



Middle Township Veteran's Advisory Board Agenda

Township Hall
33 Mechanic Street
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

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MEETING DATE/TIME: August 26, 2015 7:00pm Sharp
LOCATION: Township Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Maureen Harden-Lozier, Francey Burke, Ed Dillio, Joe Griffies, Burgess "Butch" Hamer, Bill Hawk, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Jr., Howard Trout, and Krystal Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION – concurrent with other Agenda items

No new contact information.

Francey Burke shared her accomplishment that was published in the Cape May County Herald of a check she and the Burke Motor Group presented to the DAV Chapter 44 on behalf of the proceeds collected at the Burke Motor Group Inaugural Car and Motor Show held on July 11, 2015. Over 1,000 people attended the event that showcased 200 cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER:

Ginny Tomlin was unable to attend this month's meeting and is scheduled to attend next month's meeting on September 23, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Beau Weisman:

- *Editor and publisher of the online newspaper, the Cape May County Digest, which provides news and opinions not only in South Jersey but on regional and national matters as well.*
- *Has over 40 years of experience in collecting information for the news.*
- *Focuses a lot of his time and attention writing about seniors and veterans and stated that they make up the majority of the residents in Cape May County.*
- *Had the pleasure of speaking to the Director of the Veterans' Bureau of Cape May County, Virginia Tomlin.*
- *Elaborated on the benefits of property tax deduction available to seniors, veterans, and surviving spouses of veterans.*
- *Last day to apply for property tax deductions is October 15th.*

- *Has come to the conclusion that there is pressure coming from the higher ups to conceal information about property tax deductions due to a past experience of being denied any material on the topic by Middle Township's Business Administrator and the Tax Assessor and claims his calls were never returned.*
- *Believes that people are not aware of the extent of the services available to them as a result of information being withheld from the public.*
- *"The State has to approve every budget in New Jersey."*

Francey Burke:

- *How does the property tax deduction program work?*

Beau Weisman:

- *Persons who qualify receive a \$250.00 discount off their property taxes.*
- *It is the responsibility of the Tax Assessor or the Tax Collector in Middle Township to distribute information on the program.*

Burgess "Butch" Hamer:

- *Would it be possible to include information about our organization in paper?*
- *How far does the information featured in the electronic paper reach?*

Beau Weisman:

- *Loads of information.*
- *Enough crimes, scams and national tragedies to keep paper going.*
- *The majority of people targeted are seniors.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Is there a specific form aimed at filing for property tax deductions?*

Beau Weisman:

- *Applications can usually be found on the township's website under the Tax Collector's department or the Tax Assessor's.*
- *Claims Atlantic City has no information regarding property tax deduction on their municipality's website.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Is a DD214 required for a veteran to apply for property tax deductions?*

Beau Weisman:

- *Yes, a DD214 is required or something of the equivalence.*
- *They also require identification such as a driver's license and proof of property ownership.*

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES - OLD BUSINESS:

Update on American Legion Post #198 – any new information

Ed Dillio:

- *Project is being postponed until December.*
- *Planning on writing proposal sometime in September or October.*

Follow-up regarding Rita Fulginiti's response to North Wildwood handicapped accessible parking

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Reviewed Rita Fulginiti's response to Fred's question from the previous month's meeting concerning handicapped parking in North Wildwood.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Plans to meet with North Wildwood's Mayor in the future to clarify the rules of handicapped parking in their municipality.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Cited an article she had read recently on handicapped persons and how certain disabilities are hidden diseases and not so easily noticeable.*
- *Also cited a video she viewed on the VA's website concerning a veteran on hospice and his dying wish being for Navy sailors to visit and salute him. She found the story to be heartwarming.*

Follow up regarding Sea Isle Beaches/Veteran's tags

The board has agreed to purchase name tags for the members to wear when attending events such as the Harvest Fest coming up in October.

Discuss National Night Out – Banner/Pamphlet

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *A successful event with four people interested in finding out how to register for benefits available to them leaving their contact information.*
- *The majority of the individuals being widows of veterans.*

Plans for Harvest Festival

Maureen passed around a sign-up sheet for members who are interested in helping at the Harvest Fest to list their name and time available.

Discuss means of advertising at churches/assisted living/colleges

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Schedule a date and time with activity coordinators of nursing home facilities for the board to visit and speak of the benefits available.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Host a Meet & Greet.*
- *Distribute the pamphlets Maureen created to elementary school kids to pass along onto their parents and grandparents.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Distributing pamphlets to elementary school kids would be a matter the School Board would have to vote on for approval.*

Burgess "Butch" Hamer:

- *Target a person per month and focus on helping that individual.*

Establish FIRST Veteran's Advisory Board project

Members are responsible for collecting information they deem necessary be shared on the Veterans Advisory Board's link on the township website.

Any other unfinished Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss article Krystel forwarded via email – Homeless Vets

- *It was motivating for the board to learn of other municipalities that are also contributing towards enhancing life for veterans in their area and how they are doing so.*
- *Could be a potential project in the future.*

Getting link onto Middle's Website for Veterans Board

In the process of being generated.

Contact other Veterans organizations to attend meetings

- Other New Business:

Next meeting to be held on September 23, 2015 at 7:00pm Township Hall, second floor Conference Room.

QUESTIONS: N/A

ADJOURN: 8:37pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman