

**Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Advisory Commission**  
3839 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85012

**January 10, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Commissioners Present**

Peter Kloeber  
Joseph Brophy  
Chris Gibbs  
Joan McDermott  
Carolyn Smith  
Rebecca Villalpando (via telephone)

**Absent**

Arlethe Rios

**AZ Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)**

Wanda Wright, Director  
Therisa Billingsley, Administrative Assistant II  
Jennifer Harris, Legislative Liaison

**Guests**

Tammy Parise, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau  
Brianna Hatchett, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau  
Astria Wong, Partnership Specialist, U. S. Census Bureau

**Call to Order** – The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Advisory Commission meeting was held at the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services headquarters, Phoenix, AZ. Chairman Kloeber called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Introductions of Commissioner**

Chairman Kloeber introduced the newest commissioner, Carolyn Smith who is from the Northern Region.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Chairman Kloeber called for a motion to approve the October 11, 2018, Arizona Veterans' Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes. There being no changes to the minutes, Commissioner Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Kloeber made reference to the handouts provided to each member of the commission: Arizona Veterans' Services Phone and employee directory, the upcoming meeting dates and member roster. It was noted that the member roster has a 2017 date that needs to be corrected and to add Commissioner Chris Gibbs to the roster. The Chair further describes the goals and mission of the Commission, the Boards and Commission application processes, stating the Commission is not a directive commission.

Chairman Kloeber advised the Commission of the two vacant seats.

**Tammy Parise, Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau** – Ms. Parise provided an overview of the U.S. Census, its timeline of activities, the Complete Count Committee (CCC) basics, critical next steps and provided U.S. Census information packets to all members of the Commission. Noting that the primary goal of the 2020 Census is to maximize the self-response to the Census sharing that the *decennial* census is the once-a decade population and housing count of all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Island areas. The results of the census determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. This information can also be used to ensure Veterans get counted in the upcoming 2020 Census including; the group/veteran's homes. The January through March Census count will include self-response. Those who do not self-respond will be included in the door to door census.

Ms. Parise shared that if the Department wanted to participate in the CCC, their CCC could consist of those contacts/partnerships who know and support Veteran issues. For example, the contacts that

already exist at your fingertips. Businesses can form the committee based on their knowledge/experience of how to best reach the Veteran population in Arizona.

U.S. Census is engaging and educating local leaders, partners and communities to encourage the hiring of veterans. Ms. Parise asked that the Commission spread the word that there are 3,000 Census worker positions available. These positions will last at least until 2020 and have a starting pay of minimum wage to \$15.00. Ms. Parise also shared the following websites: US Census Quickfacts: [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: UNITED STATES](#) and [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: UNITED STATES](#).

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*, including veteran populations.

[The Response Outreach Area Mapper \(ROAM\)](#) application was developed to make it easier to identify hard-to-survey areas and to provide a socioeconomic and demographic characteristic profile of these areas using American Community Survey (ACS).

**Agency Announcements and Updates** – Wanda Wright, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services provided an update on the progress of the two new state Veterans homes, located in Flagstaff and Yuma, sharing the homes are 60 percent designed with ground breaking expected in the Spring. The Department is looking into the future at the possibility of Mohave County for a new home. The state pays 35 percent of the cost, but up to the local municipalities to determine what land is available.

The Veterans Donation Fund (VDF) Large Grants just completed the request for proposal process and the application was made available online during the cycle period. Large grants are funded by the purchase of an Arizona veterans license plate. A portion of the special plate fee goes to the VDF, which is used in many ways to help Arizona's veteran community.

BeConnected is not just a suicide prevention hotline; the whole purpose behind BeConnected is a resource for veterans and their families to connect them to services available in their community.

Director Wright discussed the purpose of the Sunset Audit Review and advised it is coming up this October.

Director Wright shared her recent visit to the Phoenix VA and her experience with the new Veteran Resource Center. It's a One Stop Shopping service that allows veterans the opportunity to resolve issues such as, travel reimbursement, billing and eligibility for benefits all at one location.

The Women Veteran Expo will be held June 14, 2019 – June 15, 2019. There will be vendors available to assist veterans at this event.

The Arizona Coalition for Military Families' *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans and the Families* will be held April 18-19, 2019 and will include many Military/Veteran organizations.

The Department, through the VDF, helps fund the Arizona Stand Down Alliance and encourages all to attend the upcoming event on January 24-25 at the fairgrounds.

Director Wright will be on the road with BeConnected, going to D.C. for a Substance Abuse Mental Health Association (SAMHA) conference.

**Jennifer Harris, Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services** – Mrs. Harris introduced herself and gave some background on her role at the Department. Legislative session began on January 7, 2019. Ms. Harris will be tracking proposed legislation and will share bill information in the future. She will be assisting with updating current A.R.S. and will provide legislative updates. Mrs. Harris invites members of the Commission who want to be on the distribution list to let her know. The Chairman requested that all commissioners be included.

### **Outreach Activities**

Chairman Kloeber will be a guest speaker at the Coconino County local Emergency Planning Committee. Chairman Kloeber encouraged the commission to take advantage of the Military/Veteran Resource Navigator training being offered by the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. Director Wright will send information on navigator training schedule to commission members.

Commissioner Smith stated the Mohave County Veterans' Stand Down will take place in Bullhead City on March 1-2, 2019. Veteran Treatment Courts continue to flourish in the region and they are working to get all mentors certified, trained and connected with the Mohave courts and LaPaz/Parker Veteran Treatment Court.

Commissioner Villapando is doing outreach in Yarnell, Bagdad and Congress and working with the City of Phoenix for the Veteran Memorial District on the Heritage Forum of Honor project.

After receiving a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Kloeber adjourned the meeting at 12:06.