



PENNSYLVANIA WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



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MINUTES January 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council was held on the above date and was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at The American Legion Department Headquarters by President Nathaniel Smith (VFW).

INVOCATION: Richard Denison (TAL)

SALUTE TO COLORS: Troy Michaels (TAL)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Troy Michaels (TAL)

ROLL CALL: Secretary James “Woody” Hogan (TAL). The following were present in person or by zoom:

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Michael Murphy, Woody Hogan, William Whitmoyer, Troy Michaels, Richard Denison

AMVETS

Bern McDonald, Gerald Hawk

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

William Albert

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Nicholas Taylor

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

William Hines, Samuel Petrovich, David Gui (excused)

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chris Fidler, Constance Snaveley

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Dave Brady

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Robert Heister, Keith Beebe, Robert Gray (excused), Charles Jackson

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Philip Arnold

PA CO. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justin Slep, David Eisele

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Nathaniel Smith, John Getz Jr., Henry Mannella, Benjamin Mastridge

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

Larry Googins, Richard Hudzinski

It was determined the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council had a quorum in which to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A recommendation was made by President Nathaniel Smith (VFW) to approve the minutes from November 4, 2021. Motion made by Nicholas Taylor (CWV). Is there a question on the motion? 2ND by Bern MacDonald (AMVETS).

Nathaniel Smith, President: All in favor say Aye. Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT – John Getz Jr. (VFW):

War Council – December \$23,700.00, total deposits \$26,250.00, total withdrawals \$12,000.00, ending balance \$37,950.00

Honor Guard – December \$26,561.18, no deposits, no withdrawals, ending balance 26,561.18

Savings – December \$10,347.04, total deposits \$0.17, total withdrawals \$0.04, ending balance \$10,347.17.

We have two well, actually three organizations according to my record, that have not yet sent in dues to Blinded Vets, Jewish War Vets and of course the Navy Club. Any questions on my Report?

Nathaniel Smith, President: Motion to accept the treasurer's report? Motion made by Gerald Hawk (AMVETS) 2nd by William Hines (DAV). Any questions? All those in favor?

Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

REPORT

Brig. Gen (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adj. Gen. for VA

Good morning, everybody. Happy New Year. Great to see half of your faces here and the rest of you online. Thank you for staying home so we can social distance in here today. So you did us all a favor, but it's great to see you all. So many fun things to talk to you about. So I might talk for a few extra minutes, but I'm really excited. This is our 2022 year and we are kicking it off strong. We had a great ending to the year so I'm going to start with the homes. The Eagles and the Steelers organizations along with the Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors donated jerseys for each of our residents with their names on the back. So we delivered those for our holiday party at Del Valley and they absolutely loved it. So we delivered theirs in time for the Eagles game where they had their big win last week. And we delivered the Steelers jerseys to Southwest so they were able to wear them for Ben Roethlisberger's last home game. So a lot of fun. We're really thrilled with the organizations that have been donating. At Thanksgiving, the Robert Irvine Foundation, worked with our homes and we had a big luncheon down at Del Valley for southeast Del Valley and some Veterans down in that area donated with Boston Market gave a lot of food that about 300 Veterans and it was an amazing event. And just so you know this coming week next week on the 13th is the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Robert Irvine and this time, Mission BBQ, we have a room set aside to feed 350 Veterans all of your organization's will have tickets set aside for you so that we can

monitor and make sure that you get them. You can get them at our desk right there where you walk into the farm show but we have a set number of tickets for all of your organizations. So Robert Irvine is a celebrity chef. He's a was in the British Navy, really a big supporter. I went to an event of his last month he raised probably \$3 million in three hours. And that went to disabled Veterans so he's really keen on buying updated wheelchairs for Veterans to have so most of his money went to buying wheelchairs for Veterans and so he was very, very supportive.

