



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: April 26, 2017, 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER – Welcome

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Maureen Harden-Lozier, Nicholas Anzelone, Allyn Penkethman, Stew Merrick, Howard Trout and Krystel Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

GUEST SPEAKER – None

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS – Introductions

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Establish Board Objectives and Goals – 2017

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up – Questions and Comments Regarding March's Meeting – None

Date for Veterans Forum – Postponed – Conflict with Schedule – Reschedule – Congressman LoBiondo's VA Event – April 29, 2017 – 1:00pm – ACCC – Cape May Court House

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Event being held from 1pm-4pm at Atlantic Cape Community College.*
- *Will be working the board's informational booth; asked for members to stop by if available.*
- *Congressman LoBiondo will be sharing new information concerning VA healthcare and its progress in Cape May County.*
- *Hoping to schedule board's forum event in the fall of 2017.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Looking at some time in November.*

Committee – Schedule Working Meetings

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Establish committee and begin planning at May's meeting.*

Establish Agenda for Veterans Forum – Working Document

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *The board can move forward with planning after event at ACCC.*
- *Would like to see how the event goes and gain ideas.*

Follow-Up – Invitations for Guest Speakers

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *To be further discussed when planning for event is in effect.*

Agent Orange Rally – Report

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Believes Fred, who is absent, was going to attend the rally; understands event was successful and well-attended.*
- *Parade started in Wildwood and went up the parkway.*
- *Gathered from her readings in Navy Medicine magazine, children and grandchildren that can still possibly be affected by agent orange are not covered by the VA.*

Howard Trout:

- *Believes anything genetically mutated by agent orange should be covered.*
- *Uphill battle just to get coverage for the effects of agent orange to begin with.*

Genesis Court House Center – Report

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Successful event; about six veteran residents attended.*
- *Obtained her ID card and registered with the VA along with Bill.*
- *Mentioned Bill's past difficulties registering through other avenues.*

Howard Trout:

- *Needs to register.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Took a tour of the van; very small quarters; broken up into about 3 sections.*
- *They will be getting a Winnebago and it is going to have more room; is not sure of the exact timeframe.*
- *Believes it is the best way to register.*

Howard Trout:

- *Some Winnebagos have extensions.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Asked Allyn if Patty knows when she will be holding the next event.*
- *Mentioned the van assisted 17 out of 23 veterans on one of their local visits.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Does not know when the next event will be held but Patty loves it when the board attends; certain Patty will reach out to the board with information when the next event is being held.*

Howard Trout:

- *Van staff enjoys what they do; it shows in their personalities.*
- *Thank you to those who attended his sister's memorial.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *The staff have very calm and peaceful mannerisms.*

Boots to Business – Report

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Event went well; 12 attendees who received certification.*
- *One-day conference that has an 8-week follow-up course that can be done online.*
- *Can provide future dates of event if anyone is interested.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Learned a lot that day.*

Homelessness Stand Down – Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – All Wars Memorial Building in Atlantic City – 10am-3:00pm

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Going to be held in unison with the American Legion; mentioned the probability of organization joining forces with a company from New York who is going to be supporting them.*
- *They will be able to provide assistance to veterans who have had tragedies occur; gave an example of a veteran's house that had recently burned down to the ground.*

Suggestions to Improve Veteran Registrations – Update

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Stated the most important factor is getting veterans enrolled in VA healthcare.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Was surprised she did not have to show DD214 form when registering.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Retired as a reservist; Reservists are now finally being recognized as veteran – however Reservists are not eligible for VA Healthcare unless they have submitted and been approved a disability claim.*
- *Considered a veteran only for the three years of active duty served.*

Howard Trout:

- *Several individuals enlisting from Middle Township's high school.*
- *End of the year newspaper recognizes everyone who has enlisted and where they will be going.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Would like to recognize those individuals.*

Various members agree basic training is changing; becoming more lenient.

Vets Returning from Deployments – Allyn – Update – NONE

VA Mobile Unit – Dates in future - Bill Hawk Will Keep Us Posted

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Bill absent; will update the board when he returns.*

Painting of Flag Pole at American Legion – Saturday, April 29th

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Welcomed anyone who is interested in attending.*
- *Event is due to Committeeman Donohue publicizing the need to restore flag pole on Facebook; attracted numerous volunteers.*

Howard Trout:

- *Will be attending.*
- *Believes a spotlight should be put in place.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Ed mentioned a light with a timer.*

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day Parade – Nick Grand Marshal

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Asked the board if anyone was interested in walking in the parade or participating in event, and if so, how.*
- *Allyn will introduce Nick as the Grand Marshal.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *There should be a group of members representing the board; exposure.*

Howard Trout:

- *Enough young people at the American Legion that could keep pace.*
- *All veteran organizations need to get more visible; the board as well as the American Legion.*
- *Will not be attending parade; has to work.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *will be in attendance.*
- *Would like to see the Coast Guard involved in affair.*
- *Make it a little more interesting each year; community oriented; involve scouts.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Described event in detail at Sunset Beach dedicated to veterans every night in the summer.*

Nick Anzelone:

- *Working on autobiography.*

Any Other New Business

The board members discussed holding a BBQ-type of event for veterans over the summer.

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Event can be held at the American Legion Post; Friday, July 7th.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *“Recruitment Activity/Membership Drive.”*

Howard Trout:

- *Spoke of lighting for the flag being restored.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Ed Dillio had mentioned a light with a timer.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Getting the shrubs trimmed around flagpole.*

Stew Merrick:

- *Suggested using solar powered lights; turns on when the sun goes down and turns off when the sun comes up or wired via conduit to the flagpole and on a timer.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Suggested holding a lowering the flag ceremony in the summer.*
- *Invite girl scout and boy scout groups to attend.*
- *Community oriented event.*

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 24, 2017.

QUESTIONS – NONE

ADJOURN 8:13pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman