



Middle Township Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

Township Hall

33 Mechanic Street

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

E-Mail: Chairperson - mahardenlozier@aol.com

Phone: 609-602-9946 Fax: 609-536-2617

MEETING DATE/TIME: February 24, 2016, 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 2st Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER - Welcome

ROLL Call

Members Present:

Maureen Harden-Lozier, Nicholas Anzelone, Ed Dillio, Joe Griffies, Burgess "Butch" Hamer, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Jr., Howard Trout, and Krystel Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – Nicholas Anzelone

- *Gave brief biography.*
- *Grew up in Middle Township.*
- *Worked for his father from fourteen to eighteen years of age.*
- *Went to Middle Township High School.*
- *Joined the Marines at the age of eighteen.*
- *Deployed for Afghanistan at age twenty-two.*
- *Was in Afghanistan for seven months.*
- *Worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator.*
- *Defined the best feeling he has ever experienced to be the time when he was welcomed home from deployment.*
- *Currently twenty-three years old and has been working for Anzelone Electric for the last year.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Are you enrolled with the Veteran's Administration?*

Nicholas Anzelone:

- *The process was so confusing I didn't continue pursuing the matter.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Enrollment is important, no matter how hard the process is, because individuals who fail to enroll will suffer in the future when health issues arise.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *This is an issue we have all experienced problems with.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Requested the rest of the group give a brief biography on themselves to Nicholas.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Senior Vice Commander of DAV Chapter #44.*
- *Was also a Marine.*
- *Served in Vietnam from 1967-68.*
- *In charge of transportation and the vans that transport veterans from Cape May County to Philadelphia's VA Hospital and Wilmington's VA medical centers.*
- *He also has a van that transports veterans to local medical appointments depending on the availability of private physicians.*
- *He also travels to Vineland, Northfield and the Clinics located in Cape May.*
- *Has a total of three vans, one is usually traveling to Philadelphia every day, one to Wilmington, and the third is basically on a "first come, first served" basis.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Knows Nicholas from High School, her place of work.*
- *Is familiar with his brothers and sisters.*
- *Was enrolled in the Airforce for about 22 years.*
- *Retired when she came home.*
- *Born and raised here.*
- *Has been a member of the Veterans Advisory Board since its creation.*
- *Also, a member of the Post #198 Legion.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Vietnam Veteran.*
- *Lives in Middle Township.*
- *Sits on many boards.*
- *Can assist in many areas of concern.*

Burgess "Butch" Hamer:

- *Retired Middle Township Police Officer.*
- *Police Officer within schools.*
- *Was enrolled in the Airforce.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Served in the Army from 1960-63.*
- *Member of the American Legion Post #198.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Thirty-three years in the Navy.*
- *Three of the thirty-three years were Active Duty at National Naval Medical center.*
- *Commanding Officer of Camp Lejeune reserve medical unit.*
- *Currently working for husband.*
- *Very pleased to have Nicholas join the board as she would like to see younger vets become more involved.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Not a Veteran but has interacted with older Veterans while working as a Certified Nurse's Aide before working for the Township.*

Howard Trout:

- *Active Duty four years in the Airforce.*
- *Worked for the Army for twenty-five years.*
- *Traveled all over the world.*
- *Twenty-five out of thirty years of service were spent overseas.*

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION – concurrent with other Agenda items

Ed Dillio's house number and street name was updated due to being excluded from the contact information sheet that is shared amongst the board members.

Nicholas' address and contact information was obtained by Maureen for the board members contact information sheet.

GUEST SPEAKER – Mayor Michael Clark and Deputy Mayor Jeffrey DeVico (invited)

Neither was able to attend. They are both welcome anytime.

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Individual objectives received

OLD BUSINESS

Fundraiser for DAV – Fins Sunday Socials

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Being held on February 28th.*
- *Event being held from 10:30am – 2:30pm.*
- *Sponsored by Burke Motor Group.*
- *Proceeds benefitting the Disabled American Veterans – Chapter 44.*

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Event being held on Saturday, March 12th from 9am – 11pm.*
- *Happening at the Thurston Elmer Wood American Legion Post #198.*
- *Sponsored by Post #198 and the Veterans Advisory Board.*
- *Light breakfast – coffee, donuts, fruit, etc.*
- *Free of charge.*
- *Purpose of holding the event is for members to get to know one another and express their ideas as well as concerns.*

Terms of Members and New Member – Reappointments – Potential Alterations to Memberships

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *There were four members whose terms came to a completion December 31st, 2015.*
- *They were all reappointed by the Governing Body.*
- *The contribution of two of those members' reappointed was discussed at previous meetings due to their consecutive absence at every meeting held.*
- *There are other people interested in holding a position on the board we would like to give an opportunity to.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Terms of current members are renewed at the end of every term until that individual member writes a letter resigning from their position.*
- *Only after a member resigns from their position can a new member be appointed to the board.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Was not aware of this information.*
- *Has sent the two board members with consecutive absences letters informing them of the board's decision on plan of action.*
- *Would like Howard to be appointed as a member instead of an alternate member due to his dependable attendance and willing participation.*

