

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 5th, 2017
11th floor, Suite 1114
441 4th Street NW/One Judiciary Square
Washington DC 20001
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Advisory Board Members Roll Call (Parliamentarian, in absence of Secretary)

A) In attendance:

1. Luke Dier,
2. Joel Spangenberg
3. Sydney Locks
4. Sequoyah Adebayo, Ex Officio Member
5. Steven Dalzell
6. Joe Finnegan
7. Vanessa Grant
8. Andre Jones
9. Saif Khan
10. Nachee Miller
11. Richard White
12. Emily Grace Mate
13. Jesse Moore

B) Quorum Present

IV. Approval of Agenda

- A) Minutes from November- Approved by voice vote

V. Approval of minutes from November

- A) Minutes are found at <https://ova.dc.gov/page/mova-meeting-materials-agendas-and-minutes>

VI. Special Guests

A) Irene Polyzos - Academy of US Veterans

1. Annual event veterans award ceremony January 20th 2018 @ Mayflower in DC
Tickets range from \$150 -\$250 and VIP \$350
2. Red carpet 5:30pm
3. Dinner 7pm

B) Peter Perkowski – Outserve

1. Mission is to assist with DD-214 updates/upgrades
2. LGBTQ community

VII. Election of Secretary and Parliamentarian for Calendar Year 2018. (Chairman)

A) By-laws require election by 31 December of each year.

1. Joel and Jesse motion for Sequoyah Adebayo to be secretary.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote
2. Joel and Sydney motion for Nachee Miller to be parliamentarian
 - a. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VIII. Director's Report

A) Director Ross reported on MOVA's activities over the last month.

1. **VetsRide launched**
2. **WeWork- free small business incubator space for 6 months**
3. **Website updates phase 1 done phase 2 up next**
4. **New letter updated with interactive components (6,000 subscribers)**
5. **2 new legal partners**
6. **April 4 DC hires**
7. **January 27, 2017 Winter Haven (small hiring fair/10 vendors for direct hires)**
8. **Veterans Roundtables 12/6/2017, 1/24/18. 1/24/18 12-2pm**
9. **If you need help getting into email for board member 202-671-1566**
10. **12/12 and 12/19 9-5pm VA benefits and claims counseling**
11. **Women's veterans outreach initiative (women's veterans license place)**
12. **DC Transitions Couse still being planned**
13. **12/12, 1/9, 1/23- 9-5pm Vocational rehabilitation event**
14. **12/8 9-5pm Discharge Upgrade Clinic**
15. **LGBTQ outreach is on going**

IX. Old Business (Chairman/Director)

A) Revising policy on attendance, including proxy voting and telephonic attendance (Parliamentarian)

1. Will discuss again in January

B) Headshots and one-paragraph bios from board members for website (MOVA)

1. Direction of the board is not to do it
 2. However, if someone comes in to do the photography we may reconsider.
Motion for photography ***February 2018***
- C) Proposed D.C.-specific transition course (A way for NEW DC TRANSPLANTS to get plugged into all DC resources)
1. No progress made due to November/Veterans Day Operations
 2. Hoping to refine a course outline by January
 3. Still waiting to execute DoD MOU and receive access to necessary DD-214 databases
 4. Family members, caregivers, independent of when you got out of the military
 5. Veterans life cycle chart from VA
- D) Strategic Direction discussion and survey (Chair and Vice-Chair)
1. Advisory vs strategic as a board to the mayor
 2. Doing things that are ACTIONAL should be our goal at any level

X. New Business

- A) Selective Service System proposal (Government Affairs Committee)
1. September is selective service month
 2. DC is fallen behind which mean that our young adults are not receiving the benefits they typically are eligible for if they register
 3. Identifying a DC Gov. Leader who is responsible for helping young men registering
 4. Providing necessary authorities and resources to the leader to carry this out
 5. Linking selective service registration with issuance of the DC One Card
 6. Pursing automatic driver license legislation

We have a motion to vote for the Selective Service registration improvement efforts resolution. Motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

- B) OVA website update (Director)

