



Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Minutes

The meeting was called to order in the regular form at noon by Chairman Cook at Department Headquarters. The invocation was given by Darell Bishop (5th). Chairman Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Cook also appointed himself as the secretary for the meeting.

Roll Call:

Dist. 1: Chester Kendzierski, Present; Dist. 2: Charles Craynon, Absent; Dist. 3: Joe Law, Present; Dist. 4: Robert Ray, Absent; Dist. 5: Darell Bishop, Present; Dist. 6: David K. Cook Sr., Present; Dist. 7: Paul Sands, Present; Dist. 8: Tina Walker, Present; Dist. 9: William Keller, Present; 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 Committee had a quorum with 12 members present and two absent.

The following guests were present Jermaine Ferguson and William Genochio, who serve as the Department HQ liaisons to this Committee.

The Committee reviewed Discussion Notes from March 14, 2020. After review, a motion was made by Bishop (5) and seconded by Tepper (12) to accept the discussion notes as printed. All in favor.

Motion Carried

The Committee reviewed the Committee Rules for the 2021 Membership Year. A motion was made by Darell Bishop (5th) and seconded by Bill Keller (9th) to accept the rules as read, with one edit: that the time of the meeting (s) is to be determined. Discussion followed—all in favor.

Motion Carried

Old Business:

Darell Bishop (5th) provided the Committee with an update regarding the Resolution the Committee had submitted that called for National HQ to add “Veteran Treatment Court volunteer hours and donations” to the Consolidated Post Report under the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation section. The Resolution was approved by the Department Executive Committee,

and it has been submitted to the National Executive Committee (NEC) for their consideration. However, the NEC has not met due to National Convention being canceled, so no action had been taken yet.

New Business:

Department Service Office Update:

Bill Genochio provided the Committee with an update regarding the DSO office. At this time, we have four (4) Service Officers at Cleveland Regional Office, One (1) in Cincinnati, and One (1) part-time Service Officer in Columbus. The Dayton office is closed at this time, as the position is vacant. Wade Park office is not staffed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Regional Office is closed for public walk-ins. However, veterans can schedule an appointment for an in-person meeting. Email is the best way to contact a Department Service Officer. With the legacy type of appeals phasing out, so will the DRO, as under the new system, will no longer be needed.

Post-Service Officer School:

Bill Genochio presented the Committee with a draft version updated PSO manual and requested feedback. When the manual is finalized, every participant in Post Service Officer (PSO) School will receive a hard and digital copy. The date the next scheduled PSO school is Saturday, November 7, from 8 is to 3 pm at Department HQ. Due to social distancing guidelines, the location of this training may change. An invitation will go out later July to register, and a follow up will go out to inform all, if a location change is needed. Chairman Cook asked that we let our PSO's know that it is coming out and also be sure to get the information out as soon as possible.

Gifts for Yanks Program:

Darell Bishop (5th) provided the Committee with a program update. Bishop shared the holiday gift items that are in discussion and stated that the final decision would be made next week at the Gifts for Yanks Committee meeting. Also, again due to COVID, we will most likely not be able to pass out the holiday gifts as usual. The GFY committee will also consider budgetary cuts.

Veteran's Treatment Court Program:

The sub-committee has not met yet due to timing and then the COVID, but will move forward this year to draft program guidelines. We have \$28,000.00 in the program fund at this time.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS: 60 BIG RUN ROAD, DELAWARE, OHIO 43015-8007
PHONE: 740-362-7478 | FAX: 740-362-1429 | EMAIL: LEGION@OHIOLEGION.COM

VA&R Program Awards:

Jermaine Ferguson presented the various awards, both the Department and National awards, and their respective guidelines. There was discussion on how we best solicit nominations due to the lack of participation from the Districts. The William F. Lenker National Service Trophy is a national award for the Department, and the deadline is due on July 15. Due to the lack of data, we may not be able to submit our Department for the Award on time. Discussion on the CPR's and Post Selection Forms as avenues to solicited data - we need to push for better reporting and also to get them into Department on time, so the information can be used to complete the application. Genochio asked if the PSO's could do a quarterly report on how many Veterans they assisted, and the Committee was open to the idea.

Veterans Suicide prevention:

Darell Bishop provided an update to the Committee regarding a draft resolution regarding the future of a Department Veteran Suicide Prevention Program. Bishop will collaborate with Department 1st Vice Jean Wilson to get input from her to complete this and integrate with her Commanders' project. Jermaine reviewed the VA's Suicide Prevention Report and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Report to assist with the language and intent of the Resolution.

Darell Bishop was one of 25 Legionnaires who participated in The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation '*Question, Persuade, Refer*' training, but noted that there was not a breakdown of the veteran demographics, nor did the training include a Post-Traumatic Stress component. Jermaine pointed out that the report which was distributed to the Committee did list the demographics and that the highest rate of suicides in Ohio was the was age 65 and up and white males. No data as to why this is the case. The positive of the QPR training is that it may equip the participant how to approach someone you suspect may have an issue, to get them to seek treatment.

Resolutions:

The Committee did not consider any draft resolution. Jermaine reported the adopted resolutions from the National and State organizations in the last membership year.

Salute to the Colors was rendered. The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

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