



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: November 16, 2016, 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Welcome

Roll Call

Members Present:

Maureen Harden-Lozier, Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone, Francey Burke, Ed Dillio, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Howard Trout, and Krystal Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

GUEST SPEAKER – Dan Lockwood

Dan Lockwood:

- *Shared fundraising idea for promoting Veterans Advisory Board.*
- *Big Timberlake Campground recently added a ropes course.*
- *They won't lend it out for free but they will do it for half the price.*
- *Usually goes for about \$20 an hour on the course; takes a person about that long to get through; they will do it for the board for \$10.*
- *Knows the advisory board does not raise money; bring in an organization that could benefit from the event; Boy Scouts.*
- *Will act as the liaison; has a few contacts from the Boy Scouts that work at the campground.*
- *Thinks money can be raised through corporate sponsorships; knows at least one person who would be interested in sponsoring from a corporate perspective.*
- *Does a lot of work with and for the corporation that owns the campground.*
- *Spring time event.*

Francey Burke:

- *Open to all abilities; ages?*

Dan Lockwood:

- *Yes, but probably better for the age range of a boy scout.*
- *Open to the public.*
- *Raising awareness.*
- *Boy scouts; military infrastructure.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Opportunity for younger veterans.*

Dan Lockwood:

- *Event is limited in the sense that it takes time to get through the course and only so many will be able to participate.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Reservation times; like the event at the county park.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Asked Dan how many would be able to go through the course.*

Dan Lockwood:

- *Not sure but could find out.*
- *Amount of persons restricted to some degree but could add activities; BBQ; jamboree.*

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Establish Board Objectives and Goals – 2016

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up – Questions and Comments Regarding September’s Meeting & Harvest Festival

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Reported overview of event held by the Genesis Court House Center.*
- *Presented veterans video: Veterans Nation.*
- *Gave out stars; flag star project.*
- *October meeting cancelled due to inclement weather*

Follow-Up – VA Mobile Van – Allyn / Ed / Krystel

Ed Dillio:

- *Good turn-out.*
- *Event was well planned.*
- *Place is up to date after renovations.*
- *Taken on a tour by Patty, the Director.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Pleasant staff.*
- *Offered the board their conference room to host a meeting if need be.*
- *They welcome workshops.*
- *Have at least ten veterans that attended that day.*
- *Genesis is contracted with the VA.*
- *Met a gentleman who was waiting on a room at the VA Center located in Vineland; Genesis offered the man help with his application to register; has opened an avenue for local veterans.*

- *Made application for herself with the Choice Program that day; registration took about forty minutes; awaiting ID card; was not a bad experience; received temporary card via mail within ten days of registering.*
- *Choice Program representative informed that they funnel paperwork to multiple VA locations that are less congested with paperwork; faster more efficient process.*
- *Connected with Philadelphia.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Questioned Allyn's primary physician through the VA.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Does not know; has not gotten to that point in the process yet.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Advises Allyn to go to Wilmington.*
- *Obama opened up a lot more avenues for veterans.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Eight weeks' notice in advance to schedule the van for an event; for future reference.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Advises Allyn to check into her primary care physician through the VA; if associated with Wilmington, location would be Coast Guard base.*
- *Anyone associated with Philadelphia would have to travel there.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Difference in clientele when comparing both locations.*
- *Provided Allyn with Wilmington's telephone number.*
- *People being assigned to Philadelphia is taking numbers away from Cape May County; that's another problem that our location has with the numbers and getting services provided to our area.*

Date for Veterans Forum – April 29, 2017 – 10:00am – 12:30pm

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Saturday at the Performing Arts Center at Middle Township's High School.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *No charge for the use of the facilities.*

Follow-Up – Terms of Members

Krystal Arana:

- *60% attendance in effect through the board's own decision; starting in the new year.*
- *In the process of amending resolution 204-15 appointing Howard from alternate member to member.*
- *Start looking for new members to fill vacant positions.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Suggested looking into original applicants.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Will look into original applicants and would like to open positions to new applicants as well.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Would like to see younger members; new kind of veteran.*

Homelessness of Veterans – Middle Township Initiative – Committeeman DeVico

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Will wait for Committeeman DeVico to approach her regarding topic when he is ready.*

Homelessness – American Legion Department Commanders Project – Community Hope – Hope for Veterans

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Up north; was spoken of in September meeting; mental health clinician available on site to help the homeless as well addicts.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *What is roll of the board?*
- *Is a shelter being built locally?*

Krystal Arana:

- *Middle Township will not be building a shelter for the homeless; stated at the committee meeting on November 7th.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *CVAC travels into the woods to find the homeless.*
- *Does not think that is a good idea in certain scenarios.*
- *The county doesn't even have a plan in place.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *That's the reason she wants to distribute info on program for homeless veterans who are interested.*
- *Open to anyone in the State of New Jersey.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *It's a start.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Closing topic.*

