



PENNSYLVANIA
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



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January 11, 2024 MINUTES
10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER	Spike Gyger, President
INVOCATION	Richard Denison, Chaplain
SALUTE TO COLORS	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
ROLL CALL	James Hogan, Secretary

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Steve Lavelle (excused), Woody Hogan, Troy Michaels, William Whitmoyer, Richard Denison, Matt Hollenbeck (excused)

AMVETS

Bern McDonald (excused), Gerald Hawk, Kim Carson (excused) Paul Forsman

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

William Albert

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Michael Rang, Sister Mary Mathias

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

David Gui, Timothy Alexander (excused)

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Richard Fine

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chris Fidler, Joseph Dunn (excused), Constance Snavley

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Diana Henry, Sarah Cook (excused), Victoria McCoy (excused), James Diamond (excused)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Nicholas Taylor, Keith Beebe, Ernie Holling (excused), Robert Gray

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Peter Verbos (excused), Phil Arnold, Nate Thomas (excused), Bob Ardner Jr. (excused)

PA CO. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jesiah Schrader, Justin Slep (excused), Alvin Loveless (excused)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John Getz Jr., David Gyger, Barbara Loncar, Fred Hechler (excused)

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

Larry Googins, Richard Hudzinski (excused)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Spike Gyger, President: Everybody received the minutes from November 2, 2023. I will entertain a motion. Nicholas Taylor (MOAA) moves to approve the minutes as written. Barb Loncar (VFW). Any question on the motion? All in favor? Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report given by John Getz:

John Getz: Happy New Year everybody. I hope everybody has been receiving the information monthly.

War Council – \$30,121.18, \$600.00 deposits, 0 withdrawal 0, ending balance \$30,121.18

Honor Guard – For the month of December: \$44,750.00, total withdrawals \$13,750.00, ending balance \$31,000.00.

Savings – \$10,350.22, total \$.17 deposits, \$.04 total withdrawals, ending balance \$10,350.35. We had withdrawal of \$.04 on taxes.

Spike Gyger, President: Can I get a Motion and a second to accept the Treasurer's Report as given? Diana Henry (MCL) I have a Motion do I have a second Gerald Hawk (AMVETS). Any questions on the motion? All in favor say Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

REPORT

Joel Mutschler Director, DMVA, PIRO: Yes sir. Thank you. I do apologize for not being able to be with you in person today but as you might be able to tell I'm a little under the weather and I didn't want to share my germs with you all. I believe I see one of our newest staff members in the room there. Marilyn if you can say hi to everybody. She is our Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans, She just joined us here this month. We are very excited to have her on board. Looking forward to doing some great work in that space. Our census is currently at 1094 Veterans and spouses that are residents there. Covid is within each of our homes at this time. We do not have any major outbreaks. We also have flu and RSV present in all homes. It is just that time of the season. So please if you have the opportunity volunteers are obviously welcome into all of our homes. Make sure you can get out there and spend time with our residents. The Farm Show as you heard is going on currently and echo General Schindler's comments from earlier this morning on his welcome video, welcome Facebook message come out if you have the opportunity. There are some great events going on today. Of course our outreach van is down there along with VSO's from the various organization that are coming alongside of us today. Yesterday just to give you an idea we had 83 Veterans that came through to see us. We actually started some claims as well at the Farm Show. The GACVS for the women Veterans magazine just a shout out for that. We send information out through the SVC's as well through that as well as the PAWVC for nonprofit that is working at Pennsylvania women Veterans magazine. Ads are still available as well as stories of our Pennsylvania women Veterans. We would encourage you to get that word out across your organizations to make sure that they are aware of this provocation that is going to be coming out in the near future. Our Conference and State Association for the homes conferences and state associations for State Directors of Veterans Affairs General Weigl and I will be attending that in February. General Weigl and Travis will be attending the State Association coming up in February. We are looking forward to those two events and also meeting with our congressional delegation down there in DC. I just keep an eye on the Federal side of the house our Federal claims, there is over 1 million claims in the inventory currently with the Federal VA. The backlog is currently over 400,000 that is as of December 31st. Our compatriots on the Federal side are continuing to get after the backlog and just know that is causing some delays in claims. Anything over 179 days is showing up in that backlog. So we are keeping an eye on those numbers. Just encouraging all of our Service Officers across the state to keep the clients informed that they may not be getting decisions back as

quickly as we were in the past. So with that, I do want to turn it over to Marilyn for a moment. Sorry to put you on the spot there but in case you had anything you wanted to bring out from your position.

Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta DMVA, Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans: I did just join January 3, started in my new position as Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans. So brand new, looking forward to getting stuff done in Pennsylvania for our women and minority Veterans. I myself am a Veteran, I was in the Pennsylvania National Guard for 13 years before AGR before being medically retired in 2013 as a result of injuries from a deployment to Iraq. So just a little bit about me, I have business cards with me. If anybody would like to grab a business card on their way out, I have them that way we can sit down and kind of talk about what you think needs are for our women and minority Veteran group. Are there any questions for me?

Woody Hogan (Secretary): Is this a new title position or has it always existed?

Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta DMVA, Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans: This is brand new.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): So is the DMV moving from a Veterans a Veteran it does not matter if you are black, white, female, and Mexican to separating us.

Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta DMVA, Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans: Yes.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): They are moving that way?

Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta DMVA, Special Advisor for women and minority Veterans: We are including. We realize that there are different needs for different populations, and that a lot of our women and minority Veteran groups are underserved compared to you know traditional male Caucasian Veteran.

Joel Mutschler Director, DMVA, PIRO: Thanks Marilyn. This is definitely a focus area for us. We are very excited to have Marilyn on board to help us address the needs of over 60,000 women Veterans across the Commonwealth, and our minority Veterans as well. General Schindler and General Weigl have placed emphasis in this area and we are very, very happy to have such a high caliber person in this position at DMVA. With that I will turn it back over to Mr. President, unless anyone has any questions?

Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee: Good Morning everyone. The Senate Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee, thanks for having me and nothing too crazy in terms of updates here. What I presented the last couple of months, but we are into 2024. The Senate will be in session the week of February 5th, the Governor will present his 2024/2025 budget proposal on February 6th to the House and the Senate. Really the House and Senate are going to get down to the brass tacks more in the March timeframe. You know, really it is going to be a sprint to the budget June 30th. That is really the time period to get a number of issues done. We are working closely with Chairman Solomon in the House Veteran's Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee to get a couple Bills to the goal line here in the near future. Senate Bill 162 has already been passed by the Senate. That is the Guard Medical Officer Incentive Program. Senate Bill 447 is Senator Mastriano legislation that would codify Vet Connect. House Bill 269 Representative Webster's Legislative should do a change from 75 years to 85 years before the public can access a Veterans' discharge record, and HB1086, which enhances the Veterans registry but all those Bills are passed their original chamber and they have moved out of Committee. So those are the closest to the goal line in terms of getting into the Governor. Once those get done we will work on the next round of Bills to move forward. I know that the War Veterans Council as well as the Veterans Commission has some concerns here about Senate Bill 933 that addresses the Veterans Councils at the Advisory boards for the State Veteran's Commission and we are willing to work with you guys on that. I am glad that you guys do have a concern about that with the change

in the War Veterans Council but we will be happy to work with you in the House on that Legislation, there is a possibility of a hearing down the road at one of our Veteran's homes. Stay tuned on that. There is a couple of services that we have coming up and I appreciate again the number of folks that came out to our Veteran's Day service, where we had a Medal of Honor recipient Hal Moore come up. Wonderful service and everybody's involvement with that. We will have a Desert Storm Service now these dates are a little bit off from you know what they are originally looking at but they are all based on our session schedule. For Desert Storm we have in place and I have emailed Kristen Dagenhart- Smith so you should be receiving a written copy of this as well. Desert Storm will be on Wednesday February 7th at 10am in the Main rotunda. We will also be doing its Medal of Honor Day coming up here in the March timeframe. Wednesday March 20th at 10am we will be holding a service in Soldier's Grove Keith Beebe is working on that National Medal of Honor highway and he will be with us. Colonel Marm is planning to come up with us for this service. We are looking forward to a great event on that front and then Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home day March 29th we are going to have go with Monday April 8th at 10:30 am in the Main Rotunda, so stay tuned. If you are interested or your Organization is interested in partnering with us, whether it is an Honor Guard or some other aspect please reach out to me. I am trying to give a little bit of change up to each of these from what we had in the last year with the Veterans Day Service. We did several others over in Soldiers Grove but we are trying to separate them a little bit and make them unique in their own right. We had the National Guard Band out there for us. We are also going to have the flyover perhaps we will be able to get that in the New Year or two. I will be happy to answer any questions. All this material coming your way via email. Thank you again for your service.

Kerry Vanyo, Policy Research Analyst VAEP Committee: Hi everyone. My name is Kerry Vanyo I am here on behalf of my boss Mike Hillman who is the Executive Director of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. I am Nate's counterpart over there in the House. The House is coming back in March, I believe it is right after St. Patrick's Day. Just a little bit different there and then I do have a prepared paper for you that I painstakingly went through and prepared. You will see in the first Section there are all of the Military and Veterans Affairs related laws that were enacted so far this session in 2023 that goes on to the second page. The Second Section there on the second page is Bills that we passed that are now before the Senate, which I know Nate mentioned. Just before that we are going to try to work through and pass through the Senate and get signed into law and then the last section is Bills that have come out of the House Committee and are waiting to be brought up for a Vote in the House. I won't go through all the Bills, but I'll let you read that at your leisure. We are still setting our 2024 agenda but obviously we will be working with me and Chairman Mastriano in the coming year and I will be here through the next meeting to work with your guys on any other issues that come up. If you have any questions on any Bills you see here or any Bills that you don't see here that you would like to see as well just let me know. I can give you my card and we can get in contact and work on those priorities. Thank you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Constitution and Bylaws: Gerald Hawk (AMVETS) – No report

Veterans Affairs & Policy: Chris Fidler (KPA) – No report

Membership: Chuck Jackson (MOAA) – Not in attendance

Legislative: Robert Gray (MOAA), – Good Morning. Keeping with this morning's theme of grief. There is only one Bill that was just introduced. I guess it wasn't just introduced but it is one that you recently showed up it is HB1952. HB1952 was originally introduced in the past session and it has been reintroduced. Now in reference to Academic credit for Military training it seems like there is always been a Bill brought up because of a loophole somewhere in the state system. Trying to get them to look at Military training for certification or

training EMS is one that they finally got worked out there was something recently passed again this last session? It is in the list from the House that was actually passed. In the medical side, it is a little easier for them to compare. It is the others where they have American Council on Education that works with the Department of Defense. That is administered by the defense activity and non-traditional education support to conduct and facilitate academic reviews, Military courses and occupations. There was a lot passed as far as to the different boards that the state for each occupation, to consider those they are hard to kind of break their habits. What this Bill is coming around to make them by law look at the information and the training that the individual has had and whether it would meet any of the requirements they have for their licensing. It does not say they have to use it. If they do, this one is going to actually make them look at it and see if there is training that can be credited toward the education requirements for those skills. Hopefully that makes it somewhere this time around. The Legislative Committee we brought up the goals, which were the same goals as we have had the previous year, but they were kind of pared down to the ones we could physically work on this year and that was sent out by email, which had a majority approved. I will be sending that out to the Legislature and as well as the letter on Senate Bill 933 as far as we object to the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council being excluded from the selection process for the Veteran's Home Advisory console nominees. We found in our study that when it was 64% live within 30 minutes or less from the Veterans home some are 5 minutes. Delaware Valley hold the record for having their members the closest. Everyone was within an hour, say three people I think out of all of the 6 homes. Keith will be mentioning something under Good of the order for a Medal of Honor Highway there is some movement in Washington finally on that. We will need some help getting our Congressional delegation in the House to support the Bill so I will let him tell you what the happen was on the Senate side but in order to activate there is only like 16 sponsors right now in the House and there is only I think the Bill was introduced by Mike Kelly and Erie as far as the representative and none of the other representatives, Congressman who have supported the co-sponsored the Bill. So that will be something we will want to move on and send notice to our Congressman as far as to support that Bill and we will have more information we can send out on that.

