



## 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 27, 2016, 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, Francey Burke, Ed Dillio, Joe Griffies, Bill Hawk, Allyn Penkethman, Fred Trasatti, Howard Trout, and Krystal Arana.*

### FLAG SALUTE

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Nancy McDevitt – Middle Township Recreation Department – Memorial Day Parade

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Nancy McDevitt was unable to attend the meeting due to having to work and not being able to find coverage.*
- *Reviewed Middle Township's Memorial Day Parade program.*
- *Parade begins at Memorial Field and ends at the American Legion Post.*
- *Acquired names of board members who are available and willing to help with placing flags on graves of veterans at cemeteries on the Friday before Memorial Day.*
- *The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both agreed that it would be a wonderful idea for the Grand Marshalls to be individuals who achieved the World War II Honor Roll.*
- *Noted names of board members willing to participate in the parade.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Suggested opening up Masters of Ceremonies position to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Recommended changing the date of the parade to Sunday instead of Monday in order to grow it.*
- *Believes changing the date of the parade will attract more people because all other neighboring towns have their parades on Monday as well.*
- *Says people don't want to have to choose what parade in what town to view on Monday because they are all occurring at the same time.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Is worried of running into Church obligations on Sunday morning.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Suggested having a couple of Black Hawk helicopters fly over Middle Township during the time of the parade.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Would be very expensive.*
- *Our best chance of such occurrence at little to no charge would be the Coast Guard.*
- *A lot of people forget about the actual purpose of Memorial Day.*
- *It is about remembering the people that died during service.*
- *We have come to celebrate the living with the dead.*
- *Questioned if the Coast Guard has been asked about having the honor guard attend.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Two members at the post currently take part in the placing of the wreath ceremony and they look forward to doing it every year.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Contemplated having someone from the Veterans Advisory Board participate in the placing of the wreath.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Recommended one of gentleman participating as Grand Marshall contribute in the placing the wreath.*
- *Hopes Nick will partake.*
- *Commended Nick for being as young as he is and joining the board.*
- *Believes Nick is the beginning of learning what newer vets will need in the future and making a difference.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Brother wanted to know if the three essay winners were going to be in the parade like the previous year.*
- *Told him that only the winning essay would be read aloud.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *The three essay winners are all welcomed to march alongside our board.*

## **DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Individual Objectives Received**

### **Establish Board Objectives**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Has not yet finalized the objectives but is continuously working on them.*

## **OLD BUSINESS – Follow up – Any Questions/Comments Regarding Robert McGeehan’s Presentation**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Greatly appreciated his attending the meeting and the wealth of information he provided.*

## **Terms of Members – Follow Up (Reappointments/Changes)**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Asked the members to forward a letter of resignation to the Mayor in the attention to Krystal.*
- *Asked Krystal if any letters of resignation had been received.*
- *Still plans on meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and discussing the issue of attendance and participation amongst the board members.*

*Krystal Arana:*

- *No letters have been received.*
- *Will have to check with the Mayor regarding any letters of resignation he may have received.*

## **Fundraising – Beef & Beer – Proceeds**

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Has spoken with Dennis Roberts regarding beef and beer.*
- *Event will be held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Cohost with the American Legion Post #198 and DAV Chapter 44.*

## **Brochure with Consolidated Veteran Information – Information Received from Fred – Still retyping**

### **Pamphlet Created by Krystal**

*Krystal Arana:*

- *Contact information for entities located in Middle Township.*
- *Cape May County Clerk’s office and information on how to obtain a Veteran’s photo ID card.*
- *Fare-free transportation services.*
- *Atlantic Cape Community College and assistances offered for education.*
- *Robert McGeehan who has a wealth of information.*
- *Federal agencies telephone numbers.*

## **Follow-Up Regarding Information Event for Families – Discussion on When to Hold the Event – Fall?**

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Has gotten permission from administration through her personal contact to use the PAC center at no cost.*
- *Veterans can utilize the PAC center for free.*

- Needs to be provided with a couple of dates for the fall as soon as possible regarding when to hold the event so timely notice can be given.
- Plans on organizing it as a meeting followed by a briefing and a couple of break-out sessions.
- Considers a two-hour window for the event to be reasonable.
- Would like knowledgeable organizations to come in and do the briefings.

*Bill Hawk:*

- Hold separate meeting apart from the board meeting to plan on how we want the event to run.
- Wants to be prepared by getting what we want out of the event and that is for people to be properly informed.
- Arrange a list of agencies to contact.

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- Purpose of event is to inform the relatives of what to expect when a family member wants to join the force as well as to what to anticipate upon individual's return from the service regardless of time served.
- Proper steps to take to register in the system once person is back home.
- The Beef and Beer is more of a Meet and Greet to bring forth some of the younger veterans in the area.

*Joe Griffies:*

- Asked about avenues veterans could use to notify a board like ours that the individual is back in the area so we could be of some assistance.
- Rita would be a good connection if the veteran goes to apply for an identification card.

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- Asked Nick to do some homework and think about some things he needed when he returned home.
- Agrees with Joe, we need to find some ways so we are made aware when a veteran returns.

*Joe Griffies:*

- Atlantic Cape Community College is growing their veterans program immensely.
- They could inform us of veterans signing up with their programs.
- That could be one source.

*Howard Trout:*

- That information may be considered private.

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- The intent of this event is to bring those people together who have a family member enlisted and give them the opportunity to talk about the feelings they are experiencing so that we can offer assistance by directing them to the correct resources.
- Keep in touch with the people who attended so that they can make us aware of when their family member is returning home from the service.

- *Help the individual returning home with the process of registering and assisting them in connection with the proper organizations regarding the problems they may be experiencing.*
- *For example, where and how to register with the VA.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Not just by being an information conduit but also acting as a support system.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Another thing we could also do is contact the National Guard and find out who is deployed and lives in Middle Township.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *That's another source.*
- *There are multiple branches of services that members can be attached to and deploy with. The units may not be local.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *We want to help the families adjust as well as the veterans returning.*
- *Set up a committee for this venue.*

*Fred Trasatti:*

- *The group who started the "Welcome Home Project" was the Vietnam veterans because they wanted to make sure that no individual was going to come home without assistance, the way many of us did.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Asked Nick if there was anything he wanted to say regarding the homework he was asked to complete by Maureen.*

*Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:*

- *Believes a Facebook page should be created by the board for the board to help connect with the veterans and people from Middle Township.*
- *Share upcoming events.*

### **Follow-Up Regarding "Flag Stars" Project – Retirement of Flag Ceremony – Postponed until Fall**

*Howard Trout:*

- *Postpone until the fall because that's when the retirement of the flag is going to be held.*

*Allyn Penkethman:*

- *Would like to push on with the project.*
- *At least start collecting the stars and preparing.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Shared a couple of medals with the group he had earned.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

*No new business.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

*- Enough old business to take care of.*

**Next meeting date**

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016.*

**QUESTIONS N/A**

**ADJOURN 8:33pm**

**ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Minutes** – Krystal Arana

**Time Keeper** – Allyn Penkethman