



PENNSYLVANIA  
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



PO Box 2324  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Phone: 717-730-9100  
Email: info@pawvc.org

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

October 3, 2024 MINUTES  
10:00 PM

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	John Fritz, President
<b>INVOCATION</b>	Sister Mary Matthias, Chaplain
<b>SALUTE TO COLORS</b>	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Troy Michaels, Secretary

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Woody Hogan, Troy Michaels, Dean Noechel, Robert Black, John Fritz

**AMVETS**

Paul Forsman (Proxy Bill Zelner), Gerald Hawk, Kim Carson (excused), Bernie MacDonald (excused)

**BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Wanda Grover

**CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS**

Michael Rang, Sister Mary Matthias

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETS**

David Gui, Robert Hammaker

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS**

**KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA**

Chris Fidler, Constance Snavely, Joseph Dunn

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

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

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Nicholas Taylor, Keith Beebe, 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 (excused), Justin Slep (excused), Alvin Loveless

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

John Getz Jr., David Gyger, Barbara Loncar, William Roland, Jessica King

**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:**

**John Fritz (President):** I believe you all have been provided the minutes. So we need approval a motion to approve the minutes. Please identify yourself when you are doing this. Nicholas Taylor (MOAA) moves to approve the minutes as written. Sister Mary Matthias (CWV). Any question on the motion? All those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? So carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT –**

**John Getz:** Morning everybody. How are we doing? We will get started here. Everybody should have been sent an email with the information for the Treasury report on it. So starting out with the Honor Guard, September balance, previous balance of \$132,000 we had expenditures of \$63,250.00 on the expenditures page you will see that I paid \$38,000 back to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That was money that was not spent last year for the Honor Guards. So we did have to turn \$38,000 back in we still have three outstanding checks. If you take a look at the next page I have the bank report and on the fourth page was the reconciliation of the bank report and you will see that with the three checks that are outstanding, we still have 68,750 that was on the first part of report. Moving over to savings we got a whopping 17% interest. We started the balance with \$10,351.55 we have an ending balance of \$10,351.55 still paid four cents tax that has not been removed yet. I don't know. I think I need an act of Congress to get that done and you will see the withdrawals, you will see four cents coming out for taxes and the bank statement follows and it shows the balance is \$10,351.55. On our War Council for September we started out with \$28,649.59 we had deposits from the VFW, American Legion, MOAA, Blinded Veteran and Purple Heart and that was \$1300.00 we had no expenditures ending balance \$29,949.59 and on that you will see the bank statement now with the same amount on it, excuse me with the dues payments. So right now outstanding I have Vietnam Veterans, Catholic War Veterans just handed in their money, AMVETS are outstanding, Marine Corps, Paralyzed Vets, DAV and of course Jewish War Veterans are also outstanding. That is my report.

**John Fritz (President):** Any questions on the Treasurer's report. Have a motion to receive it David Gyger (VFW), Barb Loncar (VFW). Any questions? All those in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

## **REPORT**

**Brig. Gen. (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General, VA:** Good morning, everybody. I knew it was a War Council day because this morning there was a little bit of sun that shined through. So I thank you all for that. You always bring the sunshine into my life. On that note before I want to get started. I just want to say it is really sad looking out here today missing our Chaplain Denison. So just know time goes by every time we meet like this quarterly, but it is noticed that we are missing him today and have big shoes to fill. God bless him and we are all thinking I know his service is coming up soon. There is some big news I think you all heard that Adjutant General retired after close to 40 years of service. General Schindler was a big supporter of the War Council and the SVC and the Veterans across the Commonwealth. Three and a half years ago, he took a chance on me and I absolutely love the opportunity he gave me to serve all the Veterans across the Commonwealth and he will be sorely will be missed. A great man he and his wife, I think are ready to retire and kind of relax, if they can. I mean I don't know how you go from being the TAG to being retired without like a drastic traumatic event in your life, but he seemed really well on his way out the door and I think he is looking forward to retirement. But General Pippy who some of you came to the PA Vet Con had a chance to meet. General Pippy will be taking over. He is a great officer. I've served with him for years. Most recently he worked in a dual status at the Pentagon. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineer and for the National Guard. So he has a lot of experience West Point grad. We won't hold that against him, small school somewhere in New York. He was also a State Senator so he has a lot of experience downtown. I think you

know we can expect some great things ahead with General Pippy. So you will meet him tomorrow. He will be at the SVC. He is looking forward to his first SVC, so go easy on him. We are also missing Joel. Joel Mutschler retired since the last time. He actually took a job a different position in Manheim County. He is closer to home with his daughter who is you know in high school and active in sports and he gets to still focus on Veteran events. He is still going to be with The American Legion, I believe as a Service Officer. So he is not done working with us and helping us out, but he just switched and in the back of the room is Keith Graham. You will meet him tomorrow. He will be talking but he replaced as the Executive Director for outreach and Brian Natali stepped up as the PIRO Bureau Director right now, working for Keith Graham. So like I said tomorrow you will get a chance to hear from Keith with a far more in depth report and Travis will be there tomorrow as well. So you get to see Travis Davis. I will start with the homes. Since I ended with Travis going through surveys, we finished most of our annual surveys. Nothing crazy on the survey side of the house. We got a lot of surveys. Anytime there is a complaint or an issue, we go through the Department of Health and VA surveys and we have done really well. Right now for the home side, we have five stars are Delaware Valley, Gino J Merli and Southeastern, four stars Erie, three stars Hollidaysburg and Southwestern but we anticipate at the end of this month Southwest should be back up to a four star and that changes based on different surveys. All the homes are doing really, really well. They are very excited. We are getting ready for Veterans events and a lot of different visitors coming over through Halloween and Veterans Day, a lot of parades that some of the homes are participating in. So it is a busy season, but the homes are open. There is only about 13 residents that have Covid right now, eight staff members. So that is down at the end of that season, I think for now which is a good thing. We had a little peak in some areas. But right now all the homes are pretty much green and they are doing really, really well. Some of the construction projects, Hollidaysburg, sadly was supposed to be on target for the spring groundbreaking we already did but opening it up unfortunately there is a little bit of construction snafu, so it might be delayed a little bit before we can open. Might go to probably fall. We are hoping earlier, but the building up there is coming along really nicely. This has to do more with power and electric and some issues that the contractor has to fix. So that always happens. But it looks beautiful. We are excited about that. Gino Merli is just getting a new main street. So if you have been to Delaware Valley you walk in it has that nice open area where everyone kind of hangs out and gathers and plays cards and watches TV and a lot of the homes we found that is really therapeutic. So the next big construction we are going to try to mirror what is at Delaware Valley, at Gino Merli. Those will be some of the big construction projects. We are always up to repairing the homes. So there is always ongoing things. We just put in a new roof in one area and you know a new kitchen out in Erie. So lots of improvements and if you get to Hollidaysburg the other big thing you will see is that Mac Hall where we have our personal care, we just redid their huge kitchen and it's beautiful. So it is a nice uplift for the Veterans that are up there. Any questions on the homes? If you came to Vet Con I just want to say thank you. We are getting a lot of feedback. If you came you should have received a survey for you to complete to give us some better feedback. If you didn't come hopefully next year you can we are going to start making this an annual event. We had a lot of positive feedback so far, lots we can improve on. I think for our time out we had a lot of great speakers and great work groups. We had five work groups in the afternoons, I know we met with the War Council and the SVC so you didn't get to sit in on all of those work groups. What we are going to do is send you out the notes so that you have an idea of what those work groups talked about. We are going to make sure we continue through the GACVS to continue those discussions, so that next year when we meet we can actually talk about what we have accomplished over the year together as a Commonwealth and a group to figure out how we can make impacts. That was a really nice thing. I had the chance to go up to Wilkes Barre and meet with their Director of their hospital. We are getting out to all the hospitals to visit the Directors. A lot of things going on up there right now. The Veterans, the VSO's are out back at the Wilkes Barre hospital. They are not in the building. We are trying to find a location. We have identified a place where maybe the VSO's can actually be in the building in the facility which makes it easier for Veterans who want to do a claim and benefit while they are there for their health care. So they are really open to that. They are doing a high expansion in Williamsport and in Allentown on their VA centers there and they are going to make sure that we have room to put VSO's in those facilities as well. So more to follow on that as we work through but as

we keep building these relationships with the Directors, we are going to keep asking for more space and like Vet Centers so Veterans have a place to come and do claims and benefits and talk to folks. So that is just something we need to encourage them to do. You know we are trying to build a Regional Vet Center at Fort Indian Town Gap up near Lickdale Elementary that is coming along. It is not happening as quick as it is coming but we are estimating probably April 25 is when we can move in there. We will have spaces for VSOs, the Army Guard will have their deer rapids, their 214 so when people come in, and it's a true one stop shop to be able to get everything you need. If we can get the VA health care to come in and have someone there at least to refer them or sign them up for VA health care, that is the goal. PACT ACT is still everyone's priority. It has to be all of your priority. We go out and talk every time besides people not knowing we have six nursing homes, they still don't understand how PACT ACT impacts their lives and what they need to know. There is a lot of folks who still don't take advantage of the VA health care. So we want to keep encouraging Veterans to sign up for their benefits and take advantage of the VA health care. So we just have to keep hitting that. So when you have your Veteran events and you have your speeches and you get together please ask people the questions if they have signed up for benefits and please encourage them. I know we get together the Bloomsburg fair and all the events and my teams are out there with you but we need to keep really pushing people to get their claims and benefits and that brings a lot of Federal dollars to Pennsylvania. Last year we were number eight and the benefits coming back to Pennsylvania, fourth largest population of Veterans. So the numbers just don't add up, which means we are not reaching everybody. So we need to be able to do that. Other than that, I think tomorrow you are going to get more information from Keith and Travis, more about some of the programs and initiatives they are working. Anything for me? You guys are easy today.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** "Together we serve" the new digest is that out? It was announced that it was going to come out September 30<sup>th</sup> and I have not been able to find it.

**Brig. Gen. (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General, VA:** It has and I will make sure you all get that it did come out. It looks like it was a really good edition. I got it through the regular channels on the registry. I got the regular email and opened the link up. So Rich I will make sure you get a copy of that. It kind of was just a new face and look. I think it is going to be a nice digest. Angela Watson our Coms Director is taking that over so I will make sure you get that link. It should have come to you just like the old one did. I will send it right to you Rich.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Just as a follow up if you go to the website the old DMVA digest from October 23 is still there.

**Brig. Gen. (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General, VA:** Thank you. I will make sure we tell Angela. We will get that fixed. Thank you sir.

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** I was doing my Legislative report and I made a note as far as disabled Veterans payment exclusion which went into effect in August and I looked on the DMVA website and I did find under the Disabled Veterans real estate tax exemption that there is a big notice that state law changed, but I did not see it anywhere else. So that is something we need to get out as well. I know for the DMVA you are one of the main movers of information.

**Brig. Gen. (PA) Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General, VA:** Absolutely good point. We will make sure that get out. Okay thank you.

**Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee:** Couple things it has been a busy past month. On September 4, Senator Mastriano led a roundtable discussion on the prevention of Veteran suicide. Appreciate the Departments involvement with that as well as Department of Health talking about 988, a couple other

community organizations were involved. Had a great discussion on that front. Mark Bayliss from State Veterans Commission was also involved. We will continue those, hopefully in the coming year, continuing conversations on that front and if there is any suggestions, ideas, continue to bring those to our attention. On September 17<sup>th</sup> our committee moved out Senate Bill 1316, that is the Global War on Terror Bonus. I know it is important to a number of the organizations, as well as the organization at large here and came out of Senate Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee, unanimous vote, if you are not tuned into the specifics of it, overall would float a \$50 million bond. It would have to be approved by the voters, ultimately if you were in theater connoted by the medals that you received during the war, you would get \$1,000 bonus. If you are out of theater you would be eligible for \$500 bonus. One of the caveats with this legislation is not just the department help, you know running the program, but the Veteran Service Organizations would also have a role to play as well. So again, bringing everybody into the Veterans registry VET Connect, have it all linked from there, right now the Bill is in Senate Appropriations Committee and if it is indeed a priority of yours, now is the time to reach out to our leadership on that front, Senator Mastriano, who teamed up with Senator Baker, Senator Pennycuick, Senator Aument the prime sponsorship of this Legislation. It is a priority of this to try to get passed at least passed in the Senate this with a few remaining session days left. But if it is a priority of yours, now is the time to reach out to our leadership on that front. October 1, as you heard from General Weigl, General Schindler, obviously retired, General Pippy has been nominated. I call him Senator Pippy so it's going to be hard to change that from my mindset but Senator Mastriano is the Chairman of the Committee, has called him up the other day and welcomed him aboard, looking forward to working with him in that relationship. We had a great relationship with General Schindler. Thank him for his service and the Department service overall working with us this last year. There is really not enough session days left in this session to get General Pippy confirmed but we are looking forward to taking that up as soon as this new session comes into play. Coming up here we are in session next week. Mike Hillman is here. Good news about one of our Bills on Vietnam Veteran Day looking forward to that but last minute notice on Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 Senator Mastriano was holding another operation, Enduring Freedom Service over at 11:30 at Soldiers Grove and if any of your organizations would like to come join us for that I will put some of this in writing so you can officially have it. Again, it's Monday 11:30 Soldiers Grove, short service here on remembering and honoring Operation Enduring Freedom, which we believe is important otherwise, we are closing out on this session. You have Mike Hillman here as well we have Senator Mastriano, chairs that Senate Veterans various Committee Mike's boss, Chairman Jared Solomon. We have worked well together. We believe this session, a number of Bills we have gotten signed into law. You talked about Senate Bill 126 we are pleased that we got that across the goal line. A number of other things are in the midst here and we will see what we can get accomplished with the final days of this session. It has been great working with them. I've said it privately. I will say it publicly here as well and we will continue to see what we can get done here within waiting session days. I will be happy to answer any questions now or stick around here with Mike and answer any questions after he is done.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** You mentioned the number of session days. So if 1316 gets out of the Senate over to the House side, does that mean in reality we are going to have to restart the process again next Legislative session?

**Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee:** There is a very real possibility that I am focused on right now getting out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and get a full Senate vote, and if there session days there to be had that would be the time then to fully engage our house counterparts on that front. Right now, the goal is to you know for the first time we got a Bill introduced for the first time and simultaneously we got it out of Committee. We are hoping you know again the focus right now has to be getting out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and for a full Senate vote and you know if there room there fantastic. If there is not a runway to get things done this session, it's lined up much better position for the following session.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Okay so this is the trail balloon, this session.

**Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee:** Possibly again, everything in play for me right now and I keep talking with Mike about possibilities here and if there is runway you know is long fantastic. If the runway gets shortened out to this, you know a couple things get lopped off, but if we are able to get things done right now that is my mindset.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Okay. Thank you.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** Morning everyone. Good to see you all again. Nate, thank you so much for that. I think you covered a whole lot of what I would want to say first, thank you to General Schindler for his services. As Nate said it was great working with him through all that time. Look forward to working with General Pippy going forward. Had a chance to meet him, I think back in the last spring, early summer at one of our meetings and looking forward to that continued relationship. Since I think Kerry was probably here last to speak on our behalf. Since then I think we joined you all at VET CON. I unfortunately wasn't able to be there. I was on vacation that week, but hope to join you next week and at that even we were able to have a Committee meeting and push out some Bills including Senate Bill 933 from Senator Mastriano dealing with Veterans homes where we were able to restore the War Veterans Council role in that and Senate Bill 973 Senator Pennycuick Korea Valor Act House Bill 2417 which deals with renaming the Deputy Adjutant General Veterans Affairs to Executive Deputy Secretary. We put a lot of feedback on that and look forward to continuing that dialog as we move into the new session. Since then, we've also had a meeting without a few other meets and we have one coming up on Monday October 7 will be moving some Resolutions including Veterans Day in Pennsylvania. We have also moved VFW day in Pennsylvania. We are looking at Senate Bill I can't remember the number off the top of my head 1160 the permanent Vietnam War Veterans Day. Senator Mastriano were looking to move that on Monday as well. So as Nate indicated, there aren't very many session days left we have. The House has three this coming week, three at the end of October and then two after the election. As you might expect there is not a lot of appetite to pass Bills after the election is over. That is often looked poorly upon so that kind of shortens up our window what we have left and there is always a chance that some of those day get taken off the calendar, so we are hopeful that we can get some more things done before the end of the session, but we feel like we had a productive session, and especially built that relationship between the House and the Senate. You know we had changeover in the leadership in the House for the last session, so it was a new experience and I think we built a good base to go from if we are able to continue in those roles. So with that happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Any status on the redrafting of pension Bill for Paralyzed and Amputees and the Blinded Veterans the two pensions? You had mentioned that the House was going to produce a new Bill on that. Any status on the drafting of it. I don't see it passing this Legislative session but to have something at the beginning of the next Legislative session.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** Sure Rich that will be a very easy redraft. We just haven't engaged with that yet because we recognize that the budget support was not there. We are hoping to, we hope that the Governor can propose a bit of a line item increase or that going into the next year, and then we will be able to move a Bill that matches, you know it hasn't been raised since 1999 there has been significant inflation since then and I think that it is \$150 now would have doubled that by now to about \$300 so we hope that we can tackle that in the new year. Obviously if we are doubling the benefit we have to double the line item. So that takes engagement from the House, the Senate and the Governor's office as well. So you know we have repeated that request through DMVA hoping to raise that up to the Governor's office and be able to hit the ground running next time.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Could there be some discussion in the House? You know that is the source of the appropriations. They can initiate themselves as well. Can we have that discussion and not necessarily wait on DMVA. It be nice if DMVA also raises but you know both sides working together to raise it would expedite the process, if you are following what I am trying to say here.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** Sure Rich you know from my perspective the way that works for me as I raise it as one of the stakeholders priorities that you have all shared with me and also what you know we have experienced in our time at the staff level, knowing what are important and what needs to be handled now. So I run that up the chain to my leadership, including appropriations chairman and then that helps shape the proposal that we are able to put together and put forth in the House. So I will be raising that again at the start of the session and keep engaging on that throughout the process.

**Sister Mary Matthias (CWV):** Regarding House Resolution 548 PN 3702 is it possible to get the wording changed to awareness week rather than survivor's week? This is Military sexual trauma awareness and survival.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** Could you restate it so that I can make sure that I take that back?

**Sister Mary Matthias (CWV):** The title that they have under here is military sexual trauma survivor's week. Can we check and get that survivors changed to awareness?

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** I will go back and speak with this prime sponsor and we will see what we can do with that. So the complication now unfortunately as I said with the days that are left, if we amend a Resolution in committee it bumps everything back a day. So we want to make sure we get it over the finish line. So that could be the only complication but understood.

**Sister Mary Matthias (CWV):** As one of the survivors and what we went through at the time that just doesn't sit well.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** Thank you so much for that. Any other questions? Thank you all.

