



PENNSYLVANIA WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



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MINUTES March 3, 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, Bruce Foster, William Whitmoyer, Troy Michaels, Richard Denison

AMVETS

Bern McDonald, Gerald Hawk

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Nicholas Taylor, William Wright

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

William Hines, Samuel Petrovich

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chris Fidler (excused), Constance Snively

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Dave Brady

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Robert Heister, Keith Beebe, Robert Gray, Charles Jackson

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Philip Arnold

PA CO. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justin Slep, David Eisele (excused)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Nathaniel Smith, John Getz Jr., David Gyger

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 February 3, 2022. Motion made by Michael Murphy (TAL). 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 – February \$26,511.18, no deposits, total withdrawals \$50.00, ending balance \$26,461.18.

Honor Guard – February \$32,700.00, no deposits, total withdrawals \$5,850.00, ending balance \$26,850.00.

Savings – February \$10,347.31, total deposits \$0.16, total withdrawals \$0.04, ending balance \$10,347.43.

Any questions on my Report?

Nathaniel Smith, President: Motion to accept the treasurer's report? Motion made by Nathaniel Smith (VFW) 2nd by Michael Murphy (TAL). Any questions? All those in favor?

Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

REPORT

Joel Mutschler, Director, PIRO at DMVA

Alright, well, good morning, everybody. I'm glad to be here with you. So I'm going to start out with the homes update to Travis is on the road again and General Weigl, so I'll just give you a quick update on our homes. Our census right now across the six facilities is 907. We do have residents with two residents with COVID positive and seven staff with COVID. Our vaccination rate for our residents is 97% and staff 85%. And we are starting to see a positive uptick in admissions over the last couple of months as things start to improve with the pandemic. So on the outreach and program side of the house, a lot of great work going on. Very pleased to tell you that we had a great meeting with Mr. Petrovich and Mr. Foster here just recently talking about the VSO grant program and how we can improve reporting and continue to work together. So I'm looking forward to doing a workshop on the 22nd and 23rd of this month with the folks from organizations that are participating in the grant program. I'm anticipating a lot of lively discussion and a lot of great, great feedback coming to us from that engagement. With PA VETConnect, happy to report to you that we did receive federal recognition here this past month first ever for departmental Veterans Affairs, we received the Pillars of Excellence award from the Federal VA, which recognizes best practices that are being done across the nation. And thank you. One gentleman mentioned me this morning, Keith mentioned and I had a big smile on my face when General Weigl had me go forward for that one. So it was a it was definitely a great day. So we're continuing to build out that program over 1800 resources, we're going to hit 2000 here and approve resources here by the end of this month. Over 16,000 connections, we're also working towards an upgrade on our IT side of the house. So the that's a definite needs improvement as far as I'm concerned. So we're going to be

working that piece. But the relationship building is really the key to success with PA VETConnect, and I'm happy to tell you things are going very well. They're seeing a lot of great interaction between our outreach staff, service organizations, county directors and other veteran advocates. The big thing there is to just know that if you if you're having an issue, and you need help, we're here for you. And we're going to do everything we can to help you break down barriers to take care of the Veterans that we all serve. We have virtual town halls that will be coming up here. So the first one is on the 16th of March happens to be the same day as our budget hearings. But we'll do that, that evening. The WebEx information and so forth just went out today on a press release, I'll make sure that you gentlemen have that so we can get it out across the across our organizations. We're primarily focused in Region Four in North East Pennsylvania on this one on mental wellness and suicide prevention. But anybody certainly is welcome to dial in and chat in any questions that they may have. And that one will feature Gen Weigl and then Mr. Rick Hamp is the Governor's challenge to end suicide prevention among service members, Veterans, their families. He will be on there to provide a briefing and update folks. May 18 will be the next one and it'll focus on serving older Veterans and we'll make sure we get all that information out to y'all. Two initiatives that we've been working on wanted to update you on as far as doing outreach. So I reported last time about one with PennDOT where we're working with them and VISN4 do a mailing out to the over 530,000 Veterans that have the PA designation on their driver's license or have a Military affiliated license plate. So that mailings going to go out here in the spring, we ran into a supply chain issue. The outreach will include a letter from General Schindler. And we'll note about the PA Veterans registry, our Veterans homes and our nursing, we always need nurses, as you know, it will focus on the on that letter, and then he will introduce Mr. Liezert. And then there'll be a letter from Mr. Liezert as VISN4 Director, and then some outreach materials on how to enroll in VA health care how to connect to us and that kind of thing. The second one, we're working with PACE. So the my counterpart over in Department of Aging, wanted to also do a mailing that we're going to ask them to push that a little bit further down the road, because it's going to target the same list of folks. I want to be able to be able to show the analytics coming back on which campaign is doing what, so more to come on that one as we build that out. So we're working with DOL Vets, and we'll be working with their two points of contact in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, to expand our outreach in the employment space. And then thanks to my good friend, Mr. Petrovich, there, we're going to get connected with DAV, they've got some great job fair events going on, in cooperation with recruit Military in the Pittsburgh area coming up, and we're going to work through work through that. Additionally, to the last two updates for the Northwest suicide prevention program that we've been working, that's been going very, very well. So they're moving towards implementation on that front. And then together with Veterans, which is the one focused on rural suicide prevention in the rural space, we've got great program going on in Cambria. And then we have the two in Greene County and in Cambria County that are going to be coming online as well. So we'll make sure that we keep you all updated on that front. It's an honor to be with you here today on behalf of General Weigl and the Department. She is online, she did jump on the on the phone, so if you have a question for either one of us. We're here for you.