Website: Robert Gray (MOAA): The website we are finally ganging up on it. The President has been working with the VFW website, we've got all the current information for the pages and he is contacting the webmaster, the owner of the website to get permissions to access and update the pages. That way we can get everything done at once and try to keep it up to date and then find out who we need to send it to for updates as far as getting the information updated in a timely manner.

Honor Guard: Constance Snavely (KPV) – Just a few things if anybody wants to help with Wreaths Across America, the wreath pickup/clean-up is the 2th of this month at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, they finally picked the contractor so they are going to start the expansion in the spring of this year, one of those things will be to tear down and replace the Honor Guard building. The Honor Guard building was a pilot program that was started at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery and when they were building it, it was easy to see it was not even close to being big enough. I guess they figured three people may be doing Military funerals and really didn't factor in how large the Honor Guards doing rifle volley and taps can be and if you had the Army National Guard there, the Navy also there because they had the next funeral coming up. It is not big enough. So that will start in the spring when they were going to do the Honor Guard Building is up in the air. That means we will back out living in our cars between details. We did that long enough. Just an idea of how busy Honor Guards can be because I'm not sure people really know plots can be different at each cemetery based on how many different groups are helping. The VFW Post 23 we head somewhere around 450 funeral details we did for the last year that counts in a few private cemetery details as well. I don't think they know how busy the Honor Guards can be and yes it is all volunteer. All of us consider that as our place to be. So when we are not on duty for our week at the cemetery that is when we try to plan all our appointments and taking care of our new stuff. If anyone is interested the Memorial Council for Fort Indiantown Gap Cemetery meeting is this Saturday at 9:30 at the Admin building and they are always looking for interment flag donations for the avenue flags. They are cotton so they are not really made for inclement weather they fade. I

think somewhere around 700 or more flags they are flying now and they are always in need of more. So you can put the word out to your groups that collect the internment flags, it would be greatly appreciated and the cemetery office will send out a nice letter certificate of thanks. Any questions?

Woody Hogan (Secretary): Did you say that guard shack is fully funded?

Constance Snavelly (KPV): It is part of the expansion program.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): You don't have to raise any money to make that happen?

Constance Snavelly (KPV): No. The last one the Schuylkill Lebanon funeral directors association something like that they donated \$1,000 to help cover the cost for putting chairs, refrigerators into the building but it should be fully funded from the cemetery as part of the meeting.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): After the War Council I know we have some money and John will agree that there is \$30,000 here if there is something that is not covered please let us know.

Constance Snavelly (KPV): I will keep that in mind. Thank you.

John Getz (VFW): I know you mentioned about the amount of the funeral and everything that you have done in the past year. I don't think anybody understands that every 3 months, two weeks a year out of that month you are sitting at Fort Indiantown Gap. I don't think they understand that. That is what it takes for all the volunteers

Constance Snavelly (KPV): It used to be every other week and when Indiantown Gap National Cemetery opened in 1982 the VFW Post 23 was the only group that was out there until many years later, when others started jumping in to help. So any group that wants to come out and help we are always ready to make it that we are on every 4 weeks that we are on.

John Getz (VFW): We definitely have one week open every month for that.

Constance Snavelly (KPV): If it takes doing it like the Marine Corps League they have 4 different groups that form together to make one so if any Post thinks they don't have enough people, you know if the DAV has groups of people that want to help or the Legion or VFW to jump in. Always great. Like I said we are always happy to take an extra week off before our duty again. The wreath pick up is at 9 am.

Spike Gyger, President: I know the VFW we put that in our newspaper and outlet like to ask if anyone has a newspaper they send out? Please ask for the used flags and I don't know if they can be delivered here and Connie takes them back. Whatever works for you? Let's try to make that happen. Advisory Council appointment Troy.

Troy Michaels (TAL): I will start off by reading the nominations that I received this morning and that is for the South Eastern Veterans home and Steve Lavelle Department Commander of the Pennsylvania American Legion and requested the reappointment of Kenneth Schweitzer whose term expired January 9, 2024. Mr. President I need a motion on that request.

