

## ODVS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 17, 2021

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery convened the meeting at 10:30 AM in person at Franklin County Memorial Hall, 280 E Broad Street in the West Conference Room.

The meeting opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Zackery, followed by a moment of silence.

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery asked Jared Nyhart to do roll call. After roll call was complete, it was confirmed that there was quorum.

### **Roll Call:**

#### **Committee Members:**

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Attended	Absent
SUSAN	GREEN	ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS	X	
SCOTT	PALIDER	AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO	X	
VICTOR	WILSON	AMVETS		X
TED	MOSURE	CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS	X	
JAMES	KASTER	DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS	X	
ED	ZORETIC	KOREAN WAR VETERANS		X
CARL	PRICE	MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART	X	
DON	PERRY	MARINE CORPS LEAGUE	X	
ERIC	SOWERS	VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS		X
PAUL	WILSON	VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA	X	
MATT	JALANDONI	OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	X	
CHRIS	MABE	LABOR ORGANIZATION		X
PAUL	HALLER	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASOC OF OHIO	X	
JOY	ELLA BOURASSA	OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ASSOC	X	
BILL	RADCLIFFE	MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOC OF OHIO	X	
ED	ZACKERY	OHIO STATE ASSOC OF CONTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS	X	
JON	WARMELING	OHIO STATE ASSOC OF CONTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS	X	
CRYSTAL	BENNETT	OHIO STATE ASSOC OF CONTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS	X	
VACANT		OHIO STATE ASSOC OF COUNT VETERAN SERVICE COMMISSIONERS		
TED	BRUNER	OHIO STATE ASSOC OF CONTY VETERAN SERVICE COMMISSIONERS	X	
JERRY	HAYS	OHIO STATE ASSOC OF CONTY VETERAN SERVICE COMMISSIONERS	X	

#### **ODVS Staff in Attendance:**

Deborah Ashenhurst, Director ODVS

Dale Vitale, OAG

Sean McCarthy, Assistant Director, ODVS

Nate Mealy, Chief Legal Officer, ODVS

Jared Nyhart, Secretary, ODVS

Tammy Puff, Military & Veteran Liaison to the Governor

Approval of the May 21 2021 minutes – Paul Haller motioned to accept minutes; Carl Price seconded. Minutes approved.

Approval of the December 17 Agenda – Don Perry motioned to accept minutes; Carl Price seconded. Agenda approved.

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery asked if there were any visitors at the meeting. Three visitors in attendance:

Ron Todd with the Governor’s Office.

Anthony Eliopoulos from Senator Brown’s office

Tammy Puff – Veteran Liaison for the Governor

**Vice Chairperson Opening Comments**- Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for attending to hold quorum for this meeting. He then asked Director Ashenhurst to give the ODVS update.

**Update from Director Ashenhurst**

Director Ashenhurst gave an update of the status of both OVH homes, including the new CMS guidelines. OVH still maintains a minimal amount of positive test results, mostly with staff, but also a few with vaccinated residents. OVH still has a waitlist for both homes.

Director Ashenhurst gave a quick updated regarding Ohio Veteran Bonus. There is about 1.23 million in the fund as of date. There are three years left for Ohioans to apply for the bonus.

Director Ashenhurst informed the committee that Chief Legal Nate Mealy is leaving the department for another opportunity.

**Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery nominated Victor Wilson for chairperson, Paul Wilson seconded the nomination. Ed Zackery asked if there were any more nomination for chairperson. No other nominations. Call to nomination for Victor Wilson as Chairperson. No opposes. Victor Wilson is elected as chairperson.

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery asked for nominations for vice chairperson. Jon Warmeling nominated Ed Zackery for Vice Chairperson. Ted Bruner seconded the nomination. Ed Zackery asked if there were any more nominations for vice chairperson. No other nominations. Call to nomination for Ed Zackery for vice chairperson. No opposes. Ed Zackery is elected as vice chairperson.

Jon Warmeling asked for Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery to be nominated as Rules Chairperson. All favored. No opposes.

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery and Director Ashenhurst proposed a set quarterly meeting schedule for 2022. Four dates will be sent to the committee. If the committee needs a meeting outside of the scheduled four, one will be set up.

Vice Chairperson Ed Zackery introduced Special Guest Ron Todd – Minority Outreach with the Governor’s Office. Mr. Todd briefed the committee on his position and asked the committee members on how to partner within the Veteran community, starting with upcoming Black History Month.

**Legislative/Budget updates-** ODVS Assistant Director Sean McCarthy

**H.B. 29**

Ohio passed HB 29 which authorizes sports gambling on a number of fronts. It originally had been a bill to authorize counties to produce Veterans ID's for NOAA and PHS members. That section was stripped. The passed version of H.B. 29 includes language that allocates 0.5% of the license fees paid by sports gaming proprietors, mobile management services providers, and management services providers to the Sports Gaming Profits Veterans Fund (SGPFV), created by an amendment added late in Conference Committee without consultation of the Department. The amendment requires the Department of Veterans Services to administer the fund and to use it for a variety of purposes, including providing direct supports for veterans and their families or providing additional funding for county veterans service commissions.

This addition was done in conference committee without our knowledge. We had no input in this process.

**S.B. 59**

S.B. 59 has passed and is going to the Governor’s desk. The Ohio Veterans Heritage Act does the following:

- Prohibits a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being sold, purchased, or otherwise disposed of by any person.
- Prohibits a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being destroyed, altered, or otherwise disturbed by any person, except under certain circumstances.
- Allows the owner of a war relic to permanently move the war relic, as long as it remains on public property or the property of the cemetery association on which it was originally located.

**S.B. 160**

S.B. 160 is the Veterans Information Act which would requires certain entities to inform a veteran or the veteran’s representative about available health care or financial benefits, has had two hearings in the House Armed Services Committee since we last spoke, including proponent testimony from some of the folks in this room. Senator O'Brien and Senator

Hoagland have been very open to ideas from the community at large and the CVSO and CVSC have offered some very good changes, including spouses and families in the list of those that must be informed, that the Senator's office is open to having included. This bill continues to progress down a good path for all involved.

### **Vice Chairperson Opened the Floor to Additional Comments**

Committee member Jon Warmeling asked how the funding request would be set up with SB 59. The Director reported that the bill just passed and ODVS staff are currently working on how that process will shape out but everything is still in the preliminary stage.

Anthony Eliopoulos from Senator Brown's office gave a small legislative update:

- NDAA: passed through Congress earlier this week. Good news for Ohio installations, can share more with committee members if they want specifics. Included in NDAA is the Troops to Teachers program through July of 2025 with annual reports submitted to Congress on its effectiveness starting December of 2022.
- VA Market Assessment/Air Commission: we're monitoring potential impacts on VA facilities in Ohio.
- Caregiver Support Program: Due to changes in eligibility requirements in 2018, a lot of caregivers currently in the program are in danger of being kicked off at the end of next year. Anyone impacted by this can share their stories with Anthony.

Carl Price suggested forming a small committee within the VAC to focus on Federal Legislation.

Susan Green updated the committee about the new Ohio National Guard resource books that are available now full of great resources for not only service members, but veterans as well.

**Vice Chairperson Closing** – Reminded committee members that, if not already accomplished, the organization they represent must submit a nomination letter to ODVS for them to be a participating, voting member of the committee.

**Directors Closing Comments**- Director Ashenhurst again thanked the committee for all that they do for the veterans in the state and reminded the committee that you are required to make 2/3s the meetings over a two-year time period to stay on the Veterans Advisory Committee

**Close of Meeting**- Jon Warmeling motioned to adjourn the meeting, Carl Price seconded. Meeting ended at 12:10 pm