

MACV MEETING MINUTES APRIL 7, 2019

The April meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Council for Veterans was held on April 17, 2019 at AMVETS Post #99 at Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Don Hawkins. A prayer was offered by Tom Harris and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave Sassman. Fifty-One (51) people were in attendance's Chair Charlie Russell, announced that Dick Cole died on April 19, 2019 at the age of 103. He was the last man of Doolittle's Raiders to die and Charlie asked for a moment of remembrance for him.

The following were new attendees to the Meeting: Bill Little (Hamilton County Military Veteran's Program), Marlene Sweet (Director of the Indy Vet Center), Albert Winks (Oak Street Health)Melissa Bronicki (Intecare), Susan Spilly (State Health Insurance Assistance Program "SHIP"), Emily Pullen (Intecare) and Denny Kladis (Group One Communications).

The Board of Directors of The Veteran's Support Council were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Present were Don Hawkins, (Chair), Charlie Russell (Co-Chair), Ron Sukenik (Secretary), Jerry Morgan (Treasurer), Ponytail Paul Cauley, Tom Harris, David Sassman (Committee Coordinator) and Dr. Doty Simpson-Taylor. Dr. Doty was also thanked for allowing the MACV to meet at their facility for the April Meeting.

Everyone was reminded of the Mayor's Picnic on July 20, 2019 at the Marion County fairgrounds and to sign up quickly if they wanted to be a vendor. This year there will be a job fair, axe throwing, banks playing, a motorcycle show, car show, fire trucks, free haircuts, Santa Clause, as well as activities for the children. All the information you need is on the website at vsc.ooo. The MACV is not printing up Flyers this year. They are all on the website. And you can print up flyers, sponsor letters, vendor letterer and press releases. A department of Labor Grant has been applied for to do a stand down and we have been approved for 50/50 drawings. The missing man display will also be on site.

Ron Sukenik introduced our guest speaker, Denny Kladis of Group One Communications. Denny first thought up the Zoo Book and wanted to help up raise money through Neighborhood sources. Denny is donating 68 Discover Indy books to the MACV to sell for a donation of \$25.00 apiece. (there is 6 months left to use the coupons in these books) The money made from the sale of these books will go to the MACV. If each organization would take just 10 books and sell them --- we could raise money.

Dianne Dove of the Indianapolis Better Business Bureau talked to the group about scams. Anyone can be a victim of scam. The BBB does a lot of education and hands out a lot of information on this subject. She urged everyone to pull up business profiles on their website and check out entities prior to doing business.

You can look for free. She also indicated that they monitor charities at give.org. You can look up charities and see if they meet certain standards for their income versus outgoing expenditures. Many young people are the victims of pop-up scams on their computers. Many veterans' and older adults are also the victims of scams involving sweepstakes, romance and investing. The BBB also has a scam tractor and does investigative reports.

Don passed around a sheet seeking some of the younger people to be on a Steering Committee to try to get some involvement from younger people, another sheet was passed around for the Active Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will be started meeting before the MACV meeting between 1 and 2. A lot of volunteers will be needed for the picnic and the mini stand Down. We have some extra guideline this year due to asking for the grant. (ie. Haircuts, transportation, personal hygiene products, socks and underwear)

COMMITTEES:

Education & Employment Charlie reported that Ivy Tech has delayed the opening of their Veterans Support Center and they have moved on to work on employments for veteran's convicted of felonies.

Fundraising – Don reports that we need to raise money for the picnic. The American Legion gave Don \$1,000.00 for the event when he went to speak about homelessness. Dr. Doty informed all that AMVEETS would be making a donation.

Health and Welfare --- Dr. Doty reports that stated the committee invites those helping Veterans with mental health or health outside of the VA system to let them know. Gordon Smith has a list and will get it to her. They are also working on a combined group for suicide prevention

Jeff ____ (of the Cool Bus) indicated that Dirt therapy has been found effective for PTSD by a "famous agriculture school.". He made a presentation at VA and he will now have 1 acre to farm for the veterans who sign up. He is also looking for a warehouse.

Susan Spilly of SHIP loves to go to events for Veterans

Mike Clark of Rolling Thunder announced that last 32nd Ride for Freedom will be leaving May 23. This will be the final ride to Washington, D.C., but there will be state rides and events instead. He also announced that on April 18, Marine Prive Fred Free, a former MIA, was coming home and his funeral service would be at 12:30-1:30 p.m. Rolling Thunder presented a \$500.00 check to the MACV. For the picnic.

Ponytail Paul Cauley – announced that it took 75 years to identify Fred. He then announced that the World War II Roundtable would have Megan Corman speak

about how the people who worked with Germany and France were treated after the war.

Tony Doster of Entrepreneur's Source reported that there are special assistance programs from the SBA for those wanting to start a business in Lake County. He also has a Passport to Employment group every Monday night that is free as well as an accountability group at Work One in Plainfield with some free training. He has a contact at the Columbia Club that would like to know that they can do to assist veterans in transition.

Heather Voorhis of New Horizons – have 3 programs coming up about grants, also offer free career workshops

Ayden Gent of the city's Office of Women and Small Business & Minority will have a certification course on May 8 and Networking

Kimberly Duff – VOA

Scott Spychala – Community Hospital East (Veteran Programs and Memorial Services. American Veterans for Equal Rights did a color guard at the State House for the all-inclusive bill., June 8 is Indy Pride Parade then Pridefest afterwards

Hannah Bast – Back on my Feet – Indianapolis, homelessness & job resources

Mike Stephens – (Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits) Blue Water navy Veterans of Vietnam within 12 miles of shore will now be eligible for Agent Orange coverage after May 14, 2019

Trent Thomas Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits

Stacey Dieckmann --- (Veterans Housing Veterans) will be launching a launching Indy Veteran's Business Network, in the process of contacting and networking, getting veterans up front

Frank Hoaks- HVAF, Sept. 9 Stand down

Marlene Sweet – Indy Vet Center

Glenda Jones – Veterans Mobile Marketing Consultant, Tinnititus, reaching members quicker, 97% can read a text

Tom Harris – Adventists Helping Veterans

Rees Morgan – American Legion, Spring Conference coming up, looking for ways to reach youth, civil sniff flag knowledge, youth Indiana placed 9th in nation, care careers in public policy and affairs, Girls and Boys State.

Bill Duffy --- member of AMVETS

Kathy Lee-Sellers (VAMC Roudebush) Dr. Lubermann, Deputy Under Secretary of Health at facility and very impressed with services at YMCA, also looking at putting veterans in hospitals closer to home.

Bonnie Wooten _ (NSDAR, VAVS Representative) -

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonnie K. Wooten
Acting Secretary