Spike Gyger, President: Any questions? I will accept a motion. Gerald Hawk (AMVETS) makes a motion to accept that reappointment, Seconded Nick Taylor (MOAA). All in favor aye opposed? Ayes have it.

Troy Michaels (TAL): Thank you. I will go into reading the appointments that need to happen. Before I do, I put on all the sheets have those pending reappointments and I feel like we're back to square one with the Governor's office again, if you go down through and you count up the number of pending appointments, we are literally waiting on one team and these have been put in, Some have been put in back in May that we had to resubmit. Other ones go back as far as September and October again, that we are still waiting on. I don't know necessarily what we can do to get those pushed through. But again, as you can see the list would look a lot better for the War Council, the Advisory Council listings, if these 20 would get pushed through. So if anybody has ideas on how to get these pushed through, I am open to suggestions.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): Is there anyway Senator Mastriano since he is pushing to get rid of the appointment from the War Council. Can he talk to the Governor that is what is holding it up the Governor's signature on all these reappointments?

Troy Michaels (TAL): Any other comments on the open pending appointments before I get into the ones that we need? Delaware Valley Veterans Home the following are ones that submissions need to be sent in. Allen Abramson (JWV) term expired 11/1/23, Charles Trainor (MCL) 11/1/23 and I know Diana, you and I had a conversation and we can finish that up after we are done here if you would like. Next one Samuel Huhn (BVA) term expired 11/1/23, Larry Holman (JWV) 11/1/22, Bruce Boice (DAV) 11/1/22 and the last one Charles Petronis (CWV) 11/1/22. Questions on Delaware Valley. Moving on Gino J Merli Veterans Center there is two they are Joseph D. Sylvester (DAV) term expires 4/5/23 and the last one is Richard T Green (BVA) again term expired 4/5/23. Questions on Gino J Merli? Hollidaysburg Veterans Home there are two that need to be reappointed. One is David Wagner (DAV) and Timothy J Sussengill (VVA) and both of those terms expired 5/16/22. Any questions on Hollidaysburg? Moving on to Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home the following appointments that are needed. Karen Foust (DAV) term expired 7/27/23 and there is one vacancy that is open from the Blinded Veterans, AMVETS, and VFW let's see if we can find somebody to get those vacancy filled. Questions on Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors'? Southeastern Veterans Center Douglas Forsythe (DAV) expired 1/9/23 and the other one is Barry Amole (VVA) term expired on 1/9/22. Any questions on Southeastern Veterans Center? Southwestern Veterans Center the following need to be appointed or reappointed Rommel Dacanay (BVA) expired 6/1/20 the second one I believe this is a reappointment Michael Chuey (CWV) expires 6/1/23 and the last one is Edward Hanke (DAV) term expired 6/1/22. Are there any questions on Southwestern Veterans Center? The only comment that I am going to make there are going to be more and I will bring those up in February, whose terms are going to expire this year so that we can start now and get those in within 60 days prior to the expiration date. Any final questions on the Advisory Council Appointments?

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): Just a comment. You know we talked about earlier about the Bill out there to basically eliminate the Veteran Service organizations from the Advisory Councils, I think we as a group need to do a better job of making sure these positions are filled so they can't pick this up and say well, you are not doing that anyway. You are not doing what you need to do for our Veterans. Once they get to the Governor that is a different issue. As long as we have names in there that are submitted, I think we need to look at that.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): I agree with you 100%. Jerry can you imagine if they are putting civilians on it? How that is going to solve the problem. We don't have anybody on the Committee.

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): We need to do our thing to make sure that we have our Veterans on there.

Troy Michaels (TAL): Thank you Mr. President.