You know, as we're all looking and folks are online COVID is an issue still with our homes. The surge is impacting us. It's impacting our staffing level. The homes are fine now we have not needed to tap into the National Guard for support. But we are working overtime our directors of nursing are even going in on the red units in yellow units on weekends to help the staff so it is definitely hurting us. Our residents thankfully, if they've been vaccinated have not been getting very sick if they get COVID. Sadly, we have staff that have been injured. I asked you all to keep one particular in your prayers. She's a mother of three out in Erie. She's been on the ventilator since probably a week before Christmas. The family struggling. They're young, 13, 15 and 18 years old, so keep her in your prayers, and Erie also needs prayers. We lost two staff members this past weekend. Suddenly, they weren't feeling well, they went home. And we found them dead the next day. So we have grief counselors out in Erie, you know, instead of just dealing with everything that's going on with COVID and taking care of our Veterans, they're losing staff and loved ones as well. So please keep Erie in your thoughts.

You know, we talked last time and talked about our biggest priorities for the homes and it's still staffing. So thankfully, we've been working with downtown and OA to ask for some help. They've initiatives to give referral bonuses or ways that we can compete with the civilian private organizations. So OA did approve and we did get salaries truncated for our staff to make it more equitable. So it's raised. Now we're going to work on initiatives to take care of folks that have been working there longer to improve their salaries. That's something we need to do. But we have a lot of support. We put a lot of money now into campaigns that you're going to see we're working to be very aggressive going out to the colleges going out to the nursing schools, going up to the communities and letting them know that they can come and work with us up in Gino Merli, it's a very competitive industry. If you didn't know about the nursing homes very competitive up at Gino right across the street, one of the biggest private nursing homes, put up a big billboard, and saying you know how great they are to come work for them and the sign on bonuses, and they had a picture of three of our former nurses right on their billboard. But don't worry, we are going to put up a billboard of our own hopefully because two of those women already came back to us. So we're going to put one up that says welcome home. But Gino is a problem and it's very competitive and just keep telling people that are nursing homes are very special place to live. And we you know, appreciate anybody telling nurses and folks in that industry or even folks who want to get into custodial or working with their hands, you know, we are hiring at those homes. So there's no no shortage of help that we need. So please keep passing that word.

What else do I have for the Holmes COVID update I gave you that the Eagles, Steelers? HR you know, we're working and I will tell you our HR staff is working diligently to help us fill those those voids in the homes. We have a lot of initiatives downtown asking waiting to see if OA will approve some of our ideas that we think we can implement right now. But we're working on that. So the campaigns are going to be coming out. We're going to try to do what The American Legion did and take advantage of Facebook Live do tele town halls to come up weekly, monthly, we're going to do that where I can sit down online and people can call and ask questions, but we can get our message out. So I can't you know afford all the commercials right now we're working on those campaigns, I have a limited budget, but it's still much more than we ever put into campaigns in the past. So we're

going to try to take advantage of all the social media. So you might see that so if you're not part of DMVA and LinkedIn, follow DMVA Please do. If you want you can follow me I usually put more stuff out there than DMVA Does on my own personal sites. Because that's just one way we can keep putting the word out there on all the good things that we're doing at the homestand for PIRO.

So now I'll switch over to the PIRO side of the house. PAVetConnect is getting better the it is gonna get updated. I promise you but I really appreciate all of the input a lot of you've been giving, I think Sam's been giving us organizations that we can add to the list. So please keep letting us know folks in the communities that are doing great things for Veterans that we can add into that pa registry in the PA vet Connect. Um, that's what we need. We had a great meeting with the executive directors for the counties and you know, they agreed that town halls would be wonderful and they also have been supporting the PA vet connect. So it's only as good as what we all put into it. You guys are out in the communities you know who's helping, just keep sending us that information. Speaking of partnerships, skills bridge, I mentioned that the last time I was here that there's a program called DOD skills bridge and employments one of my big initiatives, DOD skills bridge works really well if employers know about it. So I sat down with Hershey, with UPMC, with Boeing, with Geisinger, with so many different smaller companies, and they didn't realize that they can get active duty service member who are leaving active duty come to work for them as an intern for free. For however much they have left on active duty for months to six months is the normal timeframe. And then with that, once they're here working at UPMC in Pittsburgh, the goal is that they stay here in Pittsburgh and continue to work. So what I've discovered talking to all these organizations is some of them have veteran service offices where they take care of and recognize the Veterans that are in their organizations Hershey, Heinz, Comcast, but they don't normally have us come out and speak to them to give them updates on their benefits. And a lot of the folks do their claims before they leave active duty and they don't realize that their state benefits that they're eligible for. So we're going to work with those partnerships, not only to make sure that we grow the population of Veterans coming back to Pennsylvania, but that we reach out and touch that target audience that you all want, because they're a younger generation of Veterans. So we want to tell them how to get involved with the county directors, with your organizations. So the more we can get out and talk to them and synchronize that, the better. So that's something that we're working hard at. And that's really part of PAVetConnect as well.

