b.x.1. Urge you congress members to support the Major Richard Star Act
- c. Veteran Treatment Court Funding?
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- 11. Resolutions
- 12. Good of the Legion
  - a. May 13<sup>th</sup>, COVID may be declared over by President Biden and allow the VA to get back to being open.
  - b. VA Healthcare system, the more who sign up will allow for my budget allotment per clinic.
    - 12.b.i. Congress removed the MEANS testing about a year ago.
- 13. Closing Prayer
- 14. Salute the flag
- 15. Adjourned 5:02pm

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