**John Fritz (President):** We have some guests. I would like to introduce Colonel Joe Morris retired USMC. Welcome Sir.

**Colonel Joe Morris Director of Veteran and Fraternal Relations:** How is everybody doing? So Commanders, General thank you. It is an honor to be here. I am a former Commander myself as you mentioned Marine Corps Colonel I had the great opportunity to lead one of the most lethal task forces and actually the most lethal task force when I was there towards the end. So doing that Lord's work I am out here helping you all do the Lord's work. Not some much dots on foreheads now as it is helping people like you mentioned earlier and what we do is we are in just about every state in the Union currently. You all from the VFW and the Legion you are familiar with paper pull tabs, and we all know that this the fuel that keeps the engine of the Veterans organizations going. What we are going to talk about today is the old analog version here and then the digital version which is where this is going. So I saw there was some confusion in last month's minutes about who we are, what we do. We are already here. 80% of your paper comes from Aero International and by the way I am not here to sell you on my company. I am here to sell you on the idea of increasing charitable gaming revenues in the state of Pennsylvania to help out these organizations that you

currently help out. So with that being said let me make sure I am the right way. One of the first slides can be me introducing myself go through it real quick 41 years in the Marine Corps I was at every level from tactical to strategic I finished up my strategic level several years at PACOM as a Jock Operations Center Director so work cross function with all the services and of course I spent a lot of time overseas which is why I am a VFW member. My first operations attained document El Dorado Canyon decision 1985/1986 and then last someone mentioned Enduring Freedom gun time there as well as Iraqi Freedom as well. Anyways if we could just go forward. We are talking about the company we have been around since 1967 we were started by a World War II Veteran. Started out initially the local Catholic Church couldn't get bingo paper so they thought oh well lets go start with some bingo paper and that has led now into a business. Now we have got a million square foot under roof. The majority of what we do is paper. So I always hear oh my God the paper is going away. No the paper is not going away. If you want to keep the paper, keep the paper but we want to give you the opportunity to essentially double your fundraising capability which is what we have seen in other jurisdictions. Here is Jamie.

I want to join with Joe and thanking you for allowing us come speak today. As you say, I worked for 31 years with Pennsylvania State Police. He did a lot of different things with the department. One of the reasons I am here is I was originally brought in gaming to help with compliance but I've been working on a lot of these changes in the small game of chance act for the last 10 years of my employment, because believe it or not those of us that were tasked with regulating charitable gaming we realized how onerous and overly restrictive the regulations were and we would try every Legislative session we would put forth recommendations that really mirror a lot with what is in the Legislation we are going to talk about today. So in dealing with when I came along with Arrow and they realized what my position was and had been as an advocate for these changes, it's natural for me to be here trying to you know work with the organizations to get this passed. A lot of what I did when I was in the State Police dealt with the regulation of charitable gaming. So that is how I got that. 31 years, 21 years of charitable gaming and of course proudest thing is picture of my son at the bottom who is Lieutenant in Coast Guard, Commander of MSRT Direct Action Section and they deploy over in the Middle East every year with the task force. Joe used my Task Force. I didn't know about time that. That is pretty cool small world. The task force he used to oversee my son deploys over there. So when we talk about you know small games of chance in Pennsylvania. So current regulations we have a lot again they overly restrictive and somewhat onerous. We have relatively low prize payout because they constrain revenue. I am sure everyone's aware of that. Pull tabs are limited to paper only. When we look at other jurisdictions far more variety of pull tabs, available games, paper, and potential revenue is being lost in neighboring jurisdictions that have modernized. Ohio is modernized. They have the electronic pull tabs and relatively low percentage of the proceeds is actually earmarked to support the club operations or Post operations. Some of the amendments we have added to the Act to help fix that a little bit. You know there is still opportunity for change to really benefit the Posts. The House Bill like I said a lot of these provisions are things that I personally the people I used to work with have been advocating for years because again we saw the issues. The number one provision is to flip flop, the 60/40 you know 60% for operations 40% dedicated to charity which is much more in line with the other jurisdictions our neighboring states Virginia and Ohio. List of outdated restrictions on paper pull tabs like I said right now with paper all we can do is just a straight paper pull tab game. We don't have progressives, we don't have pick games. We don't have event games. I don't know if you know what all of those are but if you've played in other states you see those games. They are very popular and again the goal when it comes to gaming is just to bring in that revenue. There is also you want to provide entertainment for the members too make it entertaining. You know as they are helping with the revenue that supports the mission. Currently the prize limits are \$35,000 the Bill would increase them to \$150,000 and that is really critical for the next bullet point and that is the authorization of electronic pull tabs. So you know this is nothing new. It's a pull tab game but it is just in an electronic format, but the electronic pull tabs have a very high payout percentage. So to be able to operate those and make any profit you have a high payouts. Like I said they are going to be very entertaining for the players and they pay out a very high percentage. The current Bill authorizes up to 10 devices per location and that is dependent upon your



occupancy limits. If you have higher occupancy limits, the higher the number of devices and you know the devices that are available. Again Joe said we are not here to talk about Arrow or to sell Arrow, but Arrow we know Arrow, so we are going to talk about what we know. They have tablets that Joe I think he held one up. They run anywhere from a tablet to a full size cabinet that is about seven feet tall. There is a cabinet, a tabletop, a tablet and then full size device. I know in speaking with Spike that was one of his concerns, and rightfully so that a lot of Post are small and wouldn't have room for the large cabinets. The Bill would amend the statute in a way that the new devices if you will, the electronic pull tabs would operate in the current regulatory framework which is there is no taxes. You know they are regulated, they would jump right in and fit into the same framework not an expansion of gaming that is very important. That is why we talk about modernization and that is the key word that we want to use because we are not asking the General Assembly to expand gaming just modernize what has already been legal since, ladies the other thing that is really important here is if there is legislation pending with the skills. That is going to be a gaming license which is going to be potentially a \$200,000 license a new license. With this there is no license. The other thing about this these cabinets we are talking about they are all free. They are all free. You are going to ask well why they are free. They are free because from a business case perspective we got a million square foot under the roof. What do you think about that 90 million square foot is? It is paper. So it is in our best interest to keep costs down too. So that is why this is such a good deal for the Veterans organizations and also for us. So we are here to enable charities and we think we've seen this in several other jurisdictions. We are going to talk about that more. One other issue, we've spoken to various other Veterans groups and just a couple weeks ago I was at a convention in a very small Post well, they didn't even have the funds to pay for pull tabs deals to upfront money to get the deal so that they could play them and generate money. The nice thing about the electronics is there are no upfront costs. The deals don't cost anything. The deals are automatically downloaded into the devices from the cloud. So there is a lot of advantages here for big and small Posts alike and it is like I said, it's nice for us to be able to come out, because we believe in 100% so it is easy for us to come out. It's nice to get the opportunity to talk to you, but the Bill will benefit Penn State's charities, specifically the modernization of pull tabs will be one of the biggest benefits of all and drivers of increased income. The modernization will lead to increase revenue, improved operational efficiency and a more engaging gaming experience for patrons and it is critical that we realize the same benefits that other states have. Like it was, you know, I was working in our little corner of the world here for years and I had some exposure to what was going on in other jurisdictions but since I retired, and I've been working mostly in compliance issues all over the country, and I saw the benefits that all these other states had that we didn't know, when I look at Virginia and I go down and I see the revenue that is coming into some of the Veteran service clubs down there, I was just blown away and then I was further just astonished by what they were doing in their communities with you know four or five times what they were making prior to the modernization. It really opened my eyes to say hey we are so far behind. We really need to get ahead of this. So VSO's and jurisdictions that have authorized electronic pull tabs of marketable increases. Once struggling clubs are not thriving and I mean that, clubs that were on the verge of going under are now thriving and providing 10s of 1000s of dollars on a monthly basis to their communities and to support their Veteran service mission, the Veterans and communities that are direct recipients and organizations that have embraced the electronics again the paper is still there, but the electronics they are getting increased profit with less work. Joe will talk about a little bit more about how much simpler it is to regulate, oversee the electronic gaming when compared to the paper what we seen is the electronic is additive. If you are doing X amount of dollars in paper and you chose to sustain you want to keep supporting the paper at a post the electronics will add, but we will see in a chart later that you may see diminishing numbers in the paper but it is mostly a function of the Post wanting to try to get away from the paper because it is more difficult to do all of the regulatory record keeping. We are currently in these jurisdictions we are in North Dakota, Virginia, New Hampshire, Mississippi, New Mexico, Kentucky, Minnesota, Maryland and Ohio. So Pennsylvania is a little bit behind the power curve. Here we are working on five other jurisdictions right now. Pennsylvania is one of them. By the way if I go further Darcy are you here? Darcy Decostas our Vice President she is working currently with the Pennsylvania legislature. We got lobbyist and we've also got public relations firm too which we will talk more about. This is going to be

