

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, 7 November 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

A) The meeting was called to order at 1835 by Luke Dier, Chairman.

II. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dier.

III. Advisory Board Members Roll Call

A) Voting Members Present (14): Adebayo, Curry, Dier, Dalzell, Finnegan, Grant, Jones, Khan, Lampkin, Locks, Mack, Miller, Spangenberg, Williams

B) Voting Members Absent (7): Mate, McClendon, Moore, Pridemore, Sydnor, White, Wynn

C) Ex-officio members present: Black, Treadwell

D) Ex-officio members absent: Gibson, Honore, Preston, Strickland, Tobin

E) A quorum was present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

A) The posed agenda was approved by voice vote.

V. Approval of minutes

A) The posted minutes from July, August, September, October and November were approved in a single voice vote.

VI. Special Guests

A) Brenda Campbell, outreach manager for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family - Clinic, Easter Seals. The center provides no-cost mental health counseling for veterans and their families. More information is at

<http://www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/our-programs/cvn-home.html>

B) Kelvin Manurs, founder and board member of Arm and Arms. This non-profit provides “peer-to-peer self-counseling , empathetic to both individuals returning home from incarceration and veterans.” More information is at

www.armandarm.org

VII. Director's Report

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

B) Operations:

1. 2 veteran roundtables
2. 1 LGBTQ veteran roundtable
3. 2 Vocational Rehabilitation clinics
4. 1 DD-214 claims clinic
 - a. Had more than 50 people at today's clinic.
5. 4 disability claims days – full house each day
 - a. Thanks to Nachee Miller for helping find a person to be in the office every day.
6. 6 VetRide sign up events
7. Several panel events
8. Outserve-SLDN
9. Will be providing DD-214 legal services for service members impacted by “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”
10. Veteran Humanitini
 - a. Lots of great feedback
11. Spoke to the DCVA Medical Center's team of social workers about MOVA and our programs

C) Updates:

1. NVLSP/Lawyers for Warriors is coming on board as a legal partner
2. OutServe-SLDN coming on board as a legal partner
3. DoD MOU has been signed – just waiting on DoD to sign
4. VetRide Program is going live tomorrow
5. The comprehensive OVA website update is nearly complete and there is a target date of Nov. 29 to begin rollout.
 - a. Wants to “crowdsource” quality assurance from the board

D) Initiatives:

1. LGBTQ Veterans Outreach Initiative – on going
2. Women Veterans Outreach Initiative – Women Veterans License Plate Legislation in the works
3. D.C. Transition Course
4. D.C. Networking Events
5. Will build off of the Veteran Humanitini model

E) Upcoming Events:

1. November 8, Veterans Roundtable has been cancelled
2. November 8, VetRide Presser, WeWork Presser
 - a. Plan is to meet a veteran at the office and move to another site with the Mayor and a Fox News reporter.
 - b. Then they will go to We Work site in Dupont Circle, where they are unveiling a new initiative – free workspace for six months for rotating vet-owned businesses.
3. November 8, Center City PCS event Veteran's Day Stand-down.
 - a. School band will play Service songs, students write cards.
 - b. He has asked one board member from each branch to attend.
4. November 9, Pershing Park Dedication
 - a. Breaking ground on first national monument to WWI. Expect numerous VIPs.
5. November 9, UDC Veterans Day Event
6. November 9, DCHA Veterans Day Event
7. November 9, Conway House Veterans Day Event
 - a. 65 vets are housed there. OVA will bring gift bags and help serve in food line.
8. November 9, NAACP Veterans Day Event
9. November 10, Prep for Veterans Day of Service
10. November 11, AFRH home
11. November 11, Veterans Day of Service
 - a. In cooperation with The Mission Continues
 - b. After-party will include music, food. Expect 200-250 people there.
12. November 12, Shiloh Baptist Church for Veterans Day of Service
13. November 13, Hidden Heroes Event
14. November 14, Small Business Bootcamp
 - a. Last one for this year.
15. November 14, Mary's Center Grand opening
 - a. Adams Morgan campus is opening a new behavior health clinic.
16. November 15, TMF Character Does Matter Campaign
17. November 7, 14, 21, VA Disability Claims Clinics
18. November 14 & 28 Voc Rehab Clinics
19. Early December: DADT clinic

VIII. Old Business (Chairman/Director)

- A) Chair for Homeless Veterans Committee

1. The position continues unfilled.
2. Mr. Dier emphasized that he is personally trying to energize this committee. There are now under 300 homeless veterans in DC and it's important to keep the momentum.