I told you about the event this coming weekend at the farm show really excited about that. I get to be one of the chefs for the Army, Navy cook offs, don't let them know that I'm Army, but I'm gonna be very, very unbiased. I promise I will be as unbiased as I can be. There's a lot of initiatives, we're trying to do the GAC-VS, and I are sitting down and we're looking at their goals, you know, what they're trying to accomplish with their Committee. So instead of just meeting and talking, having real deliverables, and I'm really excited that the SVC has two new committees, one for female Veterans, women's veteran issues and on one for homelessness. We're going to be meeting next week with the Governor's wife, she has a committee for women's issues, and they're gonna let us talk about the female veteran issues. But there is a lot of disparity for care at the VA hospitals and in the community still, for female Veterans, if they're homeless, there's really not a lot of shelters available right now. So we're going to bring that up to the Governor's wife to let her know that there is a need. We have a lot of fairweather lodges, tiny homes, but they typically are male veteran communities. So there's not a lot of options for if I asked any of you to show me besides the YWCA, you know, what is in your neighborhood for a female veteran who needs a shelter with kids. And there's there's really not a lot of options. So we're gonna work really hard on that. And the really glad that the GAC-VS Committee is going to work with the SVC, because I think the more folks coming together, the better. There are some organizations out in Pittsburgh that take care of about 400 female Veterans. There's folks down in Philadelphia, but we need to

make sure it's in every community in every county that we have helped. So that's something we're really working with. I'm excited, I really think one way we're going to tackle all this is to do these tele town halls, and to speak into Facebook lives and to get people talking. So please, like I said, Like us on DMVA website, link up with my stuff. Personally, I do more of our own public announcements than DMVA does, because they have to do everything else for the Military side of the house. So that's really I think all the big top things that I have that I didn't forget. I know Joel and the team or some of them are online. If I have anything that I forgot, do anybody want to chime in from DMVA.

That was easy. But anyways, I'm excited. It's a new year new start. Hopefully we can get this COVID thing behind us. Just keep those nurses in your prayers and Erie right now. That's all I ask. Thank you.

Question on the 13th at the Farm Show.

Brig. Gen (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adj. Gen. for VA: Yes, it's the Veterans Day at the Farm Show that 13th The TAG will be there Secretary of Agriculture will be there. And and they're they're fabulous. If you didn't know we have a great partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture. So many initiatives they do for Veterans and to get Veterans into farming. The you know, Homegrown by Heroes, and the PA preferred where you can buy all the produce and stuff from our veteran farmers is really pretty cool. So definitely get down, see them and say thank you for their support. So thanks, man. I mean, questions for you, please. Yes.

Justin Slep (PCDVA): If Chairman Taylor agrees with and I think it'd be nice if we could extend the invite to Lisa Kaye to the Chair of the Committee on the SVC for female Veterans, if she could attend that meeting in some capacity with the Governor's wife. I think it would be very beneficial since the new committee.

Brig. Gen (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adj. Gen. for VA: Totally, totally agree with that. So right now Jeanette's working on that. And again, yes, is not GACVS we were invited from DMVA. But I'm happy to have her go with Jeanette and I work with her on that. Absolutely.

REPORT

Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee

Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I hope everyone had a great Christmas holidays and are excited about the New Year. As we embark on the second year of the 2021-22 Session, we're initially focused on legislation that has come out of our Committee. Of note:

*Senate Bill 150 would amend the Amputee, Paralyzed and Blind Veterans pension – bumping it up from 150 to 180 a month.

*Senate Bill 433, sponsored by Senator Stefano, would establish a separate fund for the Keystone Youth Challenge Program.

*Senate Bill 455, by Senator Bartolotta, would establish the Veterans Business logo program.

*Senate Bill 578 is a Constitutional Amendment that has been discussed here and deals with the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption program, including the removal the war time clause.

*Senate Bill 849, by Senator Stefano, would make those that have been discharged from the Military due to a medical condition to be eligible for Veterans preference.

*Senate Bill 861, another Stefano measure, would have Pennsylvania enter the EMS compact, which would help Veterans that are crossing state lines with an EMS license.

*House Bill 491, by Representative Boback, Chair of the House Committee, would exclude Veterans compensation benefits from income calculations for applying for Commonwealth programs elsewhere.

*House Bill 941, by Representative Burns, guarantees in state higher education tuition for Military families

*House Bill 995 would place PA Vet Connect into law.

There are a number of other measures that have passed or gotten started in the House -- and we'll continue to evaluate them, but like I said, our initial priority is to continue to work on and get across the goal line the ones that we already started. On another front, we held a hearing in October about veteran services in Pennsylvania. So just keep me posted on the Council's thoughts and providing input on that aspect.

Meanwhile, the Administration is looking at the implementation of 9-8-8 the suicide prevention hotline, which also has the Veterans Suicide Prevention hotline. That was established federally, and now the states are implementing 9-8-8 at the level.

That's my Report. As always, I'd like to thank you for your continued service here to our Veterans, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Constitution and Bylaws: Samuel Petrovich (DAV) – Morning, everyone. This is a little different. I'm not bringing any bylaw changes to you. We're looking at addressing maybe getting the Commission's approval to add a bylaw change by we wanted to get the Committee wanted to get some comments first. And where this initiated was. Secretary Hogan received a call from Mr. Lee Horowitz regarding the reinstatement of the Navy club back into the commission. Our current bylaws don't address this issue. There's no guidelines within the bylaws stating either yes or no or how it could be done. So we have a couple options. Option one is does the PWVC wish to allow reinstatement if no then descends now. Otherwise, we'll proceed to option two. The other option, option two would be at the next meeting. The Committee will present an amendment to the bylaws which will address reinstatement. This will be the first approval. And the amendment should include that the organization show that they are now a viable organization. And they are required to pay all arrearages that they owe since they were removed due to not paying their annual dues. So, does anyone have any other suggestions on either adding something to that if we do decide to write an amendment to reinstate or do you wish just not to reinstate? So that's that's your first two choices right now. So any comments on those

Keith Beebe (MOAA): Comments? should be that they have the rights. Let's let's set it up so that if the situation does come up, allow the amendment to happen, you close the thing out, then that's gonna kill everything and any other chance of doing.

Richard Denison (TAL): Could we simply make a Motion to reconsider our Vote?

Woody Hogan (TAL): No, we can't do that. The bylaws have been changed.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Bylaws had been have been amended to remove them as a member right? Now this was set up. And this was set up a procedure to allow it to be reading which not just for them, but anyone in the future in the future. So who's ever sitting out here has guidelines as if somebody was removed, and they want to be reinstated? These are the procedures and steps you have to go through what we're looking at.

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): Could we change the bylaws to say that instead of just removing somebody every time that we make up my Organization, not in good standing? What could we just leave them in that status instead of removing them? And then put them back and going through all this? Can we just have somebody who's not in good standing until you pay your back dues and show that you're a viable organization? Again, going forward instead of taking them off putting them on that?

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Well, that's another option, which would still require a change to the bylaws.

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): Rather than put, yeah, taking somebody completely off and on, just keep them not in good standing until they, like you say, prove that they have an organization that's going to show up again, and that they paid?

Richard Denison (TAL): Although seems like by removing them, we've got their attention.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Well, no, you got the attention to one. Yeah. Again, they should prove that yes they are now a viable organization that will be able to pay their dues every year and attend meetings. Now, and again, hopefully they have several members. And they'll be able to do that. And not just one, but we're hoping you got 10-15 or whatever. And I guess they are still a recognized organization. Yeah. Nationwide, so and within the Commonwealth. So that part's okay.

Woody Hogan (TAL): We also need a letter from their current state Commander just like everybody else that joins requesting reappointment to the War Council.

Richard Denison (TAL): Do we have in our bylaws of procedure for new organizations applying to join? We probably need something like that, too.

Dave Brady (MCL): That was the question that I was going to ask, why don't we just, you know, invite them in as a new member, instead of saying it's reinstatement. So if we have to write new rules, then let's write new rules for both circumstances.

Woody Hogan (TAL): And when they say you don't need to pay dues, you can reapply every year.

Dave Brady (MCL): Yeah, they've got to pay at some point.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): They should pay their arrearages to a certain point, right. I mean, if it's a new Organization, and you start at zero and you go forward, but if I'm only yours, did they miss you know, what do you off the top of your head?

Woody Hogan (TAL): They hadn't had representation since Tom Minchin died. 2018, 4 years.

Dave Brady (MCL): For the record, I didn't vote to throw them out. So I would welcome them back in.

Woody Hogan (TAL): I think everybody has the same feeling David. It's just we don't have an avenue to let them back in now.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): I mean, just my personal feelings. If they got to folks, and they got any pay their religious, then we should provide an avenue for them to come back in. That way and it's clear and just like as we heard, I mean, we can even do it as we should amend the constitution to bylaws to number one. How does a new organization get in. That's one. Number two. As Jerry said, after so many times you're in an inactive status. If you're in inactive status for X amount of time, now you're removed. Once that happens, there should be another procedure, should you have been removed, this is how you get reinstated. So it's almost like three different amendments, or one big one, we're covering all these areas. That way. I think for the future for the organization, we have a guideline as to should this situation occur again, as to what needs to be done.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): I agree with what we just said, and I'm thinking of some of the War on Terrorism, National organizations that don't necessarily have representation in the state or even chapters or posts. And these are big organizations, and they represent a lot of Veterans. So I think that when we consider these two possibilities for bylaws changes, we have to figure out how to accommodate that. Right now the bylaws say, you have to have not only National representation of the state, presence in interstate Commander, or whatever. We should really take a look at what what happens to these huge organizations that we're not touching, because they don't have a state presence. And I think that's bad. I think we really got to figure out how to get our voice into our organization.

Woody Hogan (TAL): According to our current bylaws, Article III, Membership Section B says the organizations must be recognized by an act of Congress and named by legislation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a bona fide Veterans Organization entitled to the privileges of Veterans organizations.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): And I understand that, having heard that again, and read it before, there are still laws on terrorism Veterans that we cannot recognize in a PWVC because of the way we've written our constitution and bylaws.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): To the point that Chuck is making his you know, chartering in general has ceased since 1975. An acceptance like MOAA they went to the Congress to get chartered, but the VA has a list of nationally recognized organizations, the organizations that it recognizes, bartered and uncharted, maybe we ought to review that and in consideration of what it would mean, if we draw chartered requirements, so we could expand on Membership like Chuck Jackson is talking about.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): This is not an easy thing, because, in fact, we've seen this with the Navy club, I think, who represents them, or not the Navy, the Korean War Veterans in the State Veterans Commission represents them. They have three chapters and Pennsylvania leadership. And they got together and said, well, our Pennsylvania leadership will be and I don't have a clue which chapter would be, but these are things that we ought to be looking forward to. Because golly, there's a lot of us in this room, they're going to be dead in 10 years.

Richard Denison (TAL): the thing that can happen is I think all organizations need to be much more proactive. In seeking out, I am a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, I think we ought to be more active and seeking those Veterans and mentoring them into leadership too.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): But that's a good challenge. But the other part of that challenge is the represent the organizations in this room, are not born of successful in getting these people to join. But they do not understand this they do those young people I say young compared to me that they are their Veterans in may have joined these national organizations. I think the challenge is how to reach out to them. Even if we have to change our constitution and bylaws because we're missing, we will miss not a lot of opportunities to hear voices. How do we hear those voices? It is something is not going to be easy to determine.

Woody Hogan (TAL): recommend Committee get together and revamp the whole bylaws now. Producing a piecemeal will be changes each sections that need to be necessary.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): The Committee gets together, all two of us, John, you and I. And we take a look at number one new organizations, and how we handle organizations that are delinquent, and so on and so forth and the reinstatement, we take a look at what Chuck brought up about these organizations that are recognized by the VA. And they may not be in that group with congressional approval. And take a look at other areas of the bylaws. And get back to you guys. Now don't hold our feet to the fire for the next meeting. But come back to you with some recommendations. As to maybe one or two or three hopefully directions we may be able to travel and let you guys decide then we will do a final write not final write a first writing of rewriting the constitution and bylaws for your first approval.

John Getz (VFW): That's gonna take us a couple months. Oh, yeah.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Yeah, you know, you and I got another job that we do on a daily basis, too. But you know, just one. I know, your boss and my boss. Yeah. And want to see 100%.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): But getting back to the issue of the Navy club. Now we have a an individual quite requested that. Has the Organization itself requested now or the Commander requested it? So? I mean, don't make sense. Just for one individual.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): I think maybe would if you want to contact him, at least to get that side rolling a little bit.

Woody Hogan (TAL): So explain to him that at least have a state leader, someone in a leadership position? I don't know what they call them, Commandant, in the Navy Club? I believe so. Get a letter from their state Commandant for this current year requesting re admittance to the President.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Just informing that we are working on everything. We're not launching until the bylaws changes, and we'll get back to them. Basically, what I'm hearing, yeah, they'll probably get back in, but it just won't be tomorrow. Right? Because we want to do it and do it the right way. So any other questions?

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): That we go back on the other stuff. We were talking about this a few years ago, we will not allow the Korean War veteran just a few years ago.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): They would meet the criteria. If we were looking at organizations recognized by the VA. They should meet that criteria along with the, you know, the war on terror group. Right. Okay.

Dave Brady (MCL): We bounced the VFW FLEAS. Yeah. Well, I mean, they were a subgroup of another group.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Yeah, I know. I mean, we have our subgroup to well, our National doesn't, they don't talk now. But anyway, to try and get it turned on. They're known as speaking terms right now. So we don't, we don't speak your right date. I mean, there's a lot of things we can take a look at and let the body decide. You know, we'll come up with the options. And when we present them if you have other options, we'll add those and we'll move on forward from there.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): So one of the things buried in that and mentioned by John should invite me is perhaps in our constitution and bylaws we should allow for, I hate to say automatic Membership, but an automatic candidacy for organizations at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have decided was okay to put into the SVC. And take care of the Korean wouldn't take care of that it would let us think about the Korean war Veterans. And God knows whoever else, but that's it. I mean, if the SVC is obliged to accept it as a member, some organization like the Korean War Veterans, maybe that's something that the PWVC should consider.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Well, I mean, if we take, I'm sure they're included in that list from the VA.

Woody Hogan (TAL): See, I thought the Italian club folded. They found some guidance kind of start coming to the SVC meetings.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): But is that representing the Organization or himself? Nick, are you still on?

