

**ODVS Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2015**

LeRoy Clendenen convened the meeting at 10:40 AM at the American Legion Post 171, 393 E. College Avenue, Westerville, Ohio. The meeting was opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was followed by a moment of silence.

**Roll Call**

**In Attendance:**

Suzette Price, American Legion  
Merle Pratt, AMVETS  
Don Youngblood, Army & Navy Union  
Tamara Puff, Attorney General's Office  
April Philiopoulos, Advisory Committee on Women Veterans  
Mary Ann Janning, Catholic War Veterans  
Paul Haller, County Commissioner's Association of Ohio  
Will Davis, Disabled American Veterans  
Saul Laub, Jewish War Veterans  
William Eberle, Marine Corps League  
John C. McCoy, Military Officers Association of America  
Carl Price, Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association  
LeRoy Clendenen, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Cliff Riley, Vietnam Veterans of America  
David Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners  
Robert L. Mackin, Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners  
Jane Roland, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
Jon Warmeling, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
Robert Park, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers

**Visitors:**

Malcom Glasgow, American Legion, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Mel Conley, Office of Senator Portman  
Ed Zackery, Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
Jerry L. Howe Jr., DR+C  
Jason Oney, DR+C  
Ray Autenrieb, Vietnam Veterans of America  
Don Jones, Vietnam Veterans of America  
Mick Oppy, Ohio Veterans Homes Superintendent  
Carl McFeeders, Army & Navy Union  
Fred Stratmann, Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Kenneth B. Marcum Jr, Disabled American Veterans  
Amy Taylor, CDDC  
MG Dennis Laich, OVMM  
Laura Wengert, The Salvation Army SVVF  
Jonathan Field, Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Tim Espich, Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Bob Funk, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Danny Eakins, Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Eileen Corson, Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Brian Mead, CCAO  
David Stonproch, ODJFS/VETS  
Michael Dustman, Office of Senator Rob Portman  
Joe Bengoechea, Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Mike Hare, Ohio Department of Veterans Services

**Absent:**

Chris Mabe, Labor Organization - Excused

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

The previous meeting minutes were distributed to the committee for review. After a motion by Dave Ridenour, seconded by Jon Warmeling, they were approved.

**Agenda**

The working agenda was approved after a change was requested. Dave Ridenour asked to address the committee on the topic of Judicial Appointments to County Veterans Service Commissioners and the request was granted.

**Bills and Communications**

Labor Organization informed the Secretary that Chris Mabe could not attend.

Patrick Finical updated the committee members on some communications issues that were taking place at ODVS. After a recent update to the ODVS e-mail system, not all e-mails sent out were being received. ODVS is investigating the situation. Members are advised to check spam folders and notify their IT contact if still having problems. Committee updates will continue to be posted on the website regularly.

**Report of Subcommittees:**

\*\*Education – District Training in progress.

\*\*Legal – No Report

Summer Moses spoke to the committee about her review of the Advisory Committee rules related to appointments and attendance. During and after the presentation, there was discussion. Summer reminded the committee that in order to change the rules, a two thirds vote of all the committee members was needed. Committee members were provided with a handout of the opinion.

\*\*Rules – No Report

\*\*JCARR – No Report

**Guest Introductions**

Guests in attendance were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and make limited comments.

## **New Business**

### **I. Ohio Veteran Homes – Superintendent Mick Oppy**

Mick Oppy introduced himself to the committee and thanked them for having him there. He told the committee about the homes and discussed how many veterans they were currently serving. He noted that 73 counties have residents in either one of the veteran homes. Mick also told the committee about the history of the homes and spoke about some current initiatives, like the Eden alternative, which focuses on the residents' preferences even more.

Mick also spoke about the employees at OVH. He said the employees were a great asset for the homes. He also pointed out that, whenever possible, the homes try to hire veterans.

After this, Mick took some questions from the committee and some further discussion followed. LeRoy Clendenen, Chair, then thanked Mick for his presentation and noted to the committee that he was impressed with Mick's initiatives and the current developments at the home.

### **II. STAR Behavioral Health – Danny Eakins**

Danny spoke to the committee and guests about the STAR Behavioral Health providers training that he and Steven Cook, ODVS Military Liaison recently attended. STAR Behavioral health is a resource for veterans, service members, and their families to locate behavioral health professionals with specialized training in understanding and treating military health members and their families. The effort in Ohio is being coordinated by the Ohio State University Brain Injury Program. Currently there are over 400 individuals scheduled to attend STAR training events which are spread throughout the state. More information about enrolling can be found at [www.starproviders.org](http://www.starproviders.org)

## **Legislative Update – Daniel Eakins**

Danny updated the committee and guest on several items of legislation related to veterans including:

- I. HB 102 – To amend sections 125.01, 125.09, 125.11, 3772.033, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 5747.61 and 5751.55 of the Revised Code to provide a bid preference for state contracts to a veteran-owned business and to authorize a personal income and commercial activity tax credit for a business that hires and employs a veteran for at least one year.
  
- II. HB 103 – To enact sections 5.2298, 125.66, and 125.67 of the Revised Code to designate the second week of March as Ohio Women's' Week for Policy and Entrepreneurship, to create the Ohio Women's' Policy and Entrepreneurship Committee, and to require the state, in collaboration with the private sector, to conduct a two-day competition and forum each even-numbered year during the designated week.

- III. HB105 – To amend section 4141.29 of the Revised Code to permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
- IV. HB 121 – To enact section 5.2298 of the Revised Code to designate the last week of July as "Service Dog Awareness Week."
- V. SB 61 – To amend section 3705.23 of the Revised Code to restrict to whom a certified copy of a death certificate containing the decedent's social security number may be issued.
- VI. SB 116 – To enact section 5.2298 of the Revised Code to designate October 16 as George Washington Williams day.

This legislation affects County Veteran Service Officers.

- VII. HB 64 - Main Operating Budget FY2016-FY2017

Update was given on the progress of the Budget Bill.

- VIII. SB 10 - To enact sections 5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code to establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits.

After a question, some discussion followed about Senate Bill 10. Some of the reasoning behind this bill was discussed. It was noted that ODVS was already doing many of the things that were in the bill related to Medicaid.

- IX. HB 125 - To amend sections 111.16, 111.17, 1703.31, 1729.12, 1746.06, 1782.63, 2305.10, and 4743.04 and to enact sections 5903.21, 5903.22, 5903.23, 5903.24, and 5903.25 of the Revised Code to establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.
- X. SB 122 - To amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.064, 4503.065, and 4503.066 of the Revised Code to extend eligibility for the homestead exemption to elderly or disabled homeowners who did not receive the exemption for 2013 and have \$30,000 or more in Ohio adjusted gross income.

A handout with all veteran-related legislation currently being considered was provided for the committee members.

### **Judicial Appointments – Dave Ridenour**

Dave Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veteran Service Commissioners, told the committee about recent questions that have arisen around the state regarding the appointment of Veteran Service Commissioners in the counties. This led to a discussion about the appointment process. Comment from various committee members was taken and the matter was discussed. Dave said that he would be discussing the issue with the leadership of his association and planned to conduct a survey among his membership as well.

## **Veterans Memorial – Columbus Downtown Development Corporation**

Amy Taylor and Major General Laich gave a presentation on the new veterans' memorial that will be built in Downtown Columbus. The museum display area was discussed as well as the plans for the building and surrounding area. The committee had a chance to ask questions and some discussion followed. Pictures of the plans were shown to the committee, but, since the presentation was not able to go as planned, it was agreed that the Downtown Development Corporation could return to the next meeting.

## **Director's Comments – ODVS Director Timothy C. Gorrell**

Director Gorrell told the committee that it was good they were having conversations about their concerns. He reiterated that all present have a common objective of helping veterans and that his door is always open. He said that the department strives for transparency in all things and that committee members are welcome to meet him. He also appreciates the passion they bring to the issues.

Director Gorrell then made some announcements. His assistant, Joe Bengoechea, would be leaving soon to teach English in Chile. Joe Eden, current ODVS receptionist, will be replacing him. The Director then said that he would be in Dayton for Secretary McDonald's visit and that the issue of Choice Cards was still being discussed.

To close, Director Gorrell reminded the committee that he is available to discuss their concerns upon request.

## **Elections for Vice Chair**

Elections for the Vice Chair position were conducted again due to the results of the last election. A call for nominations was given. Dave Ridenour, Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners and Jane Roland, Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers were nominated by Robert Mackin and Jonathan Warmeling respectively. A call for additional nominations was given three times, but no additional names were put forth. A roll call vote was taken with each committee member openly stating their vote. A majority of members present voted for Jane Roland, who will be the committee Vice Chair.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned after a motion was made and seconded.