Agenda

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

Agella	11 October 2019 at 10:00 AM	Arrowheads Community Club
1000 (5)	CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Sam Petrovich
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Sam Petrovich
1005 (5)	Commission introductions	
1010 (5)	Oath of Office Wayne Perry- VFW	Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli
1015 (5)	Approval September 6 meeting minutes	REQUIRES A VOTE
1020 (10)	DMVA Military Update	Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli
	OLD BUSINESS	
1030 (2)	DMVA, Chief Counsel	Mr. Jeff Wallitsch
1032 (3)	DMVA, Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs	Mr. Dusty Durand
1035 (5)	DMVA, Bureau of Veterans Homes	Mr. Andrew Ruscavage
1040 (15)	DMVA, Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO)	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1055 (5)	Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA)	REQUIRES A VOTE
1100 (5)	Act 66 Committee report	Mr. Kit Watson
1105 (5)	RETX Committee report	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
1110 (5)	Legislative Committee report	Chairman Sam Petrovich
1115 (5)	Pensions & Relief/Grave markings Committee report	
	NEW BUSINESS	
1120 (5)	Hall of Fame	REQUIRES A VOTE
	Nominee: Robert Gordon Slade	
1125 (5)	Good of the Order	Chairman Sam Petrovich
1130 (20)	Elections	Mr. Jeff Walitsch
1150 (5)	Oath of Office- New Officers	Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli
1155 (5)	Next Meeting:	
	Friday, December 6, 2019 @ 10:00am	
	Arrowheads Community Club	
1200	ADJOURNMENT	Chairman Sam Petrovich
	RETIRING OF COLORS	Chairman Sam Petrovich



STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2019



CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS



								K	7							
JAN19	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC JA	N20	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
					3/278	ACR-E	DI - 52	5 PAX								
										B/2-	104 GSAE	3- OF	S- 32	PAX		
										D/2-	104 GSAE	3- OF	S- 19	PAX		
																,
			111 ATK	W- RTND												
										•						
				193 S	OW- O	IR- 63	PAX									
258 A	rcs-	OIR- RT	ND			211 E	IS (193)- VAR	IOUS-	46 PAX						
	070 5	10 (444) //AD	IOUG I	DENID			004 D	10 /44	40400	OID 70	DAY				
	2/U E	IS (111)- VAR	1005-1	RIND			201 R	HS (11	16193	- OIR- 72	PAX				
						171 A	RW- O	ES_16	DAY							
						1/ 1 A	RVV- C	- 3- TO	FAA							
				193 A	OG- SS	- RTN	D									
				1007												
		171 A	RW-R	TND		111 S	FS- OIF	R- 12 P	AX							
				171 A	RW- A	LERT:	STATU	S (HS)-	37 PA	ΑX						
				111 A	TKW-I	RPA (H	IS)- 36	PAX								

ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 525 ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB Site: 52 **ARNG Individual Mob: 22 Total ARNG Mob: 599**

Total PANG Mobilized: 906 **Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 282 Current ANG Individual Mob: 25**

Total: ANG Mob: 307

CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



PAARNG Current Deployments							
MSAD	UNIT	OPN	PAX	MISSION	Projected Return Date		
17 MAR 19	3/278 ACR	UCP-EDI	525	Deter/Defeat	01 FEB 2020		
08 SEP 19	2-104 th AVN B CO	OFS 19-21	32	Aviation Support	08 OCT 20		
08 SEP 19	2-104 th AVN D CO	OFS 19-21	19	Aviation Support	08 OCT 20		
Various Individual MOB Soldiers				Various Missions	TBD		
	17 MAR 19 08 SEP 19 08 SEP 19	MSAD UNIT 17 MAR 19 3/278 ACR 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN B CO 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN D CO	MSAD UNIT OPN 17 MAR 19 3/278 ACR UCP-EDI 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN B CO OFS 19-21 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN D CO OFS 19-21	MSAD UNIT OPN PAX 17 MAR 19 3/278 ACR UCP-EDI 525 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN B CO OFS 19-21 32 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN D CO OFS 19-21 19	MSAD UNIT OPN PAX MISSION 17 MAR 19 3/278 ACR UCP-EDI 525 Deter/Defeat 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN B CO OFS 19-21 32 Aviation Support 08 SEP 19 2-104 th AVN D CO OFS 19-21 19 Aviation Support Various Individual MOB Soldiers 22 Various		

Total PAARNG Deployed: 599

PAANG Current Deployments						
Unit	Opn	Pax				
193 SOW	OIR	191				
111 ATKW	IPR (HS)/Various	36/12				
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS)/OIR	37/31				
Total PAANG	307					

Total PANG Deployed 906

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2019 Wait Times



Clinics	Number of			
FY19 thru Sept. 17	Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	2,343,555	2,215,276	95.7%	5
Mental Health	342,281	329,635	97.6%	3.4
Primary Care	527,951	517,037	97.9%	3.6
Specialty Care	923,814	836,707	93.0%	7.4

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



	Prima	ry Care	Mental Health Care		
VISN 4 Facility	New	Returning	New	Returning	
	Patients	Patients	Patients	Patients	
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	17	2	7	4	
Abie Abraham HCC	12	0	10	3	
Coatesville VAMC	14	3	10	3	
Erie VAMC	17	5	15	2	
Lebanon VAMC	15	4	10	3	
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	28	4	19	2	
	17 (Hz)	6 (Hz)	13 (Hz)	4 (Hz)	
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	13 (UD)	6 (UD)	10 (UD)	2 (UD)	
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	11	n/a	13	7	
Wilmington VAMC	17	5	12	2	

Data updated 9/9/19 with wait times for last 30 days.

accesstocare.va.gov

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Care in the Commun (Scheduled and Co	Total Unique Patients	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013	303,363
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193	304,608
Fiscal Year 2018	85,879	311,449
FY19 (10/1-8/31)	95,524	312,739

VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



Statement for Response	All of FY16	All of FY17	All of FY18	FY19 thru June	National
"I got the service I needed"					
(Effectiveness)	88.1	87.8	89.6	88.1	88
"It was easy to get the service I needed"					
(Ease)	83.4	83.7	83.4	83.2	83.2
"I felt like a valued customer"					
(Emotion)	84.3	85	84.2	85.3	84.9
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's					
commitment to Veterans"					
(Trust)	83.6	84	85.3	85.4	84.8

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Outpatients



Statement for Response	All of FY16	All of FY17	All of FY18	FY19 thru June	National
"I got the service I needed"					
(Effectiveness)	86	86.2	87.6	87.8	82.7
"It was easy to get the service I needed"					
(Ease)	79.1	80.4	81.3	82.2	74.7
"I felt like a valued customer"					
(Emotion)	80.3	81.8	83.0	84.1	77.3
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's					
commitment to Veterans"					
(Trust)	75.5	78.2	81	80.4	74.6

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Specialty Care



Statement for Response	All of FY16	All of FY17	All of FY18	FY19 thru June	National
"I got the service I needed"					
(Effectiveness)	84.2	85.3	85.5	85.7	83.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed"					
(Ease)	75.5	78.1	76.8	79.4	74.4
"I felt like a valued customer"					
(Emotion)	79	79.9	79.9	82.2	78
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's					
commitment to Veterans"					
(Trust)	73.3	76.8	76.1	79.1	75.5

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

Policy Planning and Legislative Affairs



DMVA Priority Legislation – Veterans

Global War on Terror Bonus – draft provided to Senator Costa who passed it to the Democratic Chair of the Senate VA&EP Committee - awaiting introduction

Real-estate Tax Exemption – HB 1787 introduced by Rep Sainato Democratic Chair of the House VA&EP Committee. Includes the SVC recommendations.

Veterans Preference Language – draft provided to House and Senate VA&EP Committee Executive Staff awaiting introduction

DMVA Special Programs grant authority – draft language provided to House VA&EP Committee Executive Staff - awaiting introduction

Policy Planning and Legislative Affairs



Upcoming Bills

HB 1380 (Boback) - Amends Titles 30 (Fish) & 34 (Game), in fishing licenses, for active duty military fishing reciprocity & disabled veteran annual fishing license reciprocity; &, for active duty military & disabled veteran hunting reciprocity. – Passed House now in Senate Game and Fisheries

HB 1521 (Pashinski) - Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), in Pennsylvania Preferred Trademark, providing for military veterans. – Passed House now in Senate Ag & Rural Affairs

HB 1609 (O'Mara) - Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) contributing to Veterans' Trust Fund renewing driver's license/registration – Passed House now in Senate VAEP

HB 1787 (Saintato) – Amends Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, further providing for exemptions and special provisions – Introduced to House VAEP 08/19/19