ACT 66: Matthew Hollenbeck – Not in attendance

Nike Taylor (MOAA): Woody and I received an email requesting the War Council permission to have a guest Organization speak to us next month and I'd like to just describe that if I could what the request is. The request was for an organization called Search for Common Ground they would like to address the War Veterans Council. They are the world's oldest and largest peacebuilding organization and they work in many hotspots across the globe. Their goal here in Pennsylvania is to connect, equip and support key leaders across the Commonwealth to build peace and prevent or mitigate political violence, especially since this is an election year and the November elections will be later on. The Search for Common Ground feels that those who have worn our Nation's uniform are vested not only in the preservation of democracy but know very well the dangers of violence and they would like to make this presentation to our group, and solicit any suggestions that we may have. So I would like to make a motion that we allow this Organization to make their presentation at our next meeting.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): Second

Spike Gyger, President: Any questions on the Motion? All in favor say Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): Mr. President I will call them and reach out and see when their dates and our dates can mesh. Might not be next month, but it will be before the November election.

Spike Gyger, President: Thank you very much. We have some new business?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): The last meeting we talked about changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. I read in there I didn't bring it with me today but in your minutes on page 5 and 6 are what we talked about last meeting, basically removing a second Vice President from Bylaws because we never had one as far as changing the trustees to be from different organizations and no one organization. There is a couple other changes of words in there but I just wanted to bring that up, we need to vote on that today.

Spike Gyger, President: I think we really need to Vote on that to close out this part and update our bylaws.

Gerald Hawk (AMVETS): The proposals are on page 5 and 6 under my report from last week.

Spike Gyger, President: Do everybody need a few minutes?

Woody Hogan (Secretary): makes a motion to accept the recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws to make changes as stated in the minutes on page 5 and 6 of November 2, 2023 meeting.

Spike Gyger, President: Do I have a second?

Diana Henry (MCL): Seconds that motion

Spike Gyger, President: All in favor? Say Aye Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it. We will get these new Bylaws updated and circulated out to everybody.

Woody Hogan (Secretary): We will have them fixed and have a copy for everyone at the next meeting. One more topic. We also got a request Christina Lonigro from Advocate Health she spoke to us in 2019 about the relationship between Medicare and VA benefits. She would like to come and bring us updates. She is a wealth of information from the outside source. I think it is a good idea and only take a couple minutes of our time to bring us this update. I would like to make a motion to allow Christina Lonigro to come to the meeting.

Barb Loncar (VFW): Seconded

Spike Gyger, President: All in favor? Say Aye Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Keith Beebe (MOAA): Good morning. Happy New Year to all. I have reported before this was the state's Medal of Honor highways and of course the 12 individual states that have established their own section, which is US Route 20 such as the Pennsylvania Medal of Honor highway. Right now very proud to report guess what? The United States Senate has passed Senate Bill 1478 and this is a Bill to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts as the National Medal of Honor Highway and that Senate Bill has now been sent to the US House. Here is where we go from here. US House has an option of working with its own House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to consider the Senate Bill under a process known as suspension of the rules. In other words, this makes it work faster. If the Bill is considered in this manner, the Bill would get a Vote likely have a voice Vote and two thirds support it will pass. The other interesting thing is there is a number of US Representatives on this particular Committee that have a section of Route 20 within their particular District. In other words they serve on this Committee but they also have Route 20 within their District that would be the quickest way to get this thing passed and then go to the President for signature and make it a law. The other option is to consider its own designated House Bill 2149. That was the one that was sponsored by Representative Mike Kelly but that would be a longer process and therefore have to be reconsidered by the Senate. So the House just came back in session as of Tuesday of this week. I've been in contact with the folks up in there and I'm now waiting to hear which way they are going to go. Are they going to go with a Committee move or try to get this thing passed further or go with their own House Bill? I haven't heard that answer yet. Of Course they just came back. So therefore, ladies and gentlemen we are almost there. We are about halfway through the thing. It has been passed by the Senate and now it goes to the House. The really neat thing is there is bipartisan support and what notice the word bipartisan, the thing came out of the Senate very quickly and great support including our two Senators here, both Fetterman and Casey, Pennsylvania all supported that and we are getting very, very close. So that is what I have at this particular moment. We are getting closer to the National Medal of Honor Highway. Thank you

Spike Gyger, President: Do we have anything else for the good of the order?

BENEDICTION: Richard Denison (TAL)

RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Troy Michaels (TAL)

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
James "Woody" Hogan, Secretary