B) Revising policy on attendance, including proxy voting and telephonic attendance

1. Mr. Ross noted that his outstanding item was to clarify the city's position on whether proxy and telephone voting were permissible. The answers are no and yes, respectively.
2. Mr. Williams shared that he had missed meetings when he was ill, but didn't share that with the board. That is an example of the gap in the bylaws that should be addressed.
 - a. Mr. Ross agreed this needs to be flexible. He's tried putting out a calendar invite, most people don't accept it.
 - b. Mr. Dier shared his perception that most who miss are not missing because they are sick, but have lost interest.
 - c. Mr. Ross noted that the procedure for participating by phonies already on the electronic invitations.
3. Mr. Locks noted that only two board members have given him input on what they would like to put in the new policy.
4. Mr. Khan suggested part of the process might be a meeting with the OVA and board leadership if a member has three absences.
5. One member suggested the board circulate guidance. This would define the board's expectations for everyone – what to do if you miss a meeting, etc. This could be like the initial ethics training that all attend, with everyone required to sign and acknowledge.
6. Mr. Dier added that this could take the form of a welcome letter spelling out expectations. He asked to Mr. Dalzell to draft this based on the by-laws and other references.

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

1. Still only five members have submitted theirs
2. Mr. Dier suggested a deadline of January, which members seemed to orally agree to.

D) Proposed D.C.-specific military-to-civilian transition course

1. Mr. Ross gave a presentation last meeting, describing how he wants to start building connections with veterans moving to the city.
2. He is still fleshing out the details and asked board members to send him ideas on what they think should be included, any other details about the course.

IX. New Business (Chairman/Director)

A) Election of Secretary and Parliamentarian

1. Per the by-laws, both positions must be elected no later than December 31st for the following calendar year.
2. Mr. Dalzell announced that he will not be running for reelection as Secretary but will help transition whoever is elected for 2018. He also noted that agendas and minutes are now being posted on the OVA website, making that part of the position much easier.
3. Mr. Locks said he had not yet decided if he would be standing for reelection as Parliamentarian.

B) Strategic Direction- discussion and survey

1. Mr. Dier said he would like to “take the temperature” of the board, how it’s being run, its balance between hands-on and advisory roles, and asked the board for their ideas of how to conduct such a survey
2. Ms. Adebayo suggested using Survey Monkey, with a comments section. Others concurred about both points.
3. Mr. Dier added that this is also a chance for all to learn about the board, and asked for ideas on specific questions.
4. More generally, Mr. Spangenberg noted that people have competing priorities, and the leadership wants people to value the experience and feel they are making a difference. He suggested the strategic plan could be updated with the new consensus on what we want to be doing, and energize the committees.
5. Mr. Dier gave his opinion that committees have languished, and the board is doing its work through Ely. He noted that committees are a way to get community members involved.
6. Mr. Locks gave his opinion that the board needs everyone on the same level. Our job is to recommend to the mayor language and laws about veterans. We did at first, but haven’t for a long time. We need to review the process where this can work: research-ideas-develop language-send it up. That’s one of our main priorities as a board. We’re on the hook to give this to the mayor. We need to get back into that mindset. We need to remember why we’re here, talk to the community and the ANC’s. We need to be in public, get business cards and t-shirts. “That’s where we make our sausage.” It’s important we make our mark by trying to advise the mayor and the city council.

C) Joel met with Chief of Army Public Affairs, thanks to an ANC 6B commissioner.

1. The office is interested in getting the Army’s story out to the public, and the chief might want to come to a board meeting.
2. There may also be contact with the new USCG public affairs officer.

X. Committee Reports (Vice Chairman)

A) Government affairs.

1. The committee is starting to consider meeting with members of city council.

2. Mr. Spangenberg had an idea about Selective Service – if the board adopt something now it would be ideal. We could send it again to mayor – we had sent one last year, but it stalled in the Mayor’s office.
3. Mr. Khan has come up with a new process for when we come up with a new idea. Talk to him if you have an idea on legislation.

XI. Public Comment (Maximum 2 minute per person)

A) none

XII. Upcoming (Events/Meetings/Holidays)

A) 5 December is the next board meeting.

B) Other events were noted by members of the board and community members present:

1. President of world veterans at Toniq in Foggy Bottom on November 11th (Khan)
2. 28 November stand-down (VOTR)
3. Viewing of Ken Burns documentary on the Vietnam War and panel discussion with Vietnam veterans
 - a. November 11, 123-1530, African American Civil War Museum, 1925 Vermont Ave NW.
 - b. Preceded by wreath=laying at 1130.
4. Disabled Veterans National Foundation hosts its first veterans resource fair on Thursday, November 9, at the Silver Spring Civic Building.
 - a. See <https://dvnfveteransfair.ticketleap.com/dvnf-veterans-resource-fair/details> for info
5. American Legion Post 8 is holding several events for Veterans Day including an art fair at the Hill Center, 921 Penn Ave SE
6. Veterans on the Rise is cooperating with the Washington Wizards. Vets attend games with members, seeking volunteers.
7. DoL has a salute to veterans Thursday, 1300-1400 at the Perkins Building.
 - a. November 13-19 is National Apprenticeship Week. See DOL national website.

XIII. Adjournment

A) The meeting was adjourned at 1950.