Bruce Foster (TAL): Joel, you said our status, our current residential level in the homes now is about 900 and change. Is there capacity still 1600? And is it staffing that's keeping us lower than that? Is it facilities? Is it COVID? Is what because we're not seeing the waiting list move fast. In any of the homes.

Joel Mutschler, Director, PIRO at DMVA: Great question, Bruce. So it is related to staffing. As you know, we need to keep PPE in line, being able to show that we're able to take care of our Veterans and that's why we are doing a push on recruiting, but we're all fighting for the same talent pool across the Commonwealth in relation to our nurses. So yes, we that is the issue right now is a staffing concern. Certainly not a not a bed issue. But as we continue to hire more nurses, nurses will be able to get more folks into the homes.

Bruce Foster (TAL): You mentioned that the budget hearing is the 16th of March. The DMVA budget hearing?

Joel Mutschler, Director, PIRO at DMVA: Yes. Both of them. Both of them will be there. Senate and House will be that day.

Bruce Foster (TAL): Are we invited to that?

Joel Mutschler, Director, PIRO at DMVA: Public Hearing my friend so yeah We will make sure we shoot that information to you.

REPORT

Woody Hogan, Secretary read report on behalf
Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee

BUDGET

The Senate and House are currently holding hearings on Governor Wolf's FY 2022-23 Budget Proposal. Listed below are several of the veterans-related line-items:

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Veterans Homes	\$110,260,000	\$146,865,000
Amputee & Paralyzed Veterans Pensions	\$3,878,000	\$3,951,000
Veterans Service Officers	\$3,279,000	\$3,756,000
Disabled American Veterans Transportation	\$336,000	\$336,000
Blind Veterans Pensions	\$222,000	\$222,000
Education of Veterans Children	\$135,000	\$135,000
Burial Detail Honor Guard	\$99,000	\$99,000

American Battle Monuments	\$50,000	\$50,000
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SESSION

The House will return to Session the week of March 21st and the Senate the week of March 28th.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

The Governor has nominated the following PA National Guard officers for promotion:

Army

Colonel Leland Blanchard to Brigadier General
Brigadier General James McCormack to Major General
Brigadier General Carl Reese to Major General
Brigadier General Michael Wegscheider to Major General

Air

Colonel Richard McMullen to Brigadier General
Brigadier General Terrence Koudelka to Major General
Colonel Raymond Hyland to Brigadier General

The Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee plans to take up their nominations after the officers have completed their visits to members.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Constitution and Bylaws: Samuel Petrovich (DAV) – No Report