required all hands on deck to make this happen to benefit the communities. I have to say what we talked about we talked about you. We are the last mile to the community. This is where the community stops. Municipal taxes stop. The property tax dollars aren't there. They can't buy fire trucks. You can buy the fire trucks now. You have Veterans that are homeless you can take care of that. Now the community's not going to do it but you can. There are gaps you fill in the gaps. Here is a bananas pull tab. It is games you are already familiar with. It is just now in electronic format. What is important about this, I just want to go through this, is there one column here. I know it's kind of an eye chart for everybody, but this one column shows paper pull tabs, features of benefits. This shows electronic pull tabs, features and benefits. There are three key items here to take away. The one thread that runs through all this is with electronics. You are taking away one thing. You are pulling the human out of the element. When you pull the human out of the equation what happens? There is no spillage, there is no leakage, there is no malign behaviors going on, and also it reduces or eliminates the Commanders burden. So all that administration to the state, we just took that rock out of the pack. The other thing here is the final thing on that is we are going to talk more about this as we go through this. This is all the cloud so the regulators can see it, your Commander can see it, and whoever the Commander wants to see it, who delegates it to and the Post about to be very careful about who you delegate that to. You can see this on your phone, you can see it on a laptop. You can see it on a desktop. So what happened to some of these other jurisdictions where this has occurred? Very interesting. We like to say you are going to double your revenues. What this slide is showing you here. This is the last year of paper only the light blue and then this red blue slide, or this red blue bar here is both paper and electronics. So you want to look oh wow Minnesota was less than \$200 million a year. Now Minnesota is up to \$600 million so if you look at it across all jurisdictions, to be conservative, we like to say you are in W money. So the couple 100 million dollars that you are making now in Pennsylvania's going to turn into \$400 million. \$400 million are going to do a lot of help for the community. It is going to help go a long ways to help the Veterans. The Veterans that are suffering out there and that is just very important. Some of this information is what we passed out earlier and one of things to point out there, Minnesota is much more mature market than say Ohio only modernize their statutes in 2022 so those numbers are probably going to increase as that market gets more mature. I would just add that Minnesota is an outlier as well, because in Minnesota, the charitable products are also available in bars and taverns. The beneficiaries are still the charities but they are available in a much more widespread way, the legislation that we are supporting here in Pennsylvania stays away from the tavern games portion of the small games of chance legislation and just focuses on play exclusively in your own property. So that is an important point we really need to stress. So I know here in Pennsylvania you see the ugly underbelly of gaming. When you go to a convenience market, you go to a gas station. We are not talking about that. We are talking just about the adventures organization just about the fragile organizations, Moose, Elks, and Eagles so we are absolutely against the proliferation of those other games. So this is what we saw on average in Ohio. This is really interesting for you to see. So 200 Posts in Ohio, 538 man total gross receipts, anyways all the way to the end. I am not going to give you the whole math lesson here, but it end up being \$234,000 or a quarter million dollars per Post. There is going to be some that are bigger they are going to do better and some are smaller and do so good. The additive average was quarter million dollars. Benefits we talked about all this, the cloud, we talked about a little bit about this all going up in the cloud. We've got something called Max Fusion. The other vendors have the same thing, or something similar. It is going to simplify your record keeping regulatory reporting. Everything is going to be real time and if you want to look at a past period of time you can do that as well. We believe the more regulated this industry is, the better off it's going to be for everybody, the less regulated this industry is the better off it's going to be for everybody, less regulation to see what happened here in Pennsylvania. Here is a testimonial from Dick Zolt's he is a quartermaster in Bowling Green Ohio. Their annual net earnings have risen to \$250,000.00 one thing this slide doesn't tell you but I know because I talked to him. I got this testimony from him. He had mortgaged his own home to keep the Post going. They had zero in the general fund, zero and now they are thriving. They got \$200,000 in the general fund. This is Jerry Wilson he is the former State Commander for the State of Ohio, National Vice Commander from The American Legion. His Post used to struggle to raise \$15,000 now they have \$100,000 to support critical organization, the community monthly. This is a place up in Minnesota, Al Lund he actually

ran general gaming at his Post. They were once donating \$7000 a month. Now they are donating \$16,000 per month. Food insecurity, youth activities it is all the things we talk about. One thing that is critical that you know we get the support of the Legion and VFW the Veteran Service Organizations because that is what is going to get this Bill across the finish line, and that is why we really like to partner with all of you. In order to help do that, we've created an advocacy toll that you can engage with it. You put your information into the tool it identifies who you're State Representative, your State Senator and it will send out four emails to those two individuals and to the relevant Committee Chairs supporting the Bill. Because one of the things that you know, you hear whenever you are obvious working on Legislation, if it's so good for the Veterans, and why haven't we heard from the Veterans? So we are trying to facilitate that. So we have to work with you to get that tool out, various ways to do that, and it's been very effective in some other things. Let me just talk a little bit now. So we actually were working very closely with the VFW in New York, working very closely with VFW nationally but what we like to do is we like to give the organizations and make sure the message is your message as well. Right now, since there is this organization, since there is so many different organizations you may not get 100% of what you want, but we will do the best we can. You know first MOAA might want one thing, VFW might want another thing. Legion might want another thing, but overall we want the same thing. What is best for the Veterans? So we will work with you to tailor that messaging. In addition to that what we want to do is we do ultimately want to build a coalition. We are at the very early start of this right now. I just want this to be educational, informational today, but what we will do is we will have a website build, we will have a weekly newsletter going out to the rank and file. We will have lunch and learns at the Legislature. We will have Legislative breakfast and we will have media days as well. So we are all in this and all we are asking is the voice of the Veteran be heard if you agree with making the world better for the Veterans here using these tools. I will just leave it now and just open it up for questions. You have my contact information there. If you do have some questions please feel free to reach out to me. 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)** – No report

**Legislative: Robert Gray (MOAA),** – Good morning, hopefully when we go out the sun will be out. I wore my palm trees to try to encourage it. In case you didn't get my late night email, there is a copy of the Legislative report on the desk. The main thing I wanted to go over was the three Bills that have been passed out of the House Committee this past week. The Senate Bill 1160 designates March 29 of each year as Vietnam War Veterans Day in Pennsylvania. House Resolution 544 designates November 11 as Veterans Day in Pennsylvania, and as previously discussed, House Resolution 548 designating the week of October 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> as Military Sexual Trauma Week.

**(Unknown):** Mr. Gray just a slight correction that meeting will be held on Monday.

**Legislative: Robert Gray (MOAA),** On Monday I knew it was soon. If I'd read my notes I would know that and so I just wanted to see if there is any discussion in reference to those Bills and possibly voting to support them from the Council, are there any questions on those Bills?

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** I agree with Sister Matthias her being a person or discussing in that title. I think the War Council should maybe see how that can get changed. I don't want to stop it. I don't know if it can be changed after it is passed. I don't know how that works.

**Robert Gray (MOAA)**, Mike Hillman had stated before it would take an amendment and we don't want to stop it.

**Michael Hillman, Executive Director Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep Committee:** I would advise that I think that you would be safe to recommend with an amendment I think we can get that done.

**Robert Gray (MOAA)**, House Resolution 548 we would support with the recommendation to amend the title to be Sexual Trauma Awareness and reading over the Bill. You think as far as women Veterans being harassed on duty, but the men are as well. There is quite a fair number of men that have gone through that same problem for one reason or another. Well, I am bring the motion as far as to vote to support those pieces of Legislation. Jerry Hawk AMVETS seconded.

**Jerry Hawk (AMVETS):** Seconded

**John Fritz (President):** We have a motion. Do we have any questions on the motion? All those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** I will do a letter sending out that we support those Bills in the suggestion of the amendment for House Resolution 548, the rest of the report is kind of a just going over things that we have accomplished, as far as the Disabled Veteran Real Estate or Disabled Veteran payment exclusion and as far as a comment to make sure you get that in your state and Post newsletters and websites, is letting Veterans know that any program they replied to previously, they really need to reapply. There is as pointed out on the DMVA website, this law is not retroactive. Everyone will have to reapply or apply to get these benefits, especially Veterans that may have applied for the pay space that programs as far as getting help with prescription drugs, also the people with the rent rebate, tax rebates that may qualify now, so those type of things eventually when that time comes to again, I am sure the Representatives will have that on their website as well. The Senate Bill 1316 Global War on Terrorism Bonus has passed the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and that was broadcasted, and I was able to watch that way and I thank the Veterans organizations that were able to show up and give visible support that morning, when they voted that out of Committee into the House or into the Senate, increased amount of Blind, Amputee pension they are working on that we heard Mike say this morning, that will wind up being in the next session and kind of front load, the amount protection against claim sharks, that is something that said that they will be telling me. Protection against claims sharks they are working with Senator Pennycuick on that Bill to see if they can get that moving on the next session. Veterans Justice Project is that is kind of an ongoing process which has been working with some different people in with Supreme Court Justices to try to come up with an administrative process as far as trying to get what we want to happen in the courts. Senate Bill 933, establishment summons Advisory Board had passed the Senate and is now out of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and we were able to amend that Bill to include the War Veterans Council as recommendation authority for the candidates for the Veterans Home Advisory Council. Two other things were on here is House Resolution 404 urging Congress to support the Major Richard Star Act. One thing we discussed about in our Committee meeting was possibly petitioning the Senate to go in is have a joint resolution as far as supporting the Richard Star Act. It is kind of on the verge and it hasn't come up. It hasn't been put up for vote. There is tremendous support in Congress for it, and probably one thing is what they are looking at the price tag. There has been continual movement through the spring and summer in DC with the Legislators to try to get this to move. Another Bill is House Bill 2578 extending the review period for disabled Veterans, real estate tax exemption that was recently introduced where they are looking at extending the five year review period, where the DMVA looks at all their cases and then does a review, and they are suggesting that it be moved to 10 years because they have to report everything, update everything they reported five years ago. So that is something was just introduced and I just wanted to mention that. The other part last month we mentioned as far as the Legislative of Committee issues for this next year, the four that we have or the current area War bonus, which we have some moving on

disabled Veterans, real estate tax exemption expansion. The House did move an amendment Mike that did get passed out of Committee as far as adding now MIA. So at least that is laying there that may have to be reintroduced in the new session, but at least we have that moving. Veterans transportation network proper maintenance that we are working with VA who is also in the process of looking across the network at all the hospitals and their organic assets they have where they hire drivers to run the vans and busses as well as one other asset they have, from Veterans transportation network and local community and government, and so they are trying to get a lasso around all that to find out what they actually have and if they need increases once that gets finalized, or this next year, we will be able to have some definite figures where we need to have vehicles, additional vehicles that we may be able to submit to the Legislature to get that line number increased so we can buy more than just a couple vehicles. DAV did get some one time funds from a trust they were able to purchase 12 vehicles and they are going to make sure those got to the high mileage hospitals that get those turned in, to get them off the road and put the new vehicles where they are going to be used, Veterans, justice, improvements except we have been working on that and the other thing we had asked if anyone had any additional issues to add to the ones that we had been working we originally had additional issues to that but we are trying to concentrate on those four. We are making progress on the more bonus and tax exemption expansion, there were suggestions in our Committee meeting as far as the claim shark bill would be something that would be advantage to all Veterans in the State and also the other was the Richard Star Act is making those possibly adding those to our goals for this next year, at least through the winter and spring. IS there any discussion on other items or on those items?

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** Are you going to mention the SDVA business?

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** You can mention that. That is why I was trying to call you this morning.

**Rich Hudzinski (VVA):** We had a discussion in the PWVC Committee about supporting the initiative from the DMVA on restructuring the office of Veterans Affairs. Those of you who attended the last State Veterans Commission heard Mark Ferraro the Deputy Executive Secretary gave a briefing on it a short briefing that they had this in mind and we believe we should be supporting that also. We want to look at in conjunction with that reforming the State Veterans Commission to bring it into the modern era. There are some reforms and changes. There are some duties that we have that we really don't administrate in that so on and so forth but out of that discussion came a proposal by one of the members, supported by the others, about looking at a resurfacing the State Department of Veterans Affairs issue. So we will be looking into that, making a proposal to the body to see if they are interested in pursuing that as a goal. Last time we looked into this issue and we are pursuing something was in 2020.

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** We will put something in writing together on that and get it sent out for a vote next meeting. So that way you have a chance to talk with your groups and determine if that is the way that you feel we want to go. Any other questions?

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** The website it is working and we are working with Kristen to get the current names of all the Commanders and what that evolved to under their current system is I have to give them full pages and then ship the full page and then they will pull the other one put the other one in because of the security hacks and everything else they were hacked twice and mainly the military related site. So now it is very limited that they have to do input and just send a whole page that we are changing for security and convenience for them. But once we get it straightened out as far as redoing the Bylaws and Committees, then we will get that hopefully by this next meeting so that will become an asset as far as knowing who is doing what to whom. Any other questions?

**Honor Guard: Constance Snavelly (KPV) –** No report

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** I am going to go ahead and bring up a couple appointments that I need to have approved and then we will go into further discussion with regards to the appointments because there is a slight change from the Governor's office that I was made alerted to over the summer months, but I didn't bring up at the meeting in September due to a lot of people not being there because of vet con. I am glad I waited, because there is a lot more people online which will help, I believe facilitate getting reappointments done. The Advisory Council nominations and reappointments for October 2024. Delaware Valley Veterans Home John Fritz, Commander of the American Legion request the appointment of Thomas Haney to fill the vacancy at that home and Soldiers and Sailors Home. John Fritz Commander of the American Legion request the appointment of Donald King Jr, to replace Harry Stewart who has resigned. This time I make a motion that these be approved.

**John Fritz (President):** We have a motion. Do we have any questions on the motion? Second Jerry Hawk (AMVETS) all those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** Over the summer months, Keith mentioned alerted me to the fact that the Governor's office has now kind of shifted gears with regards to people that have been appointed for a long time. Process for the Governor's office was you know as everyone knows here we had to have it approved by this body, including a bio then we send it to the DMVA they review it, and they send it up to the Governor's office again. It sits there for you know a month, six weeks, whatever it was they would look at it and then send another letter confirming the reappointment of the particular individual which kind of delayed the process of getting people reappointed. So they looked into it further and now they are going to go based on the premise is that once a person is appointed they will continue to be automatically reappointed for a lack of a better word, and basically go under the premise until a qualified successor is found. So all they are asking now is if somebody wants a reappointment we simply have to notify the DMVA, that this person wants to stay on and we don't need to go through the entire process anymore of getting a bio and all that. I believe we still have to have it approved by this body, just to make sure based on Title 51 but that makes life a lot simpler. Are there any questions on that? Okay sir.

**Lynn Johnson:** I had a question on the previous information if I may ask, I was trying to get unmuted. Did you state for the Delaware Valley Veterans Home the advisory council that you made an appointment on that if I understand I am the Veteran in the Veterans Advisory Council at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home?

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** It was for The American Legion not for DAV.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** I was bringing up the individuals from The American Legion that we have vacancies on to get those approved. So it was strictly only The American Legion.

**Lynn Johnson:** It was not Delaware Valley Veterans Home.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** It was Delaware Valley but again it was The American Legion only.

**Lynn Johnson:** Understand. Just important to me that is all. Thank you.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** So again some of these need to be reappointed and you will notice again, because of the change that the Governor's office made some of the them were automatically their terms were automatically extended for another three years based on the information that was already provided. So the following at this time need to be taken care of Delaware Valley Veterans Home Allen Abramson that one expired 11/1/23 from the Jewish War Veterans. The next one that needs to be taken care of there is an opening from the Marine Corps League and that one also expired on 11/1/23 the other one that we definitely looked at is Larry Holman from the Jewish War Veterans that one has been out since 11/1/22. There are three that are upcoming in November. So again based on the new process if we could just ask them if they are going to stay

on board then we can submit a reappointment as we get closer, which is Daniel J McCollum with the American Legion. Richard S Fine from the AMVETS and Benjamin Mastridge from the VFW. Any questions on Delaware Valley. Gino J Merli Veterans Center as you can see we are in really good shape there. The only one that we need to worry about and get taken care of there is a vacancy from the Blinded Veterans Association, and that is from April the 5<sup>th</sup> of 2023 any questions on Gino J Merli. Hollidaysburg is in pretty good shape as well. There is a couple that we need to get taken care of that is Henry Gaunt from AMVETS his term expires on May 16, 2024 and the last one is Timothy Susengill from VVA and that term expired May 16,2022. I will find out about that thank you Larry

**Larry Googins (VVA):** He is trying to decide whether he is going to retire or not.

**Wanda Grover (BVA):** Just to make it clear at the affair in September, I did release those seats for any organization that has someone available to recommend, because at this time I do not have a blinded Veteran that I able to get to either of those.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** I understand that but again it is still until that is changed it is still listed as the Blinded Veterans Association wanted, because that is where the appointment expired from. Any more questions on Hollidaysburg? Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home again we are looking pretty good other than the three that just recently expired, we already took care of Harry Stewart but the other two that need to be addressed are David R Price from Military Order of The Purple Heart that term expired 7/27/24, Raymond J Chambers Marine Corps League 7/27/24 and I missed one. We also have another vacancy and again Blinded Veterans Association. Any questions on Soldiers and Sailors Home? Southeastern Veterans Center again we got one here that one is Barry Amole Vietnam Veterans Association and that one is 1/9/22. The last one is Southwestern Veterans Center Rommel Dacanay Blinded Veterans Association that term expired 6/1/2020, R Michael Chuey Catholic War Veterans expired 6/1/23 and that one is waiting still for a good valid contact phone number. They have tried and have not been able to get one. So someone has an updated phone number or if someone has contact with him let us know.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** If I may different organizations, but Mr. Chuey is deceased.

**Troy Michaels (TAL):** Okay so I did not know that.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** I will remind the Commander to send you a letter on that.

**ACT 66: Robert Black** No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Robert Gray (MOAA):** I did mention under Bylaws the last meeting in the election of officers and was the trustee there were two nominated and accepted but there was still one vacancy.

**John Fritz (President):** There is still a vacancy in the trustees correct?

**(Unknown):** Correct there is still one vacancy.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** Mike will do it.

**Spike Gyger:** So I will nominate Mike.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** Mike Rang Catholic War Veterans, congratulations.

**John Fritz (President):** Any other nominations for trustee? Any other nominations? We have a motion to elect the nominee. Second all those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Motion carries. Congratulations again. Any other unfinished business?

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** So I have talked in several meeting about our lack of participation by the Jewish War Veterans. Did some research in the year 2022/2023 they had no representation at any meeting for the Pennsylvania War Council and did not pay their dues 2023/2024 they had one member Richard Fine, in November of 2023 meeting and that is it for the whole year? So one meeting in the last two years they have been in arrears in dues for at least three years probably more, probably more than the three years. So according to our Constitution and Bylaws they were suspended in the first year. They have been suspended for the last two years. I have reached out to them. Kristen has reached out to them we have gotten no response. So I would like to make a motion that we remove the Jewish War Veterans from the Pennsylvania War Council. There is an avenue that they can be reinstated. David Gyger (VFW) seconds the motion.

**John Fritz (President):** We have a motion. We have a second on that removal. Any questions on the motion?

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** Once you remove them does that take them off of these because of the gentleman that is online. I was just curious.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** Gentleman. Lou Johnson I thought he was with Jewish War Veterans. They haven't been around for three years now.

**John Fritz (President):** Any other questions? All those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? So carried any other unfinished business.

**Gerald Hawk (AMVETS):** I guess a letter will go out to them. I would suggest one copy get sent registered so we send that out then someone will have to sign for it.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** We have been trying to get a hold of an address. I am going to send it to the people we have addresses for.

**Gerald Hawk (AMVETS):** Even if we send it that way and it comes back at least we know we tried.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** I even went to the Jewish War Veterans website and saw the Pennsylvania leadership there is a new person that we don't have his name. I will send one to him.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** Woody I will see you afterwards. I have a good address and phone number for Mr. Fine. I will see you afterwards.

**John Fritz (President):** Thank you. Any other unfinished business? None heard moving to New Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** I have two. Let's do the first one. So John does a fantastic job of doing the finance reports and giving us a status of funds and stuff like that. Some other organizations that I am involved with, we recently purchased a CD. So instead of getting 17 cents we now get a couple \$100 back for an eight month or one year CD. I'd like to make a motion that the Treasurer investigates the possibility of purchasing a CD at one of the highest rates possible so that the interest instead of 17 cents, could be maybe a couple \$100 for an eight month or one year period.



**John Fritz (President):** We have a motion by Nick Taylor, we have a second? Barb Loncar (VFW) seconds. Do we have any questions on the motion? All those in favor say Aye? Aye. Opposed? Motion carried.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** Question Mr. President I was asked to bring this up at Vetcon last month we did have concurrent meetings you know during the activity for the War Veterans Council and the State Veterans Commission and for the commission bring it up tomorrow but I'd like to recommend that depending on the dates that we for Vetcon next year in 2025 that we have that Pennsylvania War Veterans Council meeting at Vetcon, wherever the location is determined to be.

**John Fritz (President):** We have a motion. David Gyger (VFW) seconds the motion. Any question on the motion? All those in favor.

**(Unknown):** Wouldn't know where it is going to be affect our judgement.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** No because of the capability to use you know Zoom or Google or something like that. People can participate virtually if they want to. So I don't know that would have a detrimental effect on one participation.

**(Unknown):** If we put a provision in that they set up virtually properly. I have no problem with that recommendation.

**Nick Taylor (MOAA):** It was done last year and that was pre coordinated and you know I would ask the DMVA that they would do the same. Because you know just like we do right now, we heard the War Veterans Council we have the Veterans Commission meeting and I believe that will be the same for next year.

**John Fritz (President):** Any more questions on that? All those in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Motion carried. Anything else for New Business?

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** So just an administrative note. The following organizations still have not turned in their Delegate and Alternate sheets for this current sitting War Council year. They would be Blinded Veterans Association, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans, PA County Director of Veterans Affairs and that is it. So if you could please help us out and help you out by letting us know who your leadership is and filling out the form. I would appreciate it.

**Wanda Grover (BVA):** I just did that. Does it have to be done every year? Can I please have someone send me another form? I only did it just before the September meeting.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** We will check into that one. I will get with Kristen to email you a form.

**John Fritz (President):** Any other new business? None being heard. We will move into correspondence.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** I am excited to share it with you, the closed invitation to the Annual Veterans Appreciation breakfast which is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 from 8am to 10am at the Carlisle Expo Center. The purpose of the breakfast is to honor our Veterans, it is also my goal to serve their needs by connecting them with helpful resources. I appreciate the word you do with and for our Veterans and would welcome your participation in the even as an informational exhibitor. Each exhibitor is asked to display

information regarding services and resources for Veterans. No solicitations are permitted. An 8x2.5' table and chairs will be provided; please bring your own tablecloth. Venue access will be available by 7am and tables must be set up prior to 7:45 am when doors open. To register as an exhibitor, please email Sarah Keller: [Skeller@pasen.gov](mailto:Skeller@pasen.gov) and call 717-582-2454 with any questions. This letter came from Senator Greg Rothman. I do have one little color flyer if you want to post it online, but Senator Rothman would request that we read that to the War Council.

## **REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION**

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** We just celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the VFW on September 29<sup>th</sup> and I was wondering the possibility of getting that day September 29<sup>th</sup> through the State as being VFW Day.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** September 29<sup>th</sup> you say. Are you wanting the War Council support?

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** Yes.

**Woody Hogan (Secretary):** You need to talk with Bob Gray.

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** I did not know how it works.

**John Fritz (President):** We probably could have done it under New Business.

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** I didn't know that if it was New Business or just find out.

**John Fritz (President):** You are going to talk to Bob?

**Barb Loncar (VFW):** I am going to talk to Bob.

**Phil Arnold (MOPH):** Just want to make the announcement that the Veterans' Day Service at the Fort Indian Town Gap Cemetery will be November 10<sup>th</sup> this year 2:00 and Military Order of the Purple Heart Pennsylvania is sponsoring it this year.

**(Unknown):** Mr. President I would like to give everybody a reminder that there will be a service for Pastor Rick on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at Hope United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg. Also the internment at the National Cemetery will be October 7 and please be there by 10:15 for anybody who can attend. Thank you.

**BENEDICTION:** Sister Mary Matthias (CWV)

**RETIREMENT OF COLORS:** Troy Michaels (TAL)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
James "Woody" Hogan, Secretary