



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2022

Meeting Attendees – Paul Cancelliere, Rob Ettinger, Jay Pinette, Marion Denehy, VSO Dave Mangan, Joe Dellolio, Kristi Yentile, Dan Benjamin

Absent: Sean McGrath, Michael Owen, Brian McCoubrey, Melinda Cook

Item 1: Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance: conducted by all attendees

Item 3: Review/Approval of February VAB Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jay, and second by Paul to approve the February meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

Item 4: VSO Report: Wakefield Veterans monthly Food bank will be held Wednesday March 16th and we will have a total of 17 recipients.

We lost a long time resident and Korean War Veteran over the weekend. A U.S. Navy Veteran who received the Korean Service medal was a humble dedicated family man who answered the call back in the early 1950's passed peacefully at the Melrose Wakefield hospital.

The monthly Veteran coffee social was held on Saturday the 12th of March at the Quannapowitt Yacht club with minimal attendance due to the inclement weather. The next social gathering will be on April 9th at 10 am the second Saturday of the month. Please submit any talking points to the VSO office.

We currently have 11 chapter 115 participants in Wakefield. There will be a disbursement to each case of a Cost of Living increase from The Department of Veteran Services and The Executive Office of Health and Human Services in the form of a one-time bulk check to cover the six-month period. A letter and description of the funding will accompany the check to eliminate any confusion.

The director of the senior center, Judy Luciano has included in the Senior Centers monthly bulletin information on the Chapter 115 program for Veterans and Spouse's to 4500 Vietnam era age and above in the community about the program. We have also sent information to Barbara Worley at WCAT to run on the "Wheel" during the community service segment of their program which began yesterday. This also included the "Roll to DC" campaign and the fund raiser at the Dockside restaurant on the 29th.

We currently have one new Aid and Attendance application that has been submitted with two more on the way. There has been an increase in Veteran's applying for VA benefits, spousal burial benefits, Aid and Attendance, Dependent indemnity compensation, upgrades in compensation due to medical issues, new applications from Veterans seeking assistance.

We received a \$5,000-dollar donation towards the Roll to DC from the Wakefield youth group whose sponsor, the 2nd Lieutenant John McGrath foundation offered \$5 per pound for last fall's clean up of the parks in Wakefield. The foundation actually increased the amount to close to \$10



after hearing of the details of the trip. Thank you to the kids and Catherine Dhingra Director, Wake-Up Coalition & Advisor, Wakefield Youth Council for their hard work and support of our Veterans.

On March 29th, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day, the Dockside Restaurant Main St. Wakefield will be sponsoring a fund raiser to help raise money for the Roll to DC campaign for up to 15 Wakefield Veterans to take an all expense trip to Washington on Sept. 11, 2022. The Dockside will be donating 10% of the days business sales towards the fund raiser. They will also be raffling off several gifts donated by area businesses including books of scratch tickets. We will have over 100 "Time to honor" books on the Vietnam war to hand out to the first 100 families.

The applications for the Veterans who qualify for the invitation are available at the McCarthy senior center Veteran service office after March 5th. The timeline for receiving the applications began yesterday the 14th and will continue thru March 30th the deadline in order to submit the CORI applications to the town. We currently have 5 applications submitted. If anyone has any questions please call 781-246-6377.

Motion by Jay, and second by Marion to accept the VSO's report. Vote was unanimous.

Item 5: Veteran's Corner Article: No updates

Item 6: Veteran's Writing Project: No updates

Item 7: Coffee Socials – Review / Recap of March 12th Social: Was slimly attended due to inclement weather. April 9th next one. Dave continues to put out a newsletter on the coffee socials about a week before the next social. Please suggest some topics for future socials

Item 8: Veterans Field Memorial Project: Dan talked to Bobby Sardella, budget is sufficient, additional metal sign on backstop? Council of Clubs have approved \$500 for landscaping.

Item 9: Memorial Day 2022 Planning: Been tough reaching General Magurn. May reach out to General Peter Alewood. Jay will ask Legion Post if they have any speakers. Jay will reach out to the local pols. Jay reached out to Most Blessed Sacrament for clergy through email. Has not heard back – need to close on this by end of March. Jay will try calling the parish office. They have 3 priests and a deacon. We will be doing flags on the Monday and Friday before Memorial Day. Jay will check to see if flags are en route. Reached out to Mr Maio and Mr Bankert for planning. Drop the Mic may be performing. Wreaths? Should we look into getting artificial ones made that we can use more than once?

Item 10: State Grant Program: November 1 deadline. Matching funds made available from the town. Find a project. Get funds into budget for the project next year? If we found a worthy project this year, maybe the town could find the funds. Or maybe the funds collected with the Excise Tax?

Item 11: Wounded Warriors Signs: Dan got signs. Will be good to get them out. Signs support Wounded Warrior families.

Item 12: The Green Box / Jim Kurtz: Presentation Sunday March 27th 2-4pm at the Patton Homestead. Paul put flyers out in post office, and will put more at VSO office. Was discussed at Coffee Social

Item 13: MOAA 2022 Advocacy Issues: Topics will be 1) Support the Major Richard Star Act, 2) reduce Tricare mental health copayments, 3) obtain a military pay raise of 4.6% for 2023

Item 14: Other Business: The question was raised about the town streetbook not including the VAB in the front part of the book, but will be this year. Jay reached out to Town Hall about

construction of Board. Town may stagger term appointments when many members come up on April of 23. VAB should consider new officers at April meeting. The Commission on Disabilities will be hosting a showing of the movie "Intelligent Lives" and a panel discussion at the GMS on April 11th at 7pm. Free admission.

Item 15: Adjournment: Jay moved, and Dave seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM

Submitted by: Rob Ettinger, Wakefield VAB Clerk