

# American Legion Department of Ohio VA&R Standing Commission

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Craynon @ 5:00 P.M. on October 8, 2021, at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, Ohio.
2. Salute the Flag
3. Prayer by Dave Cook, 6<sup>th</sup> District
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call (9 present, 4 absent. We had a quorum)

District	Name	Substitute	Attendance
1	Patrick Gryzbowski	Harold Landis	X
2	Charles Craynon		X
3	Michael Blackwell		X
4	Robert Ray	Ron Chapman	X
5	Darrell Bishop		Absent
6	David Cook		X
7	Jeffrey Hoffman		Absent
8	Tina Walker		X
9	Bill Keller	Bill Dittebrand	X
10	Gary Ickes		Absent
11	Vacant		
12	John Tepper	Suzette Heller	X
13	Leroy Brinkoff	Bert Boyd	X
14	Bob Carson		Absent

6. Introduction of Guests: Richard Wright (13), Al Buxton (4), Jerry Perry (4) Joe Navarre (1) Department Treasurer Robert Wilson, Kelly Pulczynski (14)  
Previous Committee Minutes which were approved by the DEC were reviewed.
7. Chairman Craynon made Opening Remarks
8. District Reports
  - a. District 1: Toledo VA is doing drive through COVID tests and flu/ COVID shots.
  - b. District 4 gave an update on stand down for homeless veterans in Cincinnati. Gave out 500 backpacks to homeless veterans.
  - c. District 13: Commander visited the Cleveland VA and Fisher House, and you can now get your COVID booster shot at the Cleveland VA.
9. Old Business
  - a. The website was updated to have the correct VA&R contact information for department on it.
10. Commander Wilson Remarks
  - a. Commander Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Brad Teis, Adjutant Eric Hall, Membership Coordinator/Assistant Adjutant JD Robinson, Department Treasurer Robert Wilson all addressed the commission on their plans for Save a Warrior.

Commanders program will be in place for next year as well for the incoming Commander.

11. New Business

- a. Department Service Officer William Genochio and Coordinator Scott Palider updates.
  - 11.a.i. William Genochio, the Department VBA Coordinator, spoke on PSO training event held on Department HQ. There were over 45 participants. He also spoke on the VA update in Cleveland and appeals hearing now being held in person if the veteran would like an in-person hearing.
- b. Gifts for Yanks Update
  - 11.b.i. The GFY September report was given and project requests for the Sandusky Veterans home, Cleveland Fisher House, and Cleveland VA were discussed.
- c. Commander VA Visits/ VA Voluntary Service/ Veterans Homes Update
  - 11.c.i. A summary of Commander Wilson's visits to the Sandusky Veterans Home, Cleveland VA Medical Center, & the Cleveland Federal Building September 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> was given.
- d. Veterans Employment and Education Program
  - 11.d.i. The first annual Ohio Veterans Expo was held in September of 2021 in Pickerington and Department Coordinator Scott Palider has financial groups interested in teaching financial literacy courses to our Legionnaires.
- e. PTSD/ Suicide Awareness
  - 11.e.i. Commander Wilson's program has gained traction and donations have been doing well. (Roughly \$15,000.00 has been raised) Let us continue to raise money for Save a Warrior.
    - 11.e.i.1. Suzette Heller (12) recommended a SAW representative be invited to speak at the Mid-winter conference and Department Convention.

12. There were no resolutions.

13. There were no comments for the Good of the Legion. There being no further business, Chairman Craynon closed the meeting at 5:52 P.M. with a Salute to the Colors.

Submitted by:

Charles R. Craynon  
Chairman