

Arizona Department of Veterans' Service Advisory Commission
3839 N. 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Thursday – February 10, 2011

MINUTES

Advisory Commissioners

Gary Fredricks, Chairman
Terrie Gent, Vice Chair
George Cushing
Phil Hanson
Lori Kiefer
Jeffrey Olson
Lionel Sanchez
David Toliver, Sr.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Joey Strickland, Director
Robert Barnes, Deputy Director
Dave Hampton, Public Information Officer
Katherine Harding, Exec. Asst. to Director
Gabe Forsberg, Strategic Planner/Women Vets

Absent

Ken Yamanouchi (pre-arranged absence)

Guests

R. Gregg Maxon, Chairman, State Bar Military Legal Assistance Committee
David Lucier, President - Arizona Veterans Foundation
Joe Tassinari, Volunteer at the Arizona State Veteran Home
Grant Cooper, Divisional Manager, Sizewise

Call to Order –The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gary Fredricks. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Communications: There were two items received by the Commission:

- Both were invitations to the Chair and Vicechair to attend the Arizona Stand Down in Phoenix on February 4.

There were several letters sent out to disseminate the Commission's recently finalized strategic objectives. Letters were mailed to:

- Governor Janice K. Brewer, ADVS Director, Arizona Speaker of the House, Arizona Senate President, House Committee on Military Affairs & Public Safety, and the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs.

Veteran Treatment Courts

R. Gregg Maxon, Chairman, State Bar Military Legal Assistance Committee, provided an overview of the progress made in Arizona to help veterans with legal issues. He provided the status of three Arizona legal initiatives: Veteran Courts, Law School Clinics and the State Bar Veterans Committee. Courts of limited jurisdiction are setting aside veteran-specific calendars (such as Tucson City Courts, City of Phoenix, Glendale, and some Justice of the Peace courts), but the veterans typically have other legal issues that are outside the scope of those courts. As of January 20, Maricopa County Superior Court heard its first case. Fred Irwin is the agency's designated contact for incarcerated veterans. The courts will need a group of volunteers willing to serve as mentors to veterans who go through the veteran court.

Vicechair Gent moved to send a letter from the Commission to the Arizona Supreme court, commending the judicial staff at the Arizona Stand Down February 4, 5, & 6th in Phoenix. A copy of the letter would be send to the presiding judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court. It was seconded and unanimously approved. Vicechair Gent will prepare the letter for review by Gregg Maxon, Joey Strickland and Chairman Fredricks.

Agency Report

Director Joey Strickland provided the status on various activities statewide. Deputy Director Robert Barnes also provided information and answered questions from the Commissioners. George Cushing asked for a detailed report on the Arizona Stand Down at the April meeting.

Thomas Atkins is the newly appointed Policy Advisory to the Governor on Military Affairs. Victor Daniels is now with the AZ Department of Transportation.

Legislation

Dave Hampton, PIO for the agency, provided a summary of bills of interest to the veteran community. The Commission reviewed all currently pending senate and house bills, concurrent resolutions and concurrent memorials.. Vicechair Gent and Phil Hanson were asked to review HB 2473 and the Veterans Research Council recommendation which proposed a set aside for Arizona for disabled veteran-owned businesses. If the Legislation Committee suggests that the Commission support it, the Chairman will call a special meeting for discussion by the entire Commission.

Veterans Cemetery – Cave Creek Right of Way Issue

The agenda item will remain on the agenda until it has been resolved. Susan McCraw, VA Intergovernmental Affairs, is working with the City of Phoenix on the right of way issue. Director Strickland has requested that the agency also be notified of actions taken.

Mr. Hanson offered to make contacts with city officials he knows and will report his findings to Chairman Fredricks and Director Strickland.

Regional Meeting in Chinle 3-12-11

Chairman Fredricks offered to update a script used for an earlier regional meeting. There will be no “less critical” business (such as approval of the minutes) on the agenda.

Mike Klier and Deputy Director Barnes will accompany Director Strickland. John Dudas, Roger Begay and Tanya Dooline will be able to assist veterans with their claims issues.

HoMana Pawiki requested 20 minutes to discuss Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) during the meeting.

Good of the Order

David Lucier indicated the Arizona Veterans Foundation was supportive of HB 2410 as a means of attracting veterans to state schools. AVF is not supporting SB1266. The Arizona State University Alumni Association is the first in the state to specifically support veterans attending the University.

Joe Tassanari, a willing volunteer for the Arizona State Veteran Home, requested his volunteer application process be reviewed. He was assured that his issue would be researched.

Chairman Fredricks adjourned the meeting at 12:28 a.m. The next meeting will be held March 12, 2011 in Chinle.