

ODVS Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 16, 2015

LeRoy Clendenen convened the meeting at 10:35 AM at the American Legion Post 171, 393 E. College Avenue, Westerville, Ohio. The meeting was opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call

In Attendance:

Suzette Price, American Legion
Merle Pratt, AMVETS
Don Youngblood, Army Navy Union
Tammy Puff, Attorney General's Office
April Philopoulos, Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
Mary Ann Janning, Catholic War Veterans
Paul Haller, County Commissioners' Association of Ohio
Chris Mabe, Labor Organization
William Eberle, Marine Corps League
John C. McCoy, Military Officers Association of America
Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association
LeRoy Clendenen, Chair, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Cliff Riley, Vietnam Veterans of America
David Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veteran Service Commissioners
Jonathan Warmeling, Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers
Jane Roland, Vice Chair, Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers
Jason Dominguez, Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Patrick Finical, Secretary, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Joseph Eden, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Summer Moses, Advisor, Ohio Attorney General's Office

Visitors:

Frank Williams, Disabled American Veterans
Charles Turner, Department of Veterans Affairs
John Stoner, Vietnam Veterans of America
Ray Autenrieb, Vietnam Veterans of America
Don Jones, Vietnam Veterans of America
Tom Burke, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mel Conley, ESGR, SDVOSB
Laura Orbash, AFSC/COWIC/CFPB
Glenda Nicol, Fort Knox Retiree Council
Larry Felty, AMVETS, AMLeg, VFW
Eileen Corson, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Tim Espich, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Jon Field, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Steve Ewing, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
Avi Zaffini, Office of Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted
Jeremey Conkle, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
MG Dennis Laich, Ohio Veterans Memorial and Museum
Amy Taylor, Ohio Veterans Memorial and Museum
Madison Tansey, Ohio Veterans Memorial and Museum

John Costanzo, Volunteer
Brian Mollenkopf, Blue Maple Photography
Kim Mollenkopf, Blue Maple Photography
Karen Kish, Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Absent:

Carl Price, Military Order of the Purple Heart – Excused
Kenneth Marcum, Disabled American Veterans – Excused
Saul Laub, Jewish War Veterans
Ed Zoretic, Korean War Veterans

Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved after a motion by John McCoy, MOAA, seconded by Jon Warmeling, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Agenda

The agenda was approved after a motion by Chris Mabe, Labor Organization, seconded by Merle Pratt, AMVETS.

Bills and Communications

Ken Marcum, Disabled American Veterans, sent notice that Frank Williams would attend as a non-voting observer on behalf of the organization.

Carl Price, Military Order of the Purple Heart noted that he was not able to attend.

Report of Subcommittees:

- **Education – District Training in progress.
- **Legal – No Report
- **Rules – No Report
- **JCARR – No Report

Guest Introductions

Guests in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and make limited comments.

John Costanzo, Brian & Kim Mollenkopf presented a short video of the Heroes Tribute Hunt and thanked the Advisory Committee for supporting it.

Laura Orbash, Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation, said that she will be providing free veterans financial coaching on behalf of her organization. She can be reached at lorbash@afsc.com or 614-559-5066.

Megan Kester spoke to the committee about Canine Companions for Independence and some of the services they offer.

New Business

I. Ohio Veterans Memorial & Museum

Amy Taylor, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, gave a presentation about the Ohio Veterans Memorial and Museum which is planned to be built in downtown Columbus. The concept and layout of the museum and memorial were shown and discussed in detail. Major General Dennis Laich, then discussed the memorial and the advisory committee that was related to it. LeRoy Clendenen, Chair, then asked if it was open to the public, and MG Laich said that it was. There were a few additional questions. Amy said that if anyone had questions, concerns, or input, she could be reached by e-mail at ataylor@downtowncolumbus.com

II. VA Medical Eligibility – Charles “Skip” Turner, Chalmers P. Wylie VA ACC

Charles Turner, Enrollment Coordinator at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center spoke to the committee about eligibility for VA benefits, including medical care and Dependency Indemnity Compensation. He also spoke about eligibility in special cases such as less-than-honorable discharges, Camp Lejeune water, and Military Sexual Trauma. Charles said that he was available for any further questions on these issues and can be contacted at Charles.Turner3@va.gov

III. Adult Guardianships – Judge Robert Montgomery, Franklin County Probate Court

Judge Robert Montgomery spoke to the committee about adult guardians for incapacitated persons and how the issue related to veterans. He discussed how to find suitable guardians and how they are paid for. Judge Montgomery then passed out an application card for Volunteer guardianship.

IV. Online Voter Registration – Avi Zaffini, Ohio Secretary of State’s Office

Avi Zaffini told the committee about the Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted’s initiative for online voter registration. Avi explained the program to the committee and noted the ways he believed it would help those in the military. Avi then asked that the organizations consider writing letters of support for Online Voter Registration. After some discussion, a motion was made by Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association and seconded by Suzette Price, American Legion, to support the Secretary of State’s Online Voter Registration initiative. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Ohio Means Veterans Jobs Website – Jeremy Conkle, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Jeremy Conkle discussed the Ohio Means Veterans Jobs Website. He went over some of the features with the committee, such as the Military Skills Translator, which recommends jobs a servicemember might transition to based on their military occupational specialty. He discussed some of the other aspects of the website as well using the projector screen. After some questions, he gave his contact information and said that he was available for further questions.

VI. Women Veterans Conference – Karen Kish, Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Karen Kish discussed the recent Women Veterans 5K and the upcoming Women Veterans Conference with the committee. She noted that there was great turnout for the 5K race despite cold weather. She also reminded the committee that the 2013 Women's Conference was a great success and that it was the largest conference for Women Veterans in the nation. She encouraged all members to spread the word and attend if possible.

VII. Veterans Service Commissioner Issue – David Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners

David Ridenour spoke to the group about issues of County Veteran Service Commissioner appointments and eligibility related to a recent disagreement in Montgomery County. The situation was explained and discussed. David provided documents related to the disagreement for the committee to review. At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee asked that Fred Stratmann, ODVS Legal Counsel, provide them with a review of the relevant law at the next meeting.

Legislative Update – Steve Ewing

Cliff Riley, Vietnam Veterans of America, discussed some recently introduced federal legislation related to Agent Orange. He explained why these pieces were important and encouraged the committee to support them.

Steve Ewing, ODVS Legislative Liaison, discussed recent developments in the state's operating budget with the committee. He reminded them of some of the veteran relevant portions of the bill and some of the changes happening as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Chris Mabe and seconded by Dave Ridenour.