Suggestions to Improve Veteran Registration – Updates

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Stand-down in the township for registration purposes; designated Saturday; have County Clerk's office open.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Would like Rita's business cards to hand out to the veterans he drives; many are not registered.*
- *Collect the names and contact information of dentists and doctors who participate in the Choice Program; distribute information.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Model after local dentist's participation in Dentistry from the Heart program of opening up once a month / year and giving specific free services to veterans.*
- *Reach out to local doctors and dentists to see if they were willing to participate in something similar.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Marmora dentists hold a similar event for Veterans.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *The problem with that idea is that a lot of the time there are follow-up appointments needed.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Limited services; cleanings and small fillings.*
- *It's something.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Helps but not a solution.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *His event coming up soon; maybe the board can set up a table.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Ask the mayor for permission to have a stand-down; counties to have their offices open for registration.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Get the VA van.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Reminded Maureen to update the board regarding the hospital.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Letter she had written on behalf of the veterans, American Legion, requesting they have a listing identifying veterans so we could visit; HIPAA regulations does not allow for listing.
- Changed the admission packet to include a statement about veterans.
- If a veteran would like another veteran to visit them, the point of contact is Mike Vallone.

Ed Dillio:

- Visit with the veteran and give them a little star packet, find out if they need anything; run errands.
- Mike Vallone and I talking about getting them registered; obtaining their information.

Allyn Penkethman:

- Has forms from the persons who helped her to register.

Ed Dillio:

- Make packets to hand out with information regarding registering; someone wants to start similar program at shore memorial.

Veterans Returning from Deployment – Allyn – Update

Allyn Penkethman:

- Working on a list of deployed local veterans.
- Trying to build a database; schedule a parade to welcome them home.

Nick Anzelone:

- Friend who is deploying to Iraq in February.

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Would like to send him off in a memorable way.

Any Other Unfinished Old Business

VA Mobile Unit – Dates in future - Bill Hawk to keep Board Posted

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Bill not present to update; he will email the board when he obtains updated information.

Agenda for Forum

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Two-and-a-half-hour window.
- Envisions introductions; point of contact listed behind them on the screen so people can reach out to them if they want to; booths in lobby with additional information.

Allyn Penkethman:

- Too many guest speakers will bore them.

- *Need hand outs and things to distribute with information.*
- *Contacted practitioner with the van to attend event; they approve overtime as long as the staff is available; expose it / advertise; register people and talk about it.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Title of event is Veterans United Forum; thanked Nick for idea.*
- *Poster: "we want to help you".*
- *Reviewed handout regarding plan for event.*
- *Would like Bob Andrzejczak to attend; veteran.*
- *Does not want the event to become political.*
- *Would like the USAA Community Affairs Department or the Military Officers of America's Association to attend to show what they provide for the veterans; Bill reached out to them and they are available; a lot more services available from organization than even some veterans are aware of; would like handouts to be available in the lobby.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Refreshments?*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Not allowed in lobby.*

Howard Trout:

- *Could always ask businesses to participate and have something outside in the terrace.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Would prefer no distractions.*
- *Would like Rita Fulginiti to attend; Virginia Tomlin from the Cape May County Veterans Bureau.*
- *Have Fred do a brief on his transportation service.*
- *Boots to Business.*
- *Preferred clips of video: Veterans Nation.*
- *Francey on Stockton; point of contact to give brief speech on what services are offered for veterans at Stockton; for the students.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Wants forums offered more frequently in Cape May County.*
- *Lots of veterans at Stockton; G.I. Bill.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Spoke to the Department Commander from the American Legion about the Hope for the Veterans program at Community Hope; hoping mental health clinician will attend; video showing symptoms to look for; PTSD; who to contact; where one can go; help returning veterans.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Contact from the VA that can do something similar of that of the mental health clinician; Jim.*

- *Explained his services.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Red Cross information.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Reviewed speakers; speaking time availability; discussed VA van (whether or not to have); agenda.*

Fred Trasatti:

- *Advertise in Shoppe; Community Events section.*

Krystel Arana:

- *To advertise event on township website.*

The board brainstormed ideas of how to advertise event as a whole.

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *No confirmation of attendance from anyone yet; to work on that.*
- *To email Rita Fulginiti and Virginia Tomlin regarding their attending the event.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Would like slides containing information running in the background in correspondence to the speaker at the time; people can follow along with what the speaker is saying; help to keep people on track; people need a visual.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *To talk to the Legion to sponsor Dan Lockwood's idea.*

NEW BUSINESS

Any Other New Business

Next Meeting Date

CANCELLED

Wednesday, December 28, 2016 – due to holidays

Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

QUESTIONS N/A

ADJOURN 8:32pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman