

ODVS Advisory Committee Meeting March 19, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson Victor Wilson convened the meeting at 10:30 AM virtually via Microsoft Teams

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

Roll Call

Committee Members:

Deborah Ashenhurst, Director, ODVS
Sean McCarthy, Assistant Director, ODVS
Lori Good, Secretary, ODVS
Jeff Rapp, ODVS
Victor Wilson, Chairperson, AMVETS
Mike Stith, DAV
Don Perry, MCL
Ed Zackery, Vice Chair, OSACVSO
Joy Ella Bourassa, NGA
Bill Radcliffe, MOAA
Carl Price, MOPH
Jared Smith, OSACVSO
Neil Polk, OSACVSO
Suzan Green, WVA
Paul Wilson, VVA
Matt Jalandoni, OAG
Jon Warmeling, OSACVSO
Matt Raymond OSACVSO
Randy Gasser, OSACVSO
Paul Haller, CCAO
Chris Mabe, Labor
Ted Mosure, CWV
Suzette Heller

Absent:

Eric Sowers, VFW
Don Youngblood, ANU
Bill Radcliffe, MOAA
Saul Laub, JWV
Ed Zoretic, KWV

Guests:

Dale Vitale, OAG
Lucas Denney, Chief Legislative Officer, ODVS
Richard Stobbs
Steve Gunther,

Tammy Puff, Governors Office

Approval of the Feb 2021 minutes – Carl Price motioned to accept minutes; Bill Radcliffe seconded. Minutes approved.

Approval of the March 19th, 2021 agenda – Paul Wilson motioned; Mike Stith seconded. Agenda approved.

Chairperson Opening Comments-Victor Wilson welcomed the committee and thanked them for their continued support. He welcomed the guests. He then turn the floor over to the director.

Director's Opening Comments- Director Ashenhurst gave an update on the Ohio Veterans Homes. Vaccinations are helping to heal Ohio. She stated that Governor DeWine is slowly opening the state for some activities. She thanked the committee for their continued support and assistance to the veterans in the state.

She stated that we are receiving nominations for the Hall of Fame, and encouraged the committee to seek veterans that have served their communities beyond their military service. She gave a brief update on the state's budget and how it will affect the veterans' homes.

Ohio Veteran Homes-Terry Prince gave the following updates for the veterans homes.

Visitation began at both homes on Tuesday 16 March. We have had over 20 visits already in just a few days.

In-person dining started last week Monday, 8 March. All meal times at the DOM and Georgetown and lunch on a rotational basis at Sandusky Nursing Home. This will be modified as we work out the details over the next several weeks.

Conducting COVID-19 antigen testing twice a week on staff. Over 40,000 COVID tests conducted at OVH.

Working on policies on how to get our volunteer organizations back into the building.

Admitting residents responsibly: Since we reopened in early March, 7 admitted to Sandusky and 2 to Georgetown with 5 more up for admission next week.

Construction: nearly \$30 Million in federal and state funds being invested into our homes for construction. This work will enhance the quality of life for all our veterans.

Pandemic Update- Director Ashenhurst indicated the homes are currently COVID-free. The vaccines are working. They will revisit residents and staff who refused the initial round of vaccines. She encouraged the committee to not let their guard down, and to continue to practice COVID protocol during events.

Legislative/Budget updates- Lucas Denney gave an update on Ohio's current legislative activity. They are currently working on the Bi-annual budget.

Chairpersons Closing Comments-Victor Wilson will be leaving for 60 days, Ed Zackery, vice chair will be running the meetings until Victor's return.

Directors Closing Comments- Director Ashenhurst again thanked the committee for all that they do for the veterans in the state.

Motion to adjourn-Jon Warmeling motioned; Suzette Heller seconded, motion to adjourn at 11:15am.