Veterans Affairs & Policy: Chris Fidler (KPVA) – (Excused) No Report

Membership: Chuck Jackson (CWV) – No Report

Legislative: Robert Gray (MOAA) – Good Morning. Legislative Committee met this week on Wednesday by zoom. We did have the letters sent out in response to all the bills that were announced in late fall, I guess they had a flurry of about seven or eight bills that the house had an information hearing on that we didn't have time to review and didn't have a response. We met in formulated response to all of those bills supporting only one. Those letters were sent out in February, to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. The Legislative goals, which we did add the well, it's like a Gulf War bonus, we did add that language in there so that legislators will be aware of that when we do more work toward that. Those were all sent out to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs, Appropriations Committees Judiciary Committee, as well as the Legislative people for Health and Human Services. The Governor's office and Aging. As far as goals, were working so far is with proposed legislation for pre and post-conviction. There was one bill that was introduced in the House by Representative Phillips-Hill, which is a rehash of an old bill that had been introduced before that didn't move. So Senator Brown is working on has actual blueback that they're finalizing. We are meeting with House representatives, kind of a conglomerate of about six representatives that have an interest in this legislation. So they're once they finalize Senator Brown's staff will get with the information to the legislators in the house so they can draft a similar bill in the House. So there's a similar Bill moving through both sides. The other thing is our Chapter 51, Title 17. Clarification for the SVC duties and responsibilities. We have found a legislator that we're speaking with looking over the legislation getting what their views are. We had one meeting and we're setting up a second when with our rebuttal to her questions and suggestions. At least we're getting some traction as far as moving that. The last SVC Legislative Committee meeting, we talked with Plans and Policy Office and clarify which version he had was the latest version of that legislation. And if we make any changes, per se, from what he has, then we'll go back out to DMVA to see if there's any objection to those additions. And that's my Legislative Report.

Bruce Foster (TAL): Well, you know, the I see the budget allocation for the DAV van program doesn't seem to ever increase nor are we pushing for it to increase. I look into cars that mean all Veterans of all our organizations, use the DAV Van Program, and I think it's time we all got together and tried to do something to increase the budget allocation this program. It's been a 336 for as long as I can recall. Cars continue to get more expensive and more expensive. It's just my comment. It's not really a question. But I think it's something that our Legislative team could be working on.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Commander Hines is been the Chairman of our van program for as long as I can remember back. I came into this eight years ago and versus right. I haven't seen that number jump in eight years. With the funding and the cost of vehicles do go up. But in Yeah, with the COVID years numbers. I don't count the COVID years because of what has happened with trying to get drivers and we still have problems with the hospitals. Lebanon being a prime example, where they're only running I think two or three vans, maybe. And that's, again, when you look at the hospitals is there their own fiefdom. Erie's, running off the map, Pittsburgh's running off the map, Wilkes Barre, the Lebanon just won't get off the starting blocks. We try and we talk to him. What we explained to the legislators when those vans are purchased through the DAV and we turn them over to the hospitals, they put GSA plates on them and they become the hospital's possession. Well, the state ought to take that over and do all that. I said to her, you give us \$336,000 a year. That's like me reaching in my pocket, thrown out two quarters, two dimes and a nickel compared to what the program cost. They maintained the vans, they train the drivers and they get a give them gas cards. All like the VA's cost. Now they do that part of it. So you're looking at instead of 336,000, maybe 4 - 5 million to even do what they do. I told her you please go tell the