Fundraising – Update

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Shared the information she currently has on fundraising in a hand-out.*
- *Believes we are permitted to hold Games of Chance such as raffles and bingos, for example.*
- *Doesn't understand why the Veterans Advisory Board's future ability to fundraise would differ from the Animal Advisory Board's current ability to fundraise.*
- *Still has to clarify some issues with John Clifford, the Chief Financial Officer.*
- *Was told that the board's funds would be held with the township.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Mentioned that it cost him and his post \$1,500.00 this year to apply for a raffle license.*
- *Finds it to be expensive.*
- *Feels as if he was given a hard time to obtain a raffle license.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Believes that there is a one-time exception to holding one raffle or bingo per year as long as they are not held on a regular basis.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Thinks applying will make a difference being a volunteer board compared to a 401c3 or a 501c3 as stated in the hand-out..*

Joe Griffies:

- *Spoke to a couple representatives of other boards located within different municipalities and stated that they are budgeted through their townships.*

- *Those municipalities receive about \$5,000 a year and most of the time they don't spend all of it.*
- *To his understanding from the ordinance generated creating our board, our duty is to advise the Committee, hence Veterans "Advisory" Board.*
- *States that if the board was created to advise the Governing Body on projects deemed necessary for the well-being of veterans that the municipality should fund it.*

Contact other Veterans organizations to attend meetings

- AARP and Middle Township Senior Citizens Meetings in 2016
- DAV – 4th Sunday of the month – February 28th at 12 Noon
- VFW
- American Legion Posts
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- AARP - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Was not been able to attend any meetings held by other Veteran organizations yet.*
- *Will send an email to members regarding any meeting being attended by her in case if anyone would like to also attend.*

Brochure with Consolidated Veteran Information

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Fred sent a hand-out via email with an ample amount of valuable information regarding contacts for Veterans.*
- *Still has to finish typing the hand-out.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *The hand-out he sent is Lou Greene's list of contact information, a gentleman who sets a booth every weekend in Hamilton Mall and helps Veterans with issues they are experiencing.*
- *He accumulated all of this information based on the problems he came across.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Lou could be a possible candidate to attend one of our meetings.*

Burgess "Butch" Hamer:

- *Maybe Lou can attend the Veterans Appreciation Breakfast.*
- *There will be many veterans attending who need help and could use contact information.*

Any other unfinished Old Business

Fred Trasatti, Jr.

- *Informed the board of the law Governor Christie recently passed regarding Veterans with Special tags being exempt from having to pay at parking meters.*
- *Middle Township does not have parking meters.*
- *They are extending the law to make it mandatory throughout the whole State of New Jersey including North Wildwood, the municipality we were experiencing problems with regarding this topic in the past.*
- *This new law does not pertain to handicapped parking spots.*
- *A person must have a placard permitting them to park in a handicapped parking spot.*
- *Our problem in Cape May County is that not all Veterans are registered and the number of Veterans that are registered is not enough to be considered as a priority.*
- *File the first claim with the VA medical system because if any service related health problems occur in the future, for example a illness produced from time served, there will be record of the first claim.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Utilize Nicholas as an advocate to attract younger veterans.*

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestions for Guest Speakers

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Bob McGeehan – Fred’s service officer.*
- *Lou Greene.*

Other New Business

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Asked if the board would be doing anything for the Memorial Day parade.*
- *She and other members from the Legion had spoken about it at their meeting the night before and she highly agrees that the board should be incorporated into the parade held in Middle Township.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- *Might be able to involve his van in the parade.*
- *Try to show everyone that the van is available.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *We can walk in front of Fred’s van with the board’s banner.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Would like to involve members from the legion in the parade to represent who we are.*
- *Would also like to try and get a group from the coast guard base to participate in the parade.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Created multiple hand-outs of the board’s mission and individual board members objectives.*

- *The mission and the purpose were written by the township committee.*
- *Would like to perform a Retirement of the Flag ceremony on Veterans Day.*
- *Would be a great project to buy small cylinders and fill them with ashes from the flag for the members of girls' scouts and boys' scouts who attend the Retirement of the Flag.*
- *Would like to consolidate everyone's individual objectives into a list of the most important objectives to work on this year.*

Fred Trasatti, Jr.:

- Gave his background experience with the program Choice as he was not pleased.
- Spoke of two women who were reinstated into their positions after going to court and pleading the fifth multiple times concerning their knowledge on veteran records that were found unattended in the basement of their facility.

Next meeting date

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

QUESTIONS N/A

ADJOURN 8:29pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman