

VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING
JESSE BROWN VA MEDICAL CENTER (537)
820 S. DAMEN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60612
PHONE: (312) 569-6109
Thursday, March 22, 2018 10:00 a.m.

MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR: Marc A. Magill, MS
ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PATIENT CARE SERVICE: Mary Toles, RN
CHIEF, VOLUNTARY SERVICE: Patrick E. Gleason

ATTENDANCE: Members are listed on the attachment.

STAFF

Trent Ward, Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service
Bernina Green, Specialist, Voluntary Service
Don Jackson, Program Support Assistant, Voluntary Service
Denisse Montoya, Specialist, Voluntary Service TCF Intern

I. Welcome

The meeting was chaired by Patrick Gleason, Chief, Voluntary Service, and called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Invocation was given by Jose' E. Torres, Chaplain followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Gleason then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the December 06, 2017 meeting were approved as previously submitted.

III. Certification & Re-certification

None

IV. Senior Management Report

All Management Officials had previous meetings scheduled and were unable to attend.

V. VAVS Executive Report

Trent Ward gave the treasurer's report, which is attached. The previous balance as of December 07, 2017, was \$2,803.77 and the present balance is \$4,288.77.

VI. Staff/Guest Comments

Trent Ward spoke of the upcoming Stand-down, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, at the General Jones National Guard Armory, 5200 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago. Volunteers are need for this event, and for the set-up, which will take place on June 7, 2018. For more information, or to volunteer, visit the website www.chicagostanddown.org, or call the Oak Park Vet Center at 708.457-8805. If an entire group would like to volunteer, please email Trent Ward at Trent.Ward@va.gov.

Denisse Montoya spoke about the Red Coat Ambassador Program, in which volunteers from organizations will work four hours, one day a week, to greet visitors to Jesse Brown VAMC and assist them to their appointments. Those interested in being involved in this program can contact Denisse Montoya in Voluntary Service.

Ms. Montoya is asking for information regarding churches, schools or meetings of organizations where she can be invited to speak about the work of Voluntary Service at the VA.

Jenny Sitzer, the Women's Health Program Director. Her department partnered with Voluntary Service, the VFW Auxiliary and the American Red Cross to put on this very successful Women Veterans Baby Shower. Diane Ahrens from the VFW Auxiliary offered to organize this shower, and mobilized a network that provided each veteran with two diaper bags which were filled with baby supplies, a car seat, bath tub, Pack and Play, and diapers. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Ms. Ahrens as appreciation for her support of our Veterans. Ms. Ahrens also delivers household items for our newly housed Veterans on a regular basis, loading her van and driving all the from East Dundee, IL.

In addition, Victoria Raymont of the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle mobilized members to collect the diaper bags filled with essential items. Their goal was to have 35 bags to donate, but the final tally was 46. More than 30 women attended the shower, and when family members were included, there were more than 90 people at the event. Volunteers attended and assisted these veterans with the transport of their gifts. Diane Ahrens and Chief Patrick Gleason delivered the items for Jesse Brown VA to the preparation site in West Dundee. Gratitude was expressed to Bernina Green for her assistance in this project.

VII. Voluntary Service Report

Patrick Gleason welcomed all VAVS members to the meeting, and announced the return of Penny and Larry Burns from the Joliet Elks, and introduced Derrick Stinson from the Sons of American Legion, Megan Everett from the McCormick Foundation, Breanna Rodriguez and Victoria Raymont from Tiffany Circle of Red Cross. We are very excited to see our committee grow and continue our mission to enhance our Veterans experience!

Patrick Gleason informed the group of the assistance given to our Veteran mom that we have 'adopted'. Mom is a Veteran who has five children, including infant triplets. The Veteran endured personal tragedy and although a patient at Hines VA, Chief Gleason was contacted by the Mike DeRoss at the VFW Illinois State Office to see if we could help. Mike knew our team would act! Mom was given great assistance in the fall and holiday season. Most recently, Ellen

Peirce, Daughters of the American Revolution orchestrated the donation of an almost new van courtesy of Gary Grossinger of the Grossinger Auto Group, and thanks to the diligent paperwork of Mike DeRoss of the V.F.W. to team up to make this happen.

Information was shared regarding the National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, which was held February 12-16. Congressman Mike Quigley visited patients and passed out valentines, PIZZA 4 PATRIOTS provided a lunch, with the assistance of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and the Cave Dwellers performed at the lunch for veterans. On Thursday of that week, the Quintet Attacca, a renowned chamber quintet, performed chamber music. On Friday, the 64th Street Drummers entertained and educated guests about Black History Month. It was JBVA's inaugural 'Salute Week Music Fest' and our patients loved it!

A special thanks goes to Marvin and Charlotte from Strike Force, Joanne from VFW-Aux, our volunteers and VAVS staff for putting in the hard work needed to make the rummage sale a big success, bringing in \$1450 to the VAVS Committee! Great teamwork!

The JB VAMC is now in the fifth year of maintaining a Food Pantry for in-need veterans. The Greater Chicago Food Depository is committed to continuing their support of this program, and while there was recent discussion about parking difficulties on Tuesdays because of this event, the time and place of the Food Pantry will not be changed. Thank you, Director Magill,!

Important dates:

Saturday, May 26, 2018 *Memorial Day Parade*

Thursday, May 31, 2018 *VAVS Awards Ceremony at Ukrainian Cultural Center*

Friday & Saturday, June 8 & 9: *Summer Stand-down*, Northwest Armory, Kedzie and North Avenue

Saturday, June 30, 2018: *Possible revisit from the U.S. Air Force Rock Band*

Saturday, September 8, 2018: *Hunger Walk*

2018 VAVS Committee Meetings, to be held in the Prescription Room at 10am

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Thursday, September 20, 2018

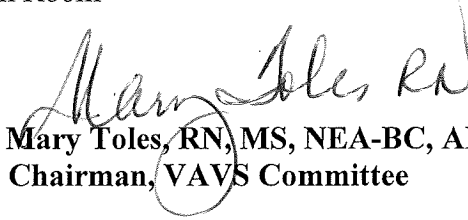
Thursday, December 6, 2018

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Prescription Room



Patrick E. Gleason
Chief, Voluntary Service



Mary Toles, RN, MS, NEA-BC, APB-BC
Chairman, VAVS Committee

Voluntary Service Committee Meetings
 Fiscal Year 2018 Cumulative Attendance Record
 Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
 Chicago, Illinois 60612
 Thursday, March 22,2018

ORGANIZATION	Appointment Expiration	Title	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	FY to Date Organizational Representation
<u>AMERICAN LEGION</u>							25%
HENDERSON, ROBBIE (JB)	IND	D	-	-	-	-	
GALICH, GAIL (IN)	IND	R	P				
<u>AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY</u>							25%
JEMBER, VI	IND	D	P	-	-	-	
MANN, ANNA MAY	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
<u>AMERICAN RED CROSS</u>							25 %
MCSWEENEY, MICHELLE	IND	D		-	-	-	
MULDOON, TERRY	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
<u>AMVETS</u>							25%
HARREL, WALTER	07/18	D	-	-	-	-	
THOMAS, JERRY R.	07/18	R	P				
<u>BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION</u>							0%
JOHNSON, DANIEL	IND	R	-	-	-	-	
<u>CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS</u>							25%
MILLER, SAMUEL JR,	IND	R	P	-		-	
<u>CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AUXILIARY</u>							0%
DULINSKI, CAROL	IND	R	-		-		
SANDERS, ADA	IND	D		-	-	-	
<u>DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS</u>							0%
THOMPSON, DENNIS	12/19	R	P	-	-	-	
EIBENBERGER, JOSEF	IND	D	-	-	-	-	
<u>ELKS, BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF</u>							
BURNS, PENNY		R	P	-	-	-	25%
<u>ITALIAN AMERICAN WAR VETERANS AUX</u>							25%
RINALDI, ANGELA	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
MASCARI, CECELIA	IND	R	-	-	-	-	
<u>JEWISH WAR VETERANS</u>							0%
FIELD, DR. JERRY	IND	D	-	-	-	-	
<u>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE</u>							25%
CORREA, SERGIO	11/17	R	P	-	-		
<u>MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION</u>							0%
JACOBSEN, JOHN	IND	R	-	-	-	-	

ORGANIZATION	Appointment Expiration	Title	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	FY to Date Organizational Representation
<u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE</u>							0%
JACKSON, EUREL	IND	R	-	-	-	-	
<u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY</u>							25%
DILLARD, HELEN	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
<u>NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</u>							25%
PEIRCE, ELLEN	08/19	R	P	-	-	-	
PETERSON, SHARON	08/19	D	P	-	-	-	
<u>POLISH LEGION AMERICAN VETERAN</u>							0%
MORENO, PAUL	IND	D	-	-	-	-	
VIDUJA, JULIANNE	IND	R	-	-	-	-	
<u>POLISH LEGION AMERICAN VETERAN AUXILIARY</u>							25%
OSTROM, CANDACE	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
VICTORY, LISA	IND	D	P	-	-	-	
<u>SALVATION ARMY</u>							
OWENS, MAJOR BARBARA	IND	D	P	-	-	-	25%
<u>SOLDIERS' ANGELS</u>							
YANIZ, RALPH	IND	R	P	-	-	-	25%
<u>UNITED VOLUNTARY SERVICES</u>							0%
ERTEL, TERESA	IND	R	-	-	-	-	
<u>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS</u>							25%
ANDERSON, CLIFF	IND	D	P	-	-	-	
<u>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY</u>							25%
YORK, JOANNE	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
<u>VETERANS STRIKE FORCE-1</u>							25%
GARDNER, MARVIN	IND	R	P	-	-	-	
MARTIN, ERIC	IND	D	-	-	-	-	

GUESTS:

Red Cross, Victoria R.
Chaplain Service, Sanhee K. Chin
SAL, American Legion, Derrick Stinson
McCormick Foundation, Megan Everett
Military Outreach USA, Joe Palmer
Joliet Elks #296, Penny Burns

Joliet Elks #296, Larry Burns
Phenix Legacy, Alberto Lopez

SYMBOLS:	R	Representative	P	Present
	D	Deputy Representative	-	Absent
	AR	Associate Representative	*	Not Certified
	DA	Deputy Associate Representative	E	Excused
	H	Honorary Representative	IND	Indefinite
			+	Deceased
	JB	Jesse Brown		
	LS	Lakeside		
	CP	Crown Point		

Please Note: VHA Directive 2001-043 states that “Organizations are removed from the cumulative attendance listing after three consecutive meetings occur with no certified representation present. Individual representatives will likewise be removed from the listing after being absent for three consecutive meetings.”