SR 170 (Iovino) - Directs Joint State Government Commission to establish task force to study coordination of veterans' services in commonwealth among federal, state, local, and nonprofit programs – Set on Senate Calendar for 9/23/19

BUREAU OF VETERANS HOMES



Current Licensure Status

Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	GMVC HVH		SEVC	swvc
		Dates	of Last Inspect	ion		
PA Department of Health	03/18/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	12/07/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/25/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/30/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	09/27/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/17/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status
PA Department of Human Services	N/A	N/A	06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	N/A
US Department of Veterans Affairs	04/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status

Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach



Initiatives

- · Regionalization Update
 - Concept & Implementation Briefing Document distributed.
 - Hired Region 3 and 5 Regional Outreach Coordinators to start 21 Oct 19.
 - Proof of Concept for Information & Referral Database has been launched in Region 5 (SE portion of the commonwealth).
 - Resources continually be added to Information & Referral Database.
 - Resource account for PA VET CONNECT now available: RA-MVVET-CONNECT@pa.gov

Meetings/Events

- 10 Oct PAWVC
- 11 Oct SVC, FTIG
- 19 Nov GAC-VS
- 6 Dec SVC Meeting, FTIG

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at www.dmva.pa.gov

GAC-VS

- Judiciary Committee
 - Conducted outreach to the Veteran Service Units
 - 25% increase in the number of PA Veterans Courts in 2019. Five new VTCs include: Armstrong, Lycoming, Lebanon, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties
- Established Expanding Long-Term Care Services Committee. Report due to Governor's Office Dec. 31, 2019.
- Joint Committee on Reducing Veterans Homelessness
 - Collaboration and Resource Inventory Workgroup developed an information paper on available courses, workshops, and programs for veterans to find, obtain, and retain housing.

Contact Us

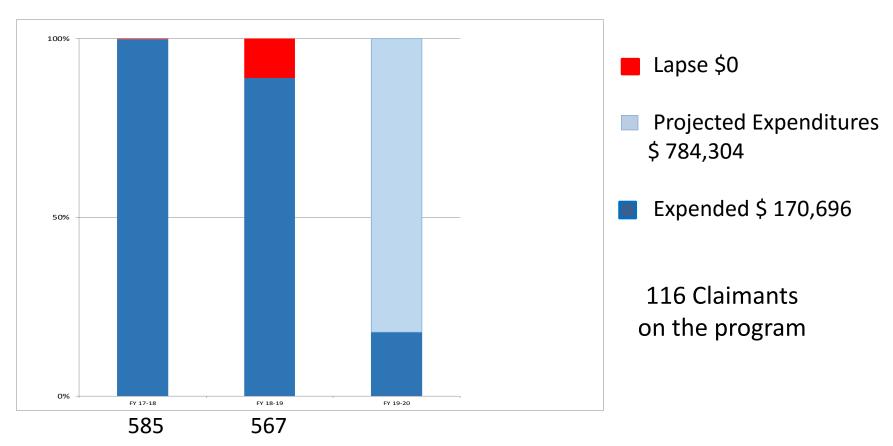
We want to hear from you. If you have ideas/initiatives that you want to share with DMVA, please contact Mr. Joel Mutschler, PIRO Bureau Director, at 717-861-8910 or RA-VA-Info@pa.gov.

