

Veteran Advisory Board Minutes, November 9, 2022

In Attendance:

- Ken Slininger, AL Post 183, Chair
- Eileen Boylston, WorkSource, Secretary
- Tom Moncrief, AL Post 28
- Jim Brakebill, AL Post 157
- Ken Weston, AL Post 209
- Trevor Rollins, CVMA 11-2
- Gary Bracht, At-Large, Vice Chair
- Phil Anderson, VFW Post 24
- Joanna Gallegos, At-Large

Absent:

None

Grant County VSO:

- Anthony (Tony) Garcia

Guests:

- John Nordine

1. Old Minutes: Approved.

2. County Budget Update: Tony

- Briefly discussed what the status of our budget is, and what is projected for January, depending on how much we use between now and January 1st. Provided information on how much has been used in each category as of Sept 22.

3. Standdown After Action:

- Discussed what went well and ideas for the next Stand Down. Recommendations from employers/resources-
 - o Check power outlets, one wall didn't work
 - o Options for length of table - *Tony will check how many 6' tables the Fairgrounds have available.*
 - o Require veterans stop at 8 tables (4 in each building)
 - o Have Tools4Troops located with the surplus.
 - o More advertisement for college age veterans (flyers were posted at the college). Ask BCC to see if they can advertise on their webpage. If they have a Veteran Rep at the college for 2023, coordinate with him/her to get the word out to veteran college students).
 - o More caregiver services, invite more agencies next year.
 - o Attract younger veterans; have CVMA reach out to veterans in their organization and encourage attendance. Have the local veteran organizations advertise it in their Newsletters. See if we can get local businesses with a Reader Board to advertise the event on their Reader Boards.
 - o Timeframe was good, but better if we don't bump up against other events the same day – this has always been an issue, we usually schedule ours before

anyone else does for the next year, so they bump up against ours – don't know that there is a solution to this one.

- Recommendations from Veterans-
 - o Better signage of where to go – put Sandwich Board or banner at corner of 17 and Airway Heights the day of our event.
 - o Door stops
 - o Dental Care, *Eileen will invite next year, we will need two local dentists and dental assistants volunteer at the event. Mobile Dental Van is equipped with everything they will need. Suggested to reach out to Dental Providers in our area that treat veterans that are referred by the VA.*

- Phil noted that the Mattawa area has veterans that are not being reached. He suggested doing a mini stand down there. It was noted that Moses Lake is in the middle of the county and is accessible to those veterans.

- Stand Down 2023: September 23rd, 2023; 10am to 1pm

4. Old Business:

- Veterans Court – no new information.

5. New Business / Good of the Order/Announcements:

- Aide and Attendance. It was noted that most veterans are not aware of this potential benefit. Phil provided some information about the program. *Eileen will see if a local agency that uses this benefit can come to our next Stand Down to provide information.*
 - Tony will be setting up in some of our more underserved communities and bring some of our extra surplus to provide to veterans in need while in these locations.
 - CVMA noted that they have monies to assist veterans in need, so a potential option for veterans who may not qualify for the county veteran fund.
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- Updates:
 - AL Post 28: They have breakfast on Sunday mornings. Do a Fund Raiser every 4th Friday. Did an appreciation day. Will be at the Veteran Day Parade, which will be followed by a luncheon. Those participating in the Parade need to meet at the Courthouse by 10:30.
 - AL Post 157: Will be doing a breakfast on November 11th. Noted that Tony came down and worked on five claims for veterans in the area. Will be participating at the school in a Veteran Day Recognition Event. Continues to support the Food Bank. Will be doing Trees of Sharing for 16 children in the area. John Nordine was recognized for his service with VAB by the Commissioners today and given a Commissioners' Coin.
 - AL Post 183: Provided donations to the Civil Air Patrol, Prep Tech Program, Wreathes Across America, Quincy Police Department "Shop with a Cop" and Thanksgiving. Next meeting is Sat., Nov 19th, 9am (8:30 if veterans want breakfast), location: Country Deli, Ephrata.
 - AL Post 209: Sun is open for breakfast, 9am to 11am. Attending a Flag presentation at Warden Schools in recognition of Veterans Day. Will be having a breakfast on November 11th. Have a dinner available every other Friday.
 - VFW Post 24: In coordination with OVM, had a dinner for veterans at the Lavender Farm. On November 5th had a Flag Retiring Ceremony. Noted they like to work with other local organizations when doing events. November 10th will be attending Veteran Day event at

the High School and other schools. Tony will be coming to assist veterans with claims in their area at the Quincy Senior Center. Will be attending the Veteran Day Parade.

- CVMA 11-2: Plan to participate in the Veteran Day Parade. Noted that their organization is a resource to assist veterans in need, do not require county residency.
- Worksource: Assisting veterans in finding jobs and referral to resources.
- At-Large
 - o Joanna – nothing at this time.
 - o Gary – nothing at this time.

6. Next Regularly Scheduled VAB Meeting:
January 11th – 4:00pm – Grant County Courthouse