legislator they have to take at legislators they have to take out or I'm not telling them. Yeah, I'm not going on that route. But anyway, normal years and normal years, will have maybe 400 to 500 volunteers, volunteer drivers will do maybe 1.2 million miles on the road. They'll transport 30 to 35,000 Veterans to their appointments and no put in hours for 75,000 plus hours. That's all volunteers doing that. They don't get paid. And that's, you know what our program normally does. And during normal years, I did a survey DAV does this across the country. So I took all the stats from all across the country on those four categories. And we were number two in only one category. And that was mileage. And the winning state was Montana because of how far they have to go to the VA hospitals. That's the only reason I know where they were nowhere near to the amount of vets we transport or anything else like that, or volunteers is just the mileage. So actually, Pennsylvania is running the best program in the country. Now, we are lucky, we are happy for the money we get. Some states get nothing. DAV Chapters and Departments out there have to go raise their own money and get donations and find that. And that's not saying we don't do that. We get donations from a lot of our chapters and stuff. And what we ask that they at least put up 55% of the cost of the van. And then we ask our National Department to fund the other 45%. Now Bill, and I have done this last couple years, we were told never to ask us, we'll never get anything. So thank you for telling me that I'm going to ask. And they came through. They came through every time we asked them they came through with funding 45% of the vans that way instead of three to five vans, depending on cost, we ordered 10 and that's a far cry from where we need to be. There's 132 vans out there and probably 80 that have close to 100,000 miles or more are they're over 10 years old. Now that now we're getting into safety of Veterans being transported. That's what we you know, our legislatures have to look at? Yeah, are we are we jeopardizing the lives of our Veterans being transported that need this transportation; I have no way of getting to their metal medical appointments. Unless these vans pull up to their door, take them to their appointment and take them home. Now again, like I said, the VA is hospitals of their own. We have one Hospital that has multiple pickup points of Veterans get to then they're transported, but just about the rest of them go door to door. It's a great program for our Vets. And once we get back in the swing of thing you're looking at some 1000 Veterans appointments being kept because of these vans otherwise, that those Veterans would not get to their medical appointments. And we all know what could happen if that happens. So Bruce, I appreciate your comments are right on now. And hopefully, we can get these folks to move. I made several presentations to the VAEP Committee to no avail. You get this. But you don't get anybody write in a bigger check. And that's what we need. You know, don't give me this. I'd rather you fall asleep and do whatever you want to do. But give us a bigger check to get this done. You pay for it. We'll get it done. And like I said, I'd like to thank all of our Chapters who come up with the funding to buy a van. The other thing we've done, we've changed the way we take these vans to auction now we have a new vendor that we use Manheim auctions and they've been really great. When those vans are sold at auction, we put that money back into the van fun to buy a van. So just in the last three, four months, we've taken in enough money to buy maybe two vans, or maybe four vans. If our National office kicks in, it was funded. So those vans prior years those vans were just sitting somewhere or a VA Hospital, somebody to VA Hospital just given to somebody. So several years ago, when Secretary MacDonald was head of the VA, he put out a directive that all VA hospitals must return their vans when they determined they're no longer fit for us back to the donator of those vans. That eliminated the one problem. Now we've eliminated some of the problems we had with auctioning these vans off. So that's been you know, going very well. I think we sold 12 vans since January using this auction in fact, we got rid we sold 10 from Erie alone, 2 from Coatesville. So that's the van program in a nutshell. If anybody ever has any questions or they see problems with what's going on, please, please let us know. Please let us know if you have Veterans calling your Organization saying they're having trouble getting rides. We will try to help but again, scheduling falls on the VA Hospital. It's their vans. So thank you. Anybody have any questions?

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): Not a question, but a suggestion. I've taken this action. A lot of us have raised this issue to various legislators, and we've gotten nowhere the primary issue. What I am hearing from you is in management terms a need to replace a substantial part of the fleet due to safety and age concerns. We as the PAWVC do not get any information from the DMVA on the budget preparation as the State Veterans' Commission should. Why don't we raise the issue to the commissioners of the State Veterans' Commission and have them ask the DMVA? One question to answer is why the executive didn't put in for an increase for the current transportation network, just on the basis of cost of operations, allowing for the increase the CPI, etc.

What you didn't mention or mentioned partially is we cover a some of the costs through the VA and through the DAV for the management of the program. Those are hospital service coordinators, and some of the sundries that go with all that. So, I think this is a good issue to be raised through the State Veterans' Commission to the DMVA, which now has the responsibility for doling out the money, as I understand it. That was in question last year, or the year before, when we found out the DMVA wasn't the one supposed to be doling out money. It was , I think, the Department of Health or Human Services. In summary, why don't we raise the issue to this State Veterans' Commission? That's my comment.

Nick Taylor (CWV): I think we will be willing to entertain that, as you know, we don't have a meeting tomorrow, we have one in April, would love to discuss that. I do have a meeting with DMVA. We can certainly put this if you would like to make that Motion or a discussion point under new business, and we will be happy to visit it, sir.

Bruce Foster (TAL): I hate to disagree with my friend Rich Hudzinski but the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council's mission is to prepare to advise the State Veterans Commission. I think the issue should be dealt with here before it goes to the State Veterans Commission, so that we have a resolve amongst ourselves as Veterans organizations to try to push it forward. I think it should be dealt with at this level. You know, in many cases, we're talking about the same people at the State Veterans Commission, but the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council is always been in place to prepare us to get ready to go to the State Veterans Council so that we can properly advise the tag on veteran issues in Pennsylvania.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): I'm not saying that we release ourselves from the issue I'm just suggesting and one of the paths for the PAWVC to pursue that may be more effective than the way we have been doing so far. We can continue to raise this issue is on our goals. We've talked various Veterans Affairs people, okay. I don't disagree with what Bruce is saying. We ought to prepare something for the SVC. Okay. But I think it's all there. We all know the issue. You just heard it explained today to the body.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): I just one more comment on both of those. Those are both great points. I think the other line issue with the whole problem is that the years I have been here nobody from DMVA has said we are asking for more money in this program. Now if they did, we don't know about it because things like this aren't discussed with the SVC or even brought up here at the War Council. On what they're doing with the budget. So, you know, legislators just like we do, we all do. Nobody asks or not a lot of times they're not going to give. So what we need to do also is lean on DMVA, also besides the legislators to put ask for more money, and then we could go fight for more money. We should be able we should fight for more money anyway. But at least that shows they're behind what we're doing for asking for more money.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Okay, first of all, if this is an issue, we want to work hand in hand, we've said we want to work hand in hand with the SVC. Why don't we make a Motion under new business? To go ahead and propose that? I can't make the Motion since I am the President. We have to wait to get the Legislative guy.