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at www.dmva.pa.gov

VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



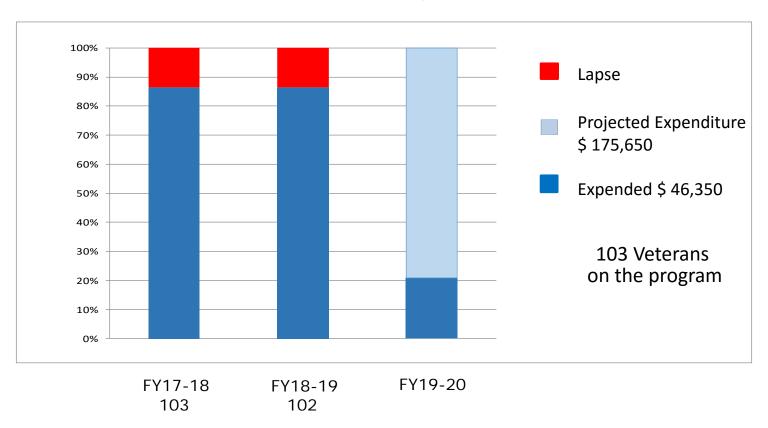
\$955,000



BLIND VETERANS PENSION



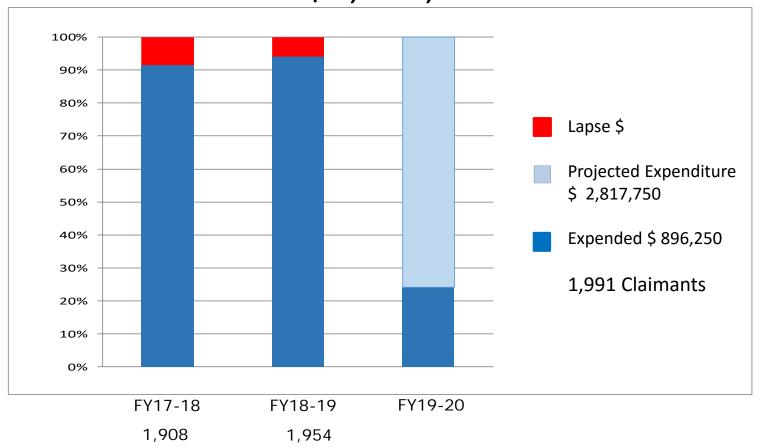
\$222,000



AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



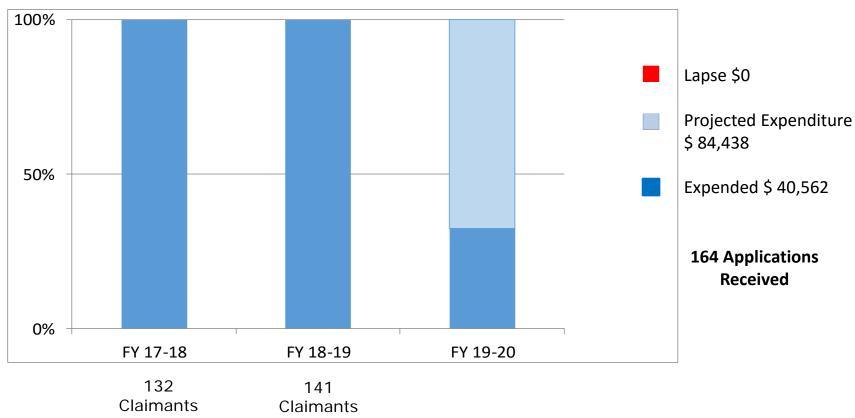
\$3,714,000



EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY

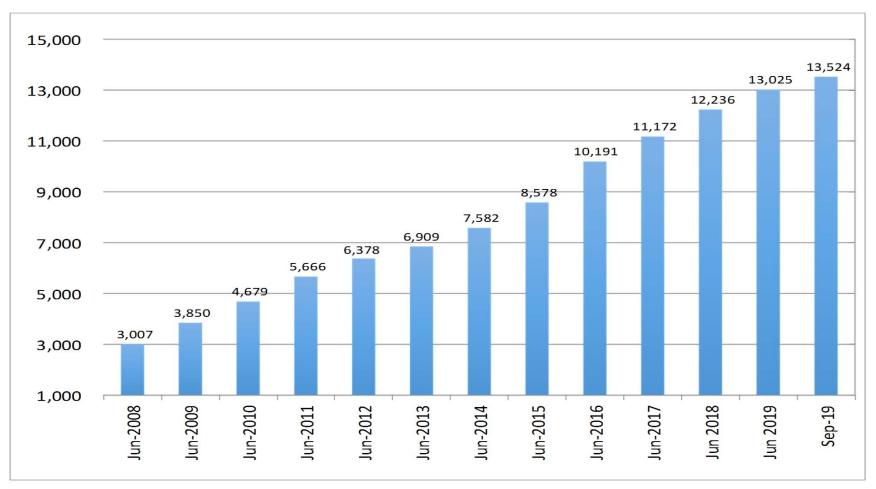


\$125,000



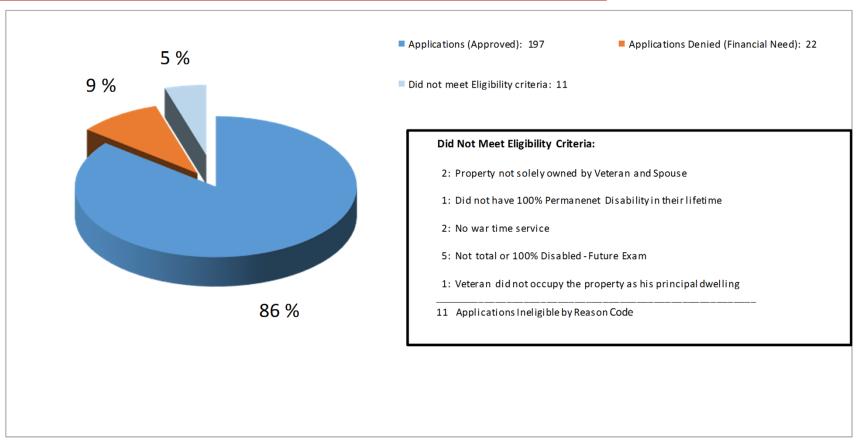
DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM





DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM





*296 Applications Adjudicated since 17 August 2019

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 13 September 2019

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 130,457.32
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,767,698.01
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,898,155.33
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 878,421.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 1,019,733.47

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund	
Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2019)	\$278,760.97
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$796.83
License Plate Donations	\$276
Interest	\$1,147.85
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$2,220.68
Expenses	(\$6,484.26)
Ending Balance	\$274,497.39

OVA / VSO GRANT PROGRAM



FY 19 - 20 Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary		
Year to Date Claims Submitted Year to Date Value of Awards		
2,397	\$9,236,043.00	

FY 18 - 19 Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary		
Year to Date Claims Submitted Year to Date Value of Awards		
25,494	\$344,517,683.00	

OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



Outreach Statistics					
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	4				4
Mobile Outreach Van Events	2				2
Veteran Interactions	43				43
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	7				7
Legislator Attended Events	0				0

Upcoming Events – October

- **Legislative Events** Rep. Sappy Senior Expo Sen. Regan Senior Expo Sen. Mastriano Veteran Event Sen. Pittman/ Rep. Struzzi/ Rep. Dush Senior Expo – Rep. Sappy Senior Expo
- Events PMFA Making Sense of Finance Event, Philadelphia Retiree Appreciation Day, Carlisle
- **Legislators Attending Events** None

VETERANS' TRUST FUND



