

National Veterans Affairs

Zoom Meeting

February 12, 2024

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2000 hrs EST.

Attendance: Chair – Bruno Williamson IL, **P**; Vice Chair- Eddy Seegers Tx, **P**; Seth Rippe Ne, **P**; Jeffery Gibson Al **P**; Bill Sutterlin Oh, **P**.

Consultants: Gabe Cinquangrana Ny, **A**; Nick Arceo Co, **P**

NEC Liasons: Jamey Holloway Ga, **A**; Steve Pintarich Ct, **P** Gary Swanlund Wy, **P**; Maxwell Rice Fr, **A**

SONA Rep – PNC Tommie Cisna **P**

NVC's – John Cook, Leland Moore

Guests: Patrick Gallagher NJ, Jon Kingston Tx

Old Business

Parent and Youth Initiative – we discussed this project again but with no real direction for a program.

Resolutions – Reports from the 4 sub committees: **NAC resolution**: Gabe & Jamey were absent & Steve was the only member on the call. He had said nothing had started on this resolution. **Rigsby resolution**: Nick is chairing this one. Along with Jeff & Gary helping with this resolution. Nick had received info late from the chairman. He has emailed his sub committee & they are getting up to speed now. **Operation Comfort Warriors resolution** – Seth is chairing, along with Eddy & Max. Seth has sent a draft to his guys to look over & he read the resolution to all of us in attendance. Seth has been emailing with the chairman of the finance commission as far as where we can get those funds and an amount. He then read the resolution. The chairman told Seth that this was a great resolution and now he did not want to go over the one he did. **NVCAF resolution** – Bruno chair, along with “Buster” working on it. Buster read the resolution, and except for a few typos and maybe taking out a therefore clause it was good to go.

Members VAR project – the chairman & Buster gave reports last meeting on their programs; Bruno – OCW & NVCAF & Buster – Fisher House. **Vice Chair Eddie – Women Veterans & RISE** - what I've been able to find out about the program, with the increase in women in the military and now women veterans there's a specialty need for dealing with women in PTSD. & suffering from MST. So, at the Waco facility, here in Texas, they basically took over a building & by that I mean, they swapped out some of the services at Waco and moved it to another facility here in Texas. And at the Waco facility, it's an all - female staff, all -female building. I'm one of the few men allowed into the building, when it's just staff in their or if the ladies are all out in the exercise yard. The program is designed for dealing with getting them comfortable being around other people & in general, building their confidence back. And with that comes their self-esteem, self-worth & this helps them with getting jobs, keeping jobs & living life. **Jeff – Widows & Widower's of Veterans** - On Saturday the 17th we'll have our widows & widower's lunch and again I got a VA lady to come speak and she's going to speak to the widowers and the widows on suicide. Also, the spouses of veterans do not know what they are entitled to, so we are educating them

on the benefits they could be receiving. When we first started, we had 13 widows/widowers and now we have 58. Seth – National Veterans Assistance Day - we have a great program in place and NVAD has its place on our Consolidated Squadron Report. But what we lack is promoting this program. And especially promoting on the day, which is May 18, 2024, this year. We should investigate creating a social media campaign as well as using the commissions Face Book page. But we need members to post what they are doing that day.

The chairman asked if Eddie, Jeff & Seth could send the chair a written report so that he may be able to use that information in upcoming Millennial newsletters.

Members Regions and point of contacts - Bruno – West region, my area has not changed since our last meeting. I have 14 active Detachments and only 7 VA&R contacts. So, I am continuing to send info to those Detachment Commanders and adjutants. Eddie -Southeast region - working on getting emails out to the region and hearing what other Detachments are doing in VAR. Seth – Midwest region - added one more p.o.c. from the last meeting and is one shy of having VAR contacts for his whole region. Jeff – Northeast region- it is still a work in progress. I'm having trouble getting VAR contacts, but we are sending information to all the detachments. Buster – Central region - has contacts for 6 of his Detachments and for the others he is sending information to the Commanders. Buster then gave a brief report on what they are doing in Ohio.

New Business

Washington Conference - the travel for this is Feb 24 to 28. The Sal Wreath laying is Sunday the 25th and our TAL VA&R meeting is Monday the 26th. From 900 to 1400 hrs. The SAL meeting will be a joint meeting with our VE&E Commission from 1700 to 1900 hrs in the Tinleytown room at the Washington Hilton. There was then a lengthy & spirited discussion on the new way of doing meetings for VA&R, VE&E & the Legislative commissions. But as of now these three commissions will only meet once a year at the Washington Conference. The chairman Thanked everyone for their input on this subject.

Members term limits – the chairman made everyone aware of when their terms on the commission were ending, Bruno – 2024, Eddie – 2024, Seth – 2025, Jeff – 2024, Bill – 2026. The chairman briefly explained what the members needed to do to get reappointed. The Sona Rep, consultants and NEC liaisons are yearly and are at the discretion of the National Commander. NVC Moore mentioned that in the Southeast region he has emailed the NEC's that form for National appointments.

The chairman Thanked everyone for their input and reports this evening. The members, consultant, NEC's, vice commanders, SONA & our guests tonight.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 2010 hrs.

Respectfully submitted.

Bruno "T" Williamson

National VA&R Chairman