Bob Gray (MOAA): Okay, I make a Motion that the PAWVC work with the SVC and addressing the funding for vans for VA Hospital. Motion has been made. Second, Motion Mike Murphy (TAL)

Any questions on the Motion?

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): I have a question. The verb there was work with, but in actuality, we started out five minutes ago, saying in addition to all the stuff that the PAWVC has done directly with legislatures, we should ask the PAWVC, write a letter to the SVC asking the SVC to approach the DMVA, the TAG and ask them about funding on the Veterans Transportation Network. That's a separate subject that's working with it say requesting.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): I recommend we put it in writing formally and send it up.

Bruce Foster (TAL): I just wanted to say that, that it seems realistic that we would appoint a Committee from the PAWVC to prepare to turn this issue over to the State Veterans Commission.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): We have to be a little cautionary is to how we look at the role of the PAWVC compared to the SVC. Now we all sat to prior years, not this administration out there, but the prior administration that shut off the SVC. We are two separate organizations operating under two separate guidelines. We are free at the PAWVC to do what we want to do. There is no danger of legalese and the misinterpretation of the English language that was done at the SVC prior administrations; we don't have a problem with this one. But who's next? And who's next next? I don't want to see the PAWVC become subordinate to the SVC. Man, we're, we're equal, right? We are equal, you got your guidelines, and you got your guidelines, working together, like wonderful. But if one is stymied, then the other, one can't be stymied or else Veterans are going to suffer like they did in this commonwealth. Again, I agree with writing a letter requesting SVC support of what we're doing to support us in this and to also take up the flag and run with it. But that doesn't preclude PAWVC then from sitting in the background.

Bob Gray (MOAA): We said before, that's one of the goals that's been studied to the legislature. And that's something we could prepare a letter to the various Chairman of the Appropriations transportation Committee as well as Veterans affairs, and then follow up with that with our executive directors to try to get a meeting, as we're doing with other legislators.

Larry Googins (VVA): I've heard both of them. I totally agree with what Sam just presented. I'm a new guy you should know, with both of these organizations, but about watched him for years. It's my understanding, as Sam just described, they're two separate organizations, similar missions, but have a different way of presenting it to get assistance for our Veterans. I totally agree with that. I also totally agree that the State Veterans Council, we could partner, if you want with them under the same issue that we just discussed. As far as I understand from reading, everything that's been presented, that you don't want the War Council be to be subservient to the State Veterans Commission. In other words, and under laying, if you would, to tell the Veterans Commission what we want, we should, as I understand, again, being a new guy, stand out on our own when we can partner with other organizations like the State Veterans Council when we can. Now this was just a statement. But before we Vote, since this is discussion on a Motion, I'm asking that whatever we Vote on that that Motion now is restated so we know what we're voting on. And maybe we're going to do that already. But I just request that we do it. This is kind of drifting off from the original Motion. But thank you very much. If anybody has any questions for me, I'm ready.

Bob Gray (MOAA): Okay, thank you for the clarification. Okay, well rephrase the Motion, as far as PAWVC Legislative Committee will draft a letter to send to the Committee chairs of the House and Senate, Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee, the Appropriations Committee and the Transportation Committee to explain the situation and request for funding. Also, we can copy that to the SVC Legislative Committee, so that you're aware of and the Chairman to let them know that we're working that are too.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): The Motion is drafted from what Larry initially talking about him, Sam and Larry, were originally reminding us of your separate Organization. What originally I was proposing was that we'd like the SBC. We've already written the others in those other letters, but we can write them again, with more details. I'm fine with that. That will be a separate Motion. I'm asking us to ask the primary advisor to state government and the Veterans to be enhanced in state tuition only recognized under law with this issue of the funding, increase in the

funding for the Veterans Transportation Network. The Motion - Simple, okay. That the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council ask the State Veterans Convention to raise the issue of the funding for the Veterans Transportation Network, because we see a need for an increase.