VTF Report						
Source	Week	Month to Date	Fiscal Year Total		Total	# HOV Sold
Appropriation Transfer to VTF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,700,000.00	
HOV License Plate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$465.00	31	\$48,585.00	3,239
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$105.00	7	\$2,925.00	195
HOV Women's License Plate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$210.00	14	\$285.00	19
Checkoff & Donations	\$21,221.00	\$62,806.00	\$332,783.66		\$9,503,470.52	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$182.71	\$182.71	\$182.71		\$4,522.71	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,004.28		\$4,451.65	
Interest	\$0.00	\$4,984.40	\$15,082.93		\$142,000.13	
VSO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$700,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 14-15)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 13-14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 18-19)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,081.03		\$725,400.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 17-18)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$777,909.21	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$641,329.75	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$502,126.03	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 14-15)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$472,473.67	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 13-14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$442,020.00	
Veteran Programs Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,900.00	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$22,901.34	
VTA	\$7,150.00	\$34,072.00	\$176,486.00		3,792,548.32	
Working Balance	\$14,253.71	\$33,916.11	\$167,266.55		\$2,548,631.69	3,453

NEXT MEETING



Friday, DECEMBER 6, 2019 at 10:00AM

Arrowheads Community Club Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA

Visit www.svc.pa.gov for all SVC info.

State Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2019 10:00 AM to 11:13 AM Southwest Veterans' Center Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Call to Order Vice-Chairman Edgar Burris

The Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Samuel Petrovich.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence by Vice-Chairman Burris and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Samuel Petrovich.