XI. Committee Reports (Vice Chairman)

- A) Committee chairs will give oral updates on committee actions
1. Economic resilience committee have received one yes, so they are building the committee
 2. Government Affairs- thankful that Joel was able to get a motion for the SS registration improvement efforts

XII. Public Comment (Maximum 2 minute per person)

- A) Tarsha Weary -online trade school named Design School LLC
1. March 20, 2018- at the MGM at the Harbor to seek sponsors to get veterans
 2. \$695 half price before January Website, flyers, marketing, website development
 3. Seeking sponsorship

4. Kenneth Nash- American Legion Post 8 winter coat drive assisting with Winter Haven

a. All winter wear

XIII. Upcoming (Events/Meetings/Holidays)

A) As regularly scheduled meeting would fall on 2 January, board will likely discuss moving to an alternative date.

1. Next Board meetings moved to January 9, 2018.

December 16, 2017 Shay Rangel will be sworn in at the convention center

XIV. Adjournment

District of Columbia – Selective Service System Registration Improvement Efforts Resolution

PROPOSED RESOLUTION (ADOPTED 05 DEC 2017)

Proposed by Joel C. Spangenberg, D.C. Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs, Interim Vice Chairman and Board Member – Ward 6

To request the Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs help the public by suggesting measures to improve Selective Service System registration compliance in Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia must build upon the Mayor's proclamation of September 2017 as Selective Service Month and take concrete legislative and administrative steps to increase Selective Service System registration compliance. Doing so will help ensure eligible persons have fewer obstructions in their pathways to the middle class.

WHEREAS, as of 2016, the District of Columbia had an extremely low Selective Service System registration compliance rate, roughly only one-half that of the national rate. The District of Columbia has a history of low compliance rates that can be addressed and improved upon in the future.

WHEREAS, 50 U.S. Code § 3802 requires all male citizens and residents of the U.S., ages 18 to 25 years, to register with the Selective Service System (SSA). When a man turns 26, he is no longer able to register with Selective Service System.

WHEREAS, the Selective Service System registration requirement represents both a legal and civic duty, which must not be confused with signing up for service in the United States military. Moreover, even men who identify as conscientious objectors must register with the Selective Service System. Doing so will help ensure that they may be able to perform alternative service in the unlikely event of a return to conscription.

WHEREAS, thousands of men in Washington, D.C. are losing or are at risk of losing valuable federal benefits linked to the registration requirement, such as:

- federal employment, including employment with the U.S. Postal Service;
- federal student financial assistance;
- participation in federally funded job training programs; and
- eligibility for U.S. citizenship for immigrants.

WHEREAS, over a recent ten-year period (CY07-16), men in Washington D.C. lost an estimated \$4.6 million in potential benefits and over 220 immigrants could not show registration compliance to obtain U.S. citizenship because they failed to register. This amount is conservative in that it does not take into account lost federal employment opportunities and does not include the men who were denied benefits and did not request information about their Selective Service System registration status.

WHEREAS, many young men may not be adequately informed about the Selective Service System registration requirement, such as those who are disadvantaged, immigrants, and not college-bound, and may fail to register with the Selective Service

System and learn later they have been denied valuable benefits that would have otherwise helped them to attain the American dream and a pathway to the middle class in the District of Columbia.

SO BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs strongly recommends that the District of Columbia government take a number of immediate and practical legislative and administrative steps to help ensure that men register with the Selective Service System, including, but not limited to:

- a) identifying and empowering a District government leader who is responsible for helping young men register in Washington, D.C.;
- b) providing the necessary authorities and resources to this District government leader to carry out his or her duties;
- c) requiring District agencies that engage with young men to provide annual reports that describe actions being taken or that need to be taken to increase the District's SSS registration compliance rate;
- d) linking Selective Service System registration to the issuance of the DC One Card, which is issued to young men who are or will soon be of the age that requires registration; and
- e) pursuing automatic driver's license legislation, which has proven elsewhere to be less expensive to implement and much more effective than existing optional registration, and with no ongoing costs or additional workload for Washington, D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles staff.

Respectfully submitted, on this 5th day of December 2017