

 **Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee**

**Friday , March 12, 2021, Crown Plaza, Columbus. OH.**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chairman Cook at Department Headquarters. Salute to the colors. The invocation was given by Bruce Phillip (D-5). The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman Cook (D-6). Chairman Cook took the minutes.

 **Roll Call:**

 Dist. 1 Patrick Grzybowski- Present, Dist. 2 Charles Craynon- Present, Dist. 3 Joe Law, Absent Dist. 4, Robert Ray Present , Dist. 5 Darell Bishop- Present, Dist. 6 David K. Cook Sr., Present Dist. 7 Kenneth Crawford- Absent, Dist. 8 Tina Walker Present, Dist. 9 William Keller- Absent, Dist. 10 Gary Ickes, Present Dist. 11 John Robinson, Present Dist. 12 John Tepper, Present Dist. 13 Leroy Brinkhoff Present and Dist. 14 Bob Carson Present. The guest was Suzette Heller and William Genochio.

**Greetings:**

 Department Commander Roger Friend thanked all for their participation on this Department committee. 1st and 2nd Vice also addressed the committee.

**Review of Minutes for the Oct 10, 2020 meeting:**

After review, a motion was made by Darrel Bishop (D-5)) and seconded by John Robison (D-12) to except as printed. All in favor.

 **MOTION CARRIED**

**Chairman Opening Remarks:**

Chairman Cook thanks all for attending by echoing Department Commanders welcome.

**District Reports:**

Each District presents a report on the VA&R activates within their respective Districts.

**Old Business**: Drafting the Solicitation letter for BVA Award wins

**New Business**

**Department Service Office Update**

Genochio gave the Department Service Office update. Regarding big change for submitting evidence to the BVA. The DSO’s are now able to submit appeals and evidence directly to the Board in Washington D.C.

Sub-Committee for Veterans Treatment Court was approved.

 A motion was made by Ickes (D -10) and seconded by Carson (D-14) to create a draft of the letter to the member. The verbiage would then come back to this Committee for approval of it before any letters would go out to the veteran. All in favor.

 **MOTION CARRIED**

**Gifts for Yanks Program**

Bishop went over info on gifts for the coming year. Bishop gave the current budget for this year. Also promoted the sale of raffle tickets, Ball caps and Bullet Pens.

**VA Voluntary Services**

Discussion on which location are allowing voluntary service. Columbus was the only VAMC Allowing voluntary services. Wade Park is allowing limited access.

**Veteran’s Treatment Court Program**

The sub-committee has met one time to begin to grant guideline looking to run like GFY.

 **Commanders Visits**

No Commander visits have been conducted.

 **Veterans Employment and Education**

The VE&E Committee will meet on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 2:00pm at The Crown Plaza in Columbus Ohio. We encourage every Post to identify veteran-owned businesses in their area. The proposed support veteran business week is being forwarded to the VA&R committee for review.

**Legislative Update**

The Committee was. Provided Legislative update flyer for the 177th Congress, 1st Session.

**VA&R Program Awards**

No nominations for mid-winter topic was discussed by Suzette Heller to review the process in how this is handled.

**Resolutions**

The Committee did not consider any draft resolution.

Salute to the Colors was rendered. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Minutes submitted by David K. Cook Sr.; Department VA&R Chairman