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Coalition of Veterans Organization

Minutes May 16, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Willie Mack at 7⁰² PM. Members of the Board and others were present prior to call to order for meet and greet to discuss Veteran's matters and personal matters. Pizza was present to provide nourishment for this activity. Pizza and H₂O was available for the regular meeting.

Pledge and Moment of Silence: The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the USA was recited. A moment of silence occurred to honor those in Havrus Way.

May minutes: Minutes were passed out. Bruce Parry moved and Anthony Travis seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Approval of the Agenda:

Bruce Parry stated that Veterans against violence should be added. Motion made by Bruce Parry and Anthony Travis... motion carried... Veterans against violence moved to 16 May meeting.

② Introduction of Guests:

Felice Searles: She is an advisor with Georgia Doty Foundation. ~~The~~^A goal of Foundation is "free health care screenings for Veterans."

Financial Report

Presented by Bruce Parry
Group started the period with \$3,309.07 in the Bank. After deposits put in and expenditures taken out... the total today is \$3,357.57. AT moved
LN ~~approved~~ seconded

Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee: No report

B. Economic Committee: Presented by OBIE Woodlaw
SBA has been invited to group by OBIE Woodlaw
hopefully they will be here next month to discuss how SBA helps Veterans. Small business equals 500,000,000 or less... hopefully Ron Miller will present next month
Also, Vets should be entrepreneurs... hire at least 30 people... a written report will be given by OBIE Woodlaw

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C. Fundraising Committee: Bruce Perry
Options to be considered

① Have an Event

② Crowd Funding... Go Fund Me
Campaign... we approach contacts
to give money

③ Flip Cause before July.... same as
Go Fund Me Campaign but cheaper...
People are competing with each other...
1.5% of all donations is the cost.

④ Going to businesses.
Vote will be taken later to see which
option to pursue.

D. Veterans Affairs Committee

harry Nazimek will present data later
but important points that were mentioned
at the meeting.

① Iva Cohen is the best go to person
for Congressman Danny Davis

② Nine Congressmen have signed on to
bill # 4556.... the last signer was from
DC today and Congressman Cohen from
Memphis signed on very recently.

③ Congresswoman Robin Kelley will be
approached by Anthony Travis

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Director at JBLT recommended that
④ Many of our ideas should be put in
black boxes which are all around the hospital.

Finally; Veterans Affairs Committee Report, May 2018

by
Larry E Nazimek

E. Veterans Against Violence ... Bruce Perry

Bruce presented ① Against violence

② Against poverty

③ Against war against
women.

Old Business: None

New Business: Anthony Travis moved and it
was seconded... Flip Cause is chosen for
fundraising... Option 3... Almost unanimous... only
one opposer. Contact Address:

Veteran One Stop Shop
5020 West Washington Blvd Unit #3
Chicago, IL 60644
nikelecia@gmail.com

Presentations

① Foundation to increase Veterans' Awareness...

Felice Searles... Adviser with the Georgia
Doty Foundation. The goal is to promote
free health screening for Veterans... Don Doty
is the Founder and President 1-312-282-1375

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT, MAY, 2018

by
Larry E. Nazimek

1. We finally got the letter from Cong. Davis that urges colleagues to sign on as cosponsors for H. R. 4556.
2. There has been one additional cosponsor for H. R. 4556, bringing the number up to six. Need interns plus action by national vet organizations.
3. From last meeting, I was supposed to request meeting with Sen. Tammy Duckworth. She would not meet with us, so on 5-8-18, Bruce Parry, Darryl Howard, Mark Weiman, and I met with staffer Dan McManus. We stuck to 4 issues: a) Request that Duckworth write to IL Cong, Delegation, asking them to sign on as cosponsors for H. R. 4556 and to introduce corresponding Senate bill. b) Our opposition to VA privatization. c) Request end to means testing/copays. In the meantime, request end to means testing by a VA hospital for vets who have already been means tested at another VA hospital. d) Request that new VA ID cards be made available to all vets without the current complicated process for obtaining one.
4. On 5-9-18, I attended the Stakeholder's Meeting at JBVAMC. - Dir. Marc Magill says that JBVAMC will be a hub for telemedicine. This means that vets at a clinic, such as Lakeside, will be able to communicate with specialists at JB. Eventually, vets will be able to communicate with doctors with a smart phone. - The JB cafeteria and retail areas will be modernized.

I raised several questions: a) Need for additional parking. At the time meeting started, all parking spots were filled with many vets looking for spots. Magill was aware. Study being conducted to see if there are more valet parking spots than are needed. b) I complained that vets are required to take another means test if they go to another hospital for care, citing where Anthony Travis, a JB patient, went to Hines and was means tested. c) I asked if outside contractors, who have successfully competed to win contracts to operate in VA hospital, must periodically compete to keep the contract. Dir. Magill said it happens every 5 years. I cited the Eyeglass Clinic, whose prices have become high.

The only congressional staffers present were Dan McManus (Sen. Duckworth) and Tamara Jordan (Sen. Durbin). We had just met with McManus the previous day, so I spoke briefly with Jordan. I got her card and followed up with email. I will follow up further with her.

I spoke with the DAV rep about H. R. 4556. He was not aware of it, but will contact their leadership to see about seeking support. The DAV spams out information about bills in Congress, asking people to submit their name/address, and letters will be sent to their senators and congressmen.

5. Regarding veteran radio programs, I have listened to the Saturday (0600-0700, repeated 1800-1900) program on WCPT. I can not pick up WJOB, probably because the station is in NW IN, while I live on the NW side of Chicago. Has anyone picked it up? I spammed out info on the programs.

6. We are seeking inputs from candidates concerning their stance on veterans issues. Statements should be emailed to info@coalitionofvets.org.

7. At this point, we definitely need to meet with Cong. Robin Kelly or one of her staffers. She understands the importance of dental care, because she introduced a bill concerning dental care for those on medicaid.

8. On 5-14-18, I spoke at length with Sen. Durbin's staffer Tamara Jordan, who I had met at the Stakeholder's Meeting the previous week. I had already emailed her with information. This was about the same issues that we had discussed with Sen. Duckworth's staffer Dan McManus. She will contact her counterpart in D. C. and will get back with us. She is a vet, so that should help.

9. The Chicago City Clerk's Office has finally made the new City ID cards available. City Clerk Anna Valencia was interviewed about this on the "Chicago Tonight" program. I spammed out the video clip of this interview. There is currently a rush for these cards, not only because of those who really need them (such as illegal immigrants), but also because there will be no charge for the first 100,000 cards. Seniors and veterans get the card free, according to Valencia. Others will pay \$10.

I checked the web site for this card, and the language appeared to say that in order to get the card free, vets would have to submit a waiver request. In addition, it alluded to a requirement that vets would have to prove their discharge status, which would contradict the City's human rights ordinance. I emailed them for clarification, and after several attempts to get a reply, I got one. Vets will not have to pay for the cards, and one's discharge characterization will not matter.

The City will have a mobile processing capability, so the cards will eventually be available at various locations. Hopefully, VA hospitals and veterans fairs will be among them.

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② Bruce Parry presented to show Veteran involunt in reversing attacks made against the poor.

a. This is the 50th anniversary of MLK campaign to help poor.

b. Veterans are against militarism of society

c. Veterans are against environment degradation

d. Veterans are against poverty

e. Veterans are against women degradation

A motion was made to give \$250 to poor peoples' campaign. 1st Bruce Parry 2nd Anthony Travis... Unanimous carried.

We went around the room and people stood and introduced themselves and commented on Bruce Parry's presentation. The room respects Bruce and the room respected his presentation.

Announcements

Poor Peoples' Campaign is going to Springfield Illinois on Memorial Day, 28 May 2018. See

Bruce Parry... Chairman Willie Mack commented.

"Great if we can fill bus to Springfield."

Money was collected: Meeting donation \$36.00

⑥ Meeting Adjourned : 9⁰⁰ PM

1st Anthony T.

2nd Larry N.

Next Meeting : 20 June, 2018 at Jesse Brown
VAMC, 2nd flr. Damen Bldg.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark Weisman DMD Field Artillery Veteran