Nicholas Taylor (CWV): Unfortunately, the person to answer your questions about the Italian American War Veterans. A rogue Post from the demands more leadership. There is by statute, the provisions for the Italian American War Veterans to me was not handled properly. Tomorrow in our meeting, we do have from the National leadership, a letter is a Pennsylvania, if you will, state Commander, and that person will be sworn in as part of the Organization. So unfortunately, whether this is not to throw stone person to think his name was represented himself, but he was not at liberty to do so we're going to get that corrected and think committee was what folks on the right track. And I think we all look forward to that rewrite.

Dave Brady (MCL): Circling back to the original issue. If we well, the Korea War Veterans, the Italian American Veterans, yes, those are allowed or appointed to the SVC. By legislation. This Organization is different in that it is not set up by legislation, we set our own rules. And we can invite those organizations to participate. And if they wish to participate, however, we don't want to have a list of folks, like we did with the Navy club, who were just members in name only. Yeah, yeah, we want them to participate. This is our way of making sure that they participate. And, you know, event again, back to the first issue. We got somebody's attention.

John Getz (VFW): If you heard my report earlier, we have two other organizations right now that have not paid their dues. So right now they have no representation to the War Council, which will be Blinded War Vets and the Jewish War Vets. So I mean, that's two other we have to look at are they interested. Are they interested or whatever.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): And it goes to a good point that we have to stress in the in the rewrite all those stipulations to be a good member, plus the consequences of not being so there's no ifs ands, but if you don't do this, this is what happens. Just you know, keep the old kiss method keep it simple, stupid. Yeah, we can do that. So John will have this rewrite done for you....Where's your where's your National Convention?

John Getz (VFW): Kansas City

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Oh, we're in Florida. I guess we can't commute. Alright, anything else? On this? Night Commander, thank you. And thanks, everybody for your important. We got some things to do.

Veterans Affairs & Policy: Chris Fidler (KPVA) –

Justin Slep (PCDVA): I can make a few comments, Chris. One thing to bring to attention, there has been distribution that went out with the suspension of Central office and Trauma Board hearings for the month of January. So for those that have been scheduled with Central office of travel board, they're obviously going to be canceled travel during Central office hearings for January 31 2022. And moving forward with May is scheduled. They're going to attempt to have people reschedule the ones that are being canceled and encouraged to go to more virtual setting. But something to know about with that. Another item that we've been noticing across the state, it's happening entirely too much is late mail notifications for the VSOs. That's something important because if we're getting development letters, or 51, or three notices, we're typically getting those on the 31st or 35th. day. That seems to be the trend. So that kind of negates the whole the whole thing that's happens with it, something to keep an eye out. One other thing that I've discussed with the audios was the challenges with scheduled Compensation and Pension Exams, reached out a little bit more leverage when the auto schedulers were handling them. But now that they go straight to a contract exam for the most part, once that is sent there, it's difficult to make changes. So I've been encouraging all the all the counties, if there's a issue with the exam, for instance, is personally special accommodations, transportation, where home does it for those exams for that in on a support statement on the front end, so they can develop that I've had several in my own area that have been able to get transportation pride divided by L HR GTC, or they do care in the community appointments. And they go, I've actually one happening this afternoon. But we put that up front so they know about that. Another item that dealers brought up and both Pittsburgh in Philly meetings was that if you're VSOs, we're seeing in DBMS, that you have claims that are ready for decision, the RFD and they've been developed, which they shouldn't be if they hold that status is to start notifying the VSO hotline or notifying the VA directly to try to push out adjudication because some of these claims have been sitting in a holding pattern and there should have been decided in the past or suspend stage, but there's no movement. So that's something to keep an eye out. And then just as a courtesy I should have brought up earlier, but for those that are applying for the notice that went out for the Veterans Trust Fund grant, just as a friendly reminder, they're due by 1/19 at 1400 2pm. Those applications are due. That's all I have for Chris.