Dave Brady (MCL): We should be doing both. We should be communicating with the with the committee's and advising the SBC that we're doing this and say please come on board.

Bob Gray (MOAA): Okay, well, I would go back to the into the Motion as far as that PAWVC would contact the House and Senate Committees involved. And, then we could CC the State Veterans Commission.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): No, the other way around.

Sam Petrovich (DAV): Read it again.

Bob Gray (MOAA): PAWVC Legislative Committee send a letter to the House and Senate VA EP Committee, Appropriations and Transportation requesting the need for additional funds with the backup in that letter for the information, we've discussed this morning. Are there any other questions on the Motion?

Sam Petrovich (DAV): No CC?

Bob Gray (MOAA): No, just us

Larry Googins (VVA): Asked that motion to be read *again*.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): Okay, so we have two issues going on here. The first one is right now there is a Motion on the floor to write letters to congressional representatives. Let's do that get it done with, then I'll make a Motion after this, that we write another letter to the State Veterans Commission, who asked the SVC to inquire of the TAG, the process that he had been using to get additional funds for the Veterans Transportation Network. So that asks the SVC Chairman to interface with the TAG. The first Motion we're talking about is us, as War Council, interfacing, Senators and Representatives. So let's do that one, get it done. And then do second one.

Bob Gray (MOAA): Recall the question for the Motion.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Okay. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed?

Larry Googins (VVA): No, because we don't know yet what the Motion is. I've asked several times to please read the Motion as we're voting on. I Vote no for that reason.

Rich Hudzinski (VVA): seconded the no vote

Nathaniel Smith, President: However, the Ayes override the Nays. Motion carried

Unknown Speaker: Point of Order Vote was to close debate. Okay, we still need to Vote on the Motion.

Bob Gray (MOAA): The Motion for the Vote is PAWVC Legislative Committee to send letters to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Preparedness Committee, Finance and Transportation Committee requesting an increase in van funding and for meetings to follow up with the Executive Director.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Does everyone understand the Motion?

All in favor signify by saying Aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it, so ordered.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): I move to motion that the State Veterans, the Pennsylvania War Council to the Chairman of the State Veterans Commission, to request him to coordinate with the Director the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and ask the TAG what they have been doing to raise the funding of the Veterans Transportation Network.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Does everybody understand the Motion?

David Brady (MCL): I'll second that motion.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Any questions on the Motion?

Justin Slep (PACDVA): I agree with Chuck, just my only thing is instead of asking SVC Chairman, writing it directly to inquire maybe possibly at the SVC meeting, get buy in from the other commissioners on talking points or questions there and then then have him draft it.

Nathaniel Smith, President: Okay, there any other questions on the Motion? If not, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Ayes have it, so order.

Website Committee: Bob Gray (MOAA) - The website crashed; actually, the whole platform of Thrive media in Allentown crash. It took him a while to rebuild it. And then it was two year old information, all the information we had got put into update the months before this appeared. So I figured well, I'd like to let things go and let the dust settle. And I checked last night, and they actually had updated some of the pages one is in a wrong place, but at least the information is there. So there's a list of things that I have to send back to them, they have posted in the right page, and a couple things need updated. The basic information there the Organization information is there as far as the member members of the PAWVC. There's a couple corrections on a name and an email. But the meeting schedule is there, who to contact and activities. There's not really anything on the calendar, so we'll have to check with Bill Harris. He used to be able to go in and type in things that were on a page with, since this all collapsed, they switch to a different system, and he hasn't been able to get back in yet. So we have to sending everything into the website into the webmaster. Plus, there may have been a merger of companies, but they did must have still had emails that we had sent on updates. So it's a lot better shape than it was a while ago, so we're still working on that. And putting a PA VetConnect back on though the one Veterans Help page that disappeared. So we'll get that back in there.

Honor Guard: Constance Snavely (KPVA) – I need to report that our longtime member Richard Blystein passed away last week. He had many 1000s of funerals under his belt. Other than that, I have no Report.

Advisory Council Appointments: Troy Michaels (TAL) –No nominations or reappointments.

Motion to accept all committee reports. Motion made by Michael Murphy (TAL), 2nd by Bern McDonald (AMVETS). All those in favor?

Audience: Aye. None Opposed and Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

March 29 is Vietnam War Veterans Day.

March 25 is the National Medal of Honor day.

BENEDICTION: Richard Denison (TAL)

RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Troy Michaels (TAL)

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
James "Woody" Hogan
Secretary