



**PENNSYLVANIA  
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.**



**PO Box 2324  
Harrisburg, PA 17105**

**Phone: 717-730-9100  
Email: [info@pawvc.org](mailto:info@pawvc.org)**

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**[www.pawvc.org](http://www.pawvc.org)**

**January 9, 2025  
MINUTES SUMMARY  
10:00 AM**

**Roll Call**

**TAL** – John Fritz, Woody Hogan, Troy Michaels, Dean Noechel

**AMVETS** – Paul Forsman, Gerald Hawk

**BVA** – Wanda Grover

**CWV** – Michael Rang, Sister Mary Matthias

**DAV** – Robert Hammaker

**KPVA** – Constance Snavelly

**MCL** – Diana Henry

**MOAA** – Nick Taylor, Keith Beebe, Robert Gray

**MOPH** – Phil Arnold

**PCDVA** –

**VFW** – Barbara Loncar, John Getz, William Roland

**VVA** – Richard Hudzinski

**The following were excused** – Kim Carson, Bernie MacDonald, David Gui, Sarah Cook, Victoria McCoy, James Diamond, Ernie Holling, Peter Verbos, Nate Thompson, Bob Ardner, David Gyger, Larry Googins

### **Meeting Commencement**

- Opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Woody Hogan conducts the roll call, confirming the presence of representatives from various veterans' organizations.
- Woody Hogan confirms a quorum to conduct business.
- Approval of the minutes, which is moved and seconded, and then approved by the group.

### **Finance Report by John Getz, Treasurer**

- John Getz provides a detailed finance report, covering the honor guard and war council accounts.
- He mentions the need for a sign paper for the minutes and a change of address for the bank account.
- John Getz reports on the honor guard's December balance and withdrawals, including a \$1,000 outstanding check.
- He also reports on the war council's December balance and a \$35,000 CD.
- The finance report is moved to accept, seconded, and approved by the group.

### **Keith Graham's Report, Executive Director of Veterans Affairs DMVA**

- Keith Graham provides an update on Pennsylvania National Guard deployments and veterans homes.
- He mentions the completion of 35 surveys for veterans' homes and their satisfactory performance in facility appraisals.
- Upcoming surveys and rankings for veterans' homes are discussed, including respiratory illness and COVID cases.
- Keith Graham highlights the challenges in staffing and the new grant for retention and referrals of nurses.
- He also discusses the RE text program, VTA and VTF grants, and VSO support, including challenges in the Philadelphia area.

## **Legislative Updates and Future Plans**

- Nate Silcox and Kerry Vanyo provide updates on the General Assembly and legislative priorities for 2025.
- Nate mentions the reintroduction of bills like the veterans' homes advisory council enhancements and the global war on terror bonus.
- Kerry Vanyo reports on the passage of 13 new laws and 17 resolutions in the previous session.
- Both speakers emphasize the importance of continued support for legislative priorities and upcoming meetings.

## **Approval of Legislative Goals and National Medal of Honor Highway**

- Robert Gray presents the proposed legislative issues for 2025, including protecting veterans against claim sharks and expanding the disabled veterans real estate tax exemption.
- The legislative goals are approved by the group.
- Keith Beebe reports on the establishment of the National Medal of Honor Highway, covering US Route 20 through 12 states.
- The project involved advocacy with the Pennsylvania State Legislature and the US Congress, resulting in federal legislation.

## **Advisory Council Reappointments and Nominations**

- Troy Advisory Council reviews and approves reappointments and nominations for various veterans' homes.
- Specific reappointments and nominations are mentioned for South Eastern Veterans Home, Delaware Valley Veterans Home.
- The group discusses outstanding appointments and vacancies, with a focus on filling these positions.

## **Unfinished Business and New Business**

- Woody Hogan brings up the issue of the Jewish War Veterans being in arrears for three years and their request to reapply.
- The group discusses the possibility of allowing Bruce Kanis to present their case for reapplication.
- John Getz mentions an outstanding dues payment from a county director.
- Woody Hogan requests support for a Veterans Day cook off at the farm show.

## **Closing Remarks and Benediction**

- The group has no further unfinished business or new business to discuss.
- Phil Arnold thanks organizations for their support at a recent Veterans Day ceremony.
- The meeting concludes with a benediction by Sister Mary.
- Troy Michaels retires the colors, and the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
James “Woody” Hogan, Secretary