Membership: – No Report

Legislative: Keith Beebe for Robert Gray (MOAA) – This is going to be the Legislative Committee Report. We have multiple issues on in front of you. As far as I know. We have sent these out before there's other copies. These are the Legislative Committee Veterans issues for 2021 2022. Quite frankly, these were sent out before the Organization has officially voted on these in the last meeting, I believe, which is on record. The Legislative Committee today went through these once again, just as a final check on it. One by one by one and we as the Legislative Committee have approved to keep the issues as they are. Yes, there's a couple of like in any other document, there's a little bit of editing to do. For example, Dave Brady found things that says that, you know, instead of veteran's treatment courts, its facts, the Veterans wellness courts, I mean, Mr. Brady, we'll do those proper edits and you know, get that get that thing done. So, essentially, ladies and gentlemen, we have already reviewed these particular issues. They've been thoroughly gone over that, once again, they've been thoroughly

going over by the Committee, and we approve them. Mr. President, I'd like to ask for a Vote to approve the Legislative Committee Veterans issues for 2021 2022. And they will go on record to do that.

Motion by Gerald Hawk AMVETS. Second Motion, John Getz VFW. Are there any discussions on the Motion? Are there any discussions on the Motion? If not all favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed, none.

Keith Beebe (MOAA): Legislative Committee, Veterans issues have been approved, and We highly appreciate that. Also, these are issues that were discussed during the previous meeting. What this has to do with this the various legislation, items that were introduced during the current session, and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council positions on these particular issues one by one by one, I won't necessarily go over all of them, but some of them have to involve the disabled Veterans real estate tax exemptions. There's legislation on Veterans lottery tickets. There's Veterans on, you know, revising the State Veterans Commission. So there's all kinds of things. And in the press meeting, we said that we would be establishing letters that would go to the majority and minority chairs in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Chief of Staff's office of the governor, and basically stating this Pennsylvania war Veterans councils position on these various specific legislations that haven't been said the letters have the written must be present. Once again, I'd like to ask for a Vote that these letters be sent from the PWVC to the legislators

Nathaniel Smith, President: Motion by David Brady (MCL), 2nd by Bern McDonald. All those in favor?

Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): On the issue, the real estate tax exemption, we're going to have additional qualifications need to be made to these bullets. Okay. After the main second paragraph, I think of editing as you would expect. In support of Senate Bill 578. Okay, the real estate tax exemption recommendations from the Committee of USBC.

Keith Beebe (MOAA): I have one other item to do. And this is information. I believe Nate Silcox, is still with us all love to hear this one. And which is good. It's actually a very good thing. What we as the Legislative Committee, of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council would like to do is establish literally more interaction, if you will, in other words, between this Committee and the Executive Directors of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, which of course would deal with the individual's legislators of those committees. And what we would like to do and once again, this is not a voting thing. This is just giving you information, that we are taking a positive step to try to establish additional meetings, let's say quarterly, that we as the Committee would meet with the executive directors of the house and the Veterans, House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and discuss the various legislation in other words, get more interaction, get more understanding going on. And we'll work obviously with the two individuals to do that. But we wanted to inform you that we are going to be taking more positive action to do that and more interaction on legislation. It's just a good positive move on our part. Mr. President, that's the Report of the Legislative Committee.

Website Committee: No report

Honor Guard: Constance Snavely (KPVA) – The only thing I have is that I've been discussing with Brian Natali about having an article put in the DMVA digest about VSOs being able to get the Military Funeral Honors service weapon after 200 services. So see if we can get that information more widely distributed. That's all I have.

Advisory Council Appointments: Troy Michaels (TAL) –

SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER

- MOAA PA Council of Chapters requests the RE-appointment of Richard Doherty whose term expires January 9, 2022.

DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS' HOME

- VFW Dept of PA requests the RE-appointment of Ben Mastridge whose term expired November 1, 2021. Mr. Mastridge was appointed under VVA previously.

Nathaniel Smith, President: I need a motion to accept the appointments. Motion made by Bill Hines (DAV) 2nd by Keith Beebe (MOAA). Any questions? All those in favor?

Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received from the Navy Club, previously discussed.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION: None

BENEDICTION: Richard Denison (TAL)

RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Troy Michaels (TAL)

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
James "Woody" Hogan
Secretary