



## Middle Township Veterans Advisory Board Minutes

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

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**MEETING DATE/TIME:** May 24, 2017, 7:00pm Sharp

**LOCATION:** Township Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Welcome

### Roll Call

#### Members Present:

*Maureen Harden-Lozier, Nicholas Anzelone, Ed Dillio, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Bill Hawk, 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 April's Meeting – None

**Date for Veterans Forum** – Saturday, November 4, 2017

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Has an idea of things she would like to consider from attending Congressman Lobiondo's veteran event at Atlantic Cape Community College.*
- *People were mostly interested in talking to individuals who could help with claims.*
- *Would like to incorporate a numbering system at the board's event in November.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Asked Maureen if she would like the van to make an appearance at the event.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *The van from Wilmington; they were at ACCC.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Will be responsible for reaching out the one responsible for scheduling the van for the Veterans Advisory Board's event in November.*
- *What time will the event be held?*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *10am-12:30pm.*
- *The van needs to be scheduled with enough time for them to get overtime approved beforehand.*
- *The van was present solely to perform walkthroughs and gain exposure; the physician was not prepared to see anyone.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Made a suggestion based on events he's attended in the past in relation to the numbering system Maureen would like to incorporate at the board's event; people in attendance would sign their name in a sheet and when the coordinator was finished with an individual, he would call the next name on the list.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Would like introduction to be formal.*
- *Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak will be asked to speak as a veteran*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Can ask to see if the board can utilize the hallway or band room of the PAC center for additional privacy.*
- *Recommends the board go ahead and set up a date for a working meeting so an invite list can be created and proper notice can be provided*
- *Gave a few more names of additional people she would like to add to the list.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Obtained input from a member of the Veterans Center, Dave Mullin, concerning the board's plan to present information via PowerPoint before letting people disperse to organizations of their choice.*
- *Feedback was positive.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Jacqui Hinker and Dave Mullin are good resources.*
- *Spoke of CVAC event in Cape May County.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *More individuals voicing personal questions versus general.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Congressman Frank LoBiondo sits on the Veterans Committee.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Mike Francis offered his support by spreading the word.*

- *Going to express importance of bringing DD214.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Was asked by Jacqui Hinker to research the individuals he escorts to doctors' appointments; logging information in regards to who is registered with the VA and who isn't.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *The system is getting better but the preferred way of registering is through the van.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Believes the first step to planning Veterans Forum is to put together a list of contacts and designate who will be contacting who*
- *To type and forward a list of guest speakers to make sure everyone is covered.*
- *Schedule working meeting.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Working meeting - Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Reviewed a list of people he tried to contact last time from several organizations: Stockton, VA, Helmets to Hardhats, USAA, ACCC.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Responsible for scheduling the van.*
- *To touch base with a man connected to the VA Express program and Jacqui Hinker.*
- *Clarified Ms. Hinker's new position as having the responsibility of locating veterans who have left the system and bringing them back.*
- *To also touch base with his contact from Telehealth, Jim.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Would like to have at least 10 people to help process claims just like the event at ACCC held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Bill to take over Francey's assignment of contacting Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak.*

*Krystal Arana:*

- *To contact Cape May County's Clerk Rita Fulginiti.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Wondering if Rita can transport registration system.*
- *Asked Allyn to ask the point of contact at the PAC center if there was accessibility to a copier machine in order to make copies of DD214s for the registration process.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Asked Maureen if she'd like Assemblyman Andrzejczak to present information or just to attend.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *If Assemblyman Andrzejczak has any new information to put out into the public then he may do so.*

### **Committee – Schedule Working Meetings**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.*
- *Krystal to find out availability of conference room(s).*

### **Establish Agenda for Veterans Forum – Working Document**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Agenda to be worked on at working meeting.*

### **Follow-Up – Invitations for Guest Speakers**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Update to be given at working meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.*

### **Congressman LoBiondo's VA Event – April 29, 2017 – Atlantic Cape Community College – Report**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Learned a lot.*

### **Homelessness Stand Down – May 17, 2017 – Report**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Successful event; about 100 volunteers.*
- *Numerous veterans were processed.*
- *Event provided opportunity to distribute clothes to those veterans less fortunate.*

### **Suggestions to Improve Veteran Registration – Updates**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Asked Krystal about the Facebook page.*

*Krystal Arana:*

- *Explained possibility of people posting unwelcoming comments.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Believes there is an option to exclude people from commenting.*

*Krystal Arana:*

- *To work on creating a Facebook page for informational purposes in the coming days.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Other than the Facebook page, Veterans Forum should reach out to a number of veterans locally for now.*

### **Vets Returning from Deployment – Allyn – Update**

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *No new information.*
- *Gave update on Michael Fala who just graduated boot camp and is on his way to Boston.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Would like to put together a care package for him.*

### **Mobile Veterans Outreach Van – Future Dates**

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Has not received any new information.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *Has not received any further information either.*

### **Painting of Flag Pole at American Legion – Completed**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Announced there is now a spotlight on the flag.*
- *Shrubs around it were removed; looks beautiful.*

### **Memorial Day Parade – Participants – Nick Anzelone as Grand Marshal**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Has a banner for the American Legion.*
- *Group will be walking behind the Grand Marshal.*
- *To begin formation at 9am.*

### **Event – “Shoot the Breeze”**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Informal event; sharing of war stories.*
- *Tentative Date of event changed from Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm – pending schedule of other events at American Legion Post*
- *Would like to have the township do a press release.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Veterans can register on lowes.com for discounts.*
- *Lowe's does not recognize the County's discount card.*
- *Veterans can register using their telephone number or can opt to have a card.*
- *10% discount.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *County card acknowledged only on certain holidays.*

*Ed Dillio*

- *Discounts are featured after Veterans Day only for non-retirees.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *VA is looking for alternatives to concerns surrounding the clinic located at the Coast Guard base.*
- *Looking into upgrading mental health.*
- *Spoke of a pilot program in regards to issuing cards with chips that will bill the VA directly after a doctor's visit; to ask how it works for spouses.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Voiced his situation.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Suggested Ed file a claim and get rated through the van.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Advised we refer every veteran we come in contact with to get rated through the van.*

*Members discussed the differences of registering between reservists and active duty.*

## **Next Meeting Date**

*Wednesday, June 28, 2017.*

## **QUESTIONS – NONE**

**ADJOURN 8:50pm**

## **ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Minutes** – Krystel Arana

**Time Keeper** – Allyn Penkethman