Allegiance led by Chairman Samuel Petrovich	l.			
Commission Introductions				
BG Mark Schindler	Deputy Adjutant General-Army			
Chairman Samuel Petrovich	Chairman, State Veterans Commission			
Maj Gen (Ret) Eric Weller	Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs			
Mr. E. James Lamison	Designee, AMVETS			
Mr. Paul Shipley	Commander, AMVETS			
Mr. Robert Heister	Designee, Military Officers Association of America			
Mr. Edgar Burris	Member at Large/SVC Vice-Chairman			
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	Commander, Catholic War Veterans			
Mr. Frank J. Bokan	President, Military Order of the Purple Heart			
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	President, PA State Association of County Directors of			
	Veterans Affairs.			
Mr. James Robert E. John	Commander, The American Legion			
Mr. Anthony Jorgensen	Adjutant, The American Legion			
Mr. John Cyprian	Member at Large			
Mr. Robert Ziltz (conference call)	Commandant, Marine Corps League			
Mr. Leonard M. Johnson	Commander, Disabled American Veterans			
Mr. Christopher Fidler (conference call)	Member at Large			
Ms. Constance Snavely (conference call)	Member at Large			
	Others Present			
Mr. Tim Liezert	VISN 4			
Mr. Phillip Arnold	Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart			
Mrs. Nancy Burris	Guest			
Mrs. Sandy Arnold	Guest			
Mrs. Deb Bokan	Guest			
Mrs. Norlynn John	Guest			
Mr. Norm Marden	PA Office of Attorney General			
Mr. Aaron Rieber	Adjutant General Office			
Mr. Andrew Ruscavage	DMVA-BVH			
Ms. Katie Merritt	DMVA-Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs			
Mr. Joel Mutschler	DMV-PIRO			
Ms. Barbra Raymond	Commandant, PA Soldiers' and Sailors' Home			

Mr. Peter Ojeda	Commandant, Delaware Valley Veterans' Home		
Mr. Jim Miller	Commandant, Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center		
Ms. Debbie Nesbella	Commandant, Hollidaysburg Veterans' Center		
Mr. Rohan Blackwood	Commandant, Southeastern Veterans' Center		
Mr. Rich Adams	Commandant, Southwestern Veterans' Center		
Ms. Elena Tedesco	DMVA-BVH ADHC Coordinator Southeastern Veterans'		
	Center		
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)		
Mr. Mark Pugliese	DMVA-PIRO (Project Manager)		
Mr. Greg Holler	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)		
Ms. Kim Webber	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)		

Chairman Petrovich and Andrew Ruscavage thanked Commandant Rich Adams and Deputy Commandant Erin Rakow for the excellent job they and their dedicated staff did to make the SVC meeting comfortable and successful. Commandant Adams thanked the SVC members and said he was delighted to host the meeting. He said he hoped everyone who participated in the tour enjoyed it. He encouraged all the SVC members to join the Veterans for lunch and conversation.

Oath of Office BG Mark Schindler

General Schindler administered the Oath of Office to the following newly appointed Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission members:

• Robert E. John-TAL, Leonard M. Johnson-DAV, Frank J. Bokan-MOPH, Paul Shipley-AMVETS and Nicholas Taylor-CWV.

Approval of the June 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Edgar Burris made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.

Second: Mr. Paul Shipley seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried.

Military Update BG Mark Schindler

General Schindler thanked the Southwestern Veterans' Home for setting up and hosting the SVC meeting. He also sent Maj Gen Carrelli's regrets that he couldn't attend the meeting due to a conflict in scheduling. Maj Gen Carrelli was assisting the Governor with a press conference regarding he and the Governor traveling to PA's partner country, Lithuania. They will also go to Poland to thank and meet with the 500 PANG soldiers of the 3-278th Armor Battalion. The Governor will be introduced to the Polish Minister of Defense.

General Schindler reported the Pennsylvania National Guard has approximately 834 (289 Air/595 Army) soldiers and airmen deployed around the world in different ongoing operations. The break down is 289 airmen and 595 army. He also said Maj Gen Carrelli and the Governor recently attended a sendoff of two companies of the 2-104th AVN BN and their families at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Questions/Discussions

No questions/comments noted.

VISN 4 Mr. Tim Liezert

Mr. Tim Liezert noted that SVC members had received his slides with updated information on leadership changes, Mission Act, patient experience, and whole health program. Mr. Liezert briefed on the following:

Leadership/Staffing Update:

On June 9 2019, Karen Flaherty-Oxler began serving as the director of the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia. Ms. Flaherty-Oxler is a retired rear admiral of the USN. She spent more than two years as the deputy surgeon general and deputy chief for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the USN.

She served as the senior vice president for the Atlantic Health System in Morristown, NJ, from 2016-2018. Butler VA Health Care System's director, Jon Lasell stepped down due to health reasons. Sharon Coyle has been serving as the interim director. Ms. Coyle is the associate director for patient care services at Butler VA and is the lead nurse executive and geriatrics and extended care lead for VISN 4.

MISSION Act

Mr. Liezert stated Veterans for the first time can now visit non-VA urgent care clinics for treatment of minor illnesses and injuries without a pre-authorization from VA. The Mission Act's new urgent care benefit adds to existing care options that include same-day and video visits with VA providers. Veterans must have received VA health care in the past 24 months to use the new urgent care benefit. Some Veterans may be required to pay a \$30 co-pay. Veterans can call 1-833-483-8669 to check eligibility. There is also a web page that provides more information on co-pays and enables you to search for an approved urgent care provider. (https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/)

Veterans can still call their local VISN 4 facility for same-day care or to connect with the Nurse Triage Call Center, who may be able to schedule a same-day video appointment, so the Veteran doesn't have to leave their home for care. The Nurse Triage Call Center uses VA Video Connect to provide this service.

Whole Health and Patient Experience:

Whole Health is an approach to health care that empowers and equips people to take charge of their health and wellbeing and to live their life to the fullest. Erie VA Medical Center is the VISN 4's Whole Health Flagship site. They started implementing the Whole Health initiative in October 2017 and have been sharing their best practices and lessons learned with all VISN 4 facilities since then. Lebanon and Butler VA Medical Centers have chosen to participate in the next wave of Whole Health implementations.

Dr. Gaudet, the executive director of the VA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, recently spoke to the VISN 4 Whole Health Community of Practice regarding the current state of Whole Health and what is expected over the next few years. Preliminary data collected on Whole Health indicates cost savings as well as improved outcomes for those engaged in whole Health Nationally.

Patient Experience is the sum of all interactions, shaped by an organization's culture, that influence patient perceptions across the continuum of care. A survey of 14,458 Veterans in VISN 4 over a 90-day span resulted in a rating of 90.7% which was a ranking of third in the nation for trust in the VA.

Mr. Liezert said to provide a healthy and safe environment for Veterans, patients and visitors, all VA medical facilities will go smoke-free on Oct. 1. Smoke-free means smoking will be prohibited for patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers, vendors and employees at all VHA properties. It will apply to cigarettes, cigars, pipes and any other combustion of tobacco, to include electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens or e-cigars. He said we provide resources to help Veterans quit tobacco. The VA Quitline is a great place to start at 1-855-QUIT-VET. You can also ask your provider for help. VA provides counseling and medications to help you quit tobacco.

Questions/Discussion

• Mr. Burris asked if Mr. Liezert's talking points could be incorporated into the readaheads? It was agreed that the talking points will be incorporated into the readaheads. Mr. Burris inquired what the VA was doing to address the problem of vaping and its relationship to lung disease. Mr. Liezart said he will have to get back to Mr. Burris with an answer; he noted the seriousness of the issue.

- Mr. Taylor asked if there were going to be any other co-pays to Veterans that use an urgent care facility-such as bandages, prescriptions? Mr. Liezert stated the co-pay provision is based on a priority status, a sliding scale. He said that up to three visits for certain priority categories are provided, beyond that co-pay kicks in. He stated there are provisions to cover any ancillary costs.
- A question from the floor regarding whether any considerations were going to be given to hospice patients concerning the non-smoking policy? Mr. Liezert said the national policy does not contain any exceptions for terminally ill patients.
- Mr. Shipley asked what the selection process will be for non-VA urgent care facilities and how many will be available in PA.? Mr. Liezert said the call center will provide information regarding which urgent care facilities are no co-pay. He said the building of an urgent care network is evolving.
- Mr. Zamosky asked if this new procedure will replace the fee-based requirements for urgent care and will VISN 4 publish information for Veterans, so they know how to proceed? Mr. Liezert said the fee-based procedure is dead and he will get back to Mr. Zamosky on the second part of his question.
- Mr. Cyprian asked since Health Net is finished how will the VA handle the complaints by Veterans who are not getting their bills paid or their physician not getting paid? Mr. Liezert said it's a very complicated matter, and they are working on providing a mechanism where the Veteran can contact the local billing center to seek relief. The VA is putting in place a national contact center as well to assist with this overwhelming problem.

OLD BUSINESS

DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs

Ms. Katie Merritt

Ms. Merritt reported that HB 1787 is out of committee. She said State Senator Iovino is creating a process in how a joint state government commission, task force, can coordinate all Veteran services throughout PA and fuse them into the local community in conjunction with national and state partners.

Questions/Discussion

• Mr. Burris asked if there had been any progress was made since our June meeting on increasing the amount of money to monthly pensions for the blind and paralyzed Veterans? Mr. Merritt stated no because legislature is still in recess.

Ms. Merritt announced she was departing the DMVA effective September 6, 2019, so this was her last brief to the SVC. General Weller presented her with an award for her dedicated service to the DMVA and offered her great success at her new position.

DMVA Bureau of Veterans Homes

Mr. Andrew Ruscavage

Mr. Ruscavage individually introduced each commandant from all six Veterans homes in the following order: Commandant Peter Ojeda- Delaware Valley Veterans Home, Commandant Jim Miller- Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Commandant Debbie Nesbella- Hollidaysburg Veterans' Center, Commandant Barb Raymond-Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and Commandant Rich Adams- Southwestern Veterans' Center.

** Ms. Elena Tedesco represented Southeastern Veterans' Center.

Each commandant reviewed their facilities' level of care and available beds, which were reflected in the slide presentation contained in the readahead and gave short updates on renovations and brief histories of facilities. There were no questions asked of the commandants regarding their facilities.

Ms. Elena Tedesco briefed the SVC on the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) being provided at the Southeastern Veterans' Center (SEVC) for Veterans. She said the ADHC program at SEVC is projected to be fully functional by January 2021. It will provide up to 30 Veterans and their spouses with medical and therapeutic services

daily. The program will operate five days a week, Monday thru Friday, eight hours a day. ADHC will allow Veterans to remain in their homes longer and will help with in home care takers. There were no questions for Ms. Tedesco.

Mr. Ruscavage and Commandant Adams discussed the exciting news of the Southwestern Veterans' Center and the University of Pittsburgh joining together to pioneer a new pneumatic wheelchair that the University of Pittsburgh is developing. Southwestern Veterans' Center is allowing the Veterans to be trained on the use of the experimental pneumatic wheelchair and thus operate as the beta test location. The pneumatic wheelchairs will not need overnight charging and can travel more miles than a battery powered wheelchair.

Questions/Discussion

- General Weller asked Mr. Ruscavage why three of the presentation slides show three homes with personal care, why don't they all have personal care? Mr. Ruscavage stated due to the changing dynamics of the elder care spectrum DMVA-BHV had devised a strategic plan to address the everevolving needs of our PA Veterans. So, some homes are targeted for skilled nursing and some for personal care to provide the most demanded and necessary care for our Veterans.
- General Weller said the ADHC at SEVC, as noted, is a pilot program, he then asked Mr. Ruscavage if there are any further plans for ADHC implementations? Mr. Ruscavage stated there are plans to implement ADHC in other homes. He said with federal reimbursements the ADHC program will hopefully become cost neutral to the DMVA-BVH.
- General Weller thanked the staff and commandants at all the Veterans Homes for their hard work.
- Mr. Fidler, who had been participating at the SVC via teleconferencing, asked Mr. Ruscavage to provide a more detailed explanation of the pneumatic wheelchair. Mr. Ruscavage reported that the Human Engineering Department at the University of Pittsburgh received a federal grant to develop a new type of wheelchair. The university had settled on compressed air power utilizing the same type of compressed air in a scuba tank. He informed Mr. Fidler that this is a prototype and will not be on the market in the immediate future.
- Mr. Cyprian asked how many hours one tank of compressed air will propel the wheelchair. Mr. Ruscavage said he didn't know, but measurement will be by miles not hours.

DMVA Bureau of PIRO Mr. Joel Mutschler

Mr. Mutschler stated that the members had received the programs slides in the readahead.

Mr. Mutschler said PA VETCONNECT will soon hire their regional outreach coordinators who will work throughout the commonwealth. Their focus will be on ensuring our PA Veterans and their families are receiving all entitled services. They will also assist in building a large information referral database and develop relationships with non-profit entities.

Ouestions/Discussion

• Mr. Burris asked if the Veterans Emergency grants will fall short again this year and/or was additional funding added? Mr. Natali responded by informing Mr. Burris that last year the Veterans Temporary Assistance program had fallen short, but it was supplemented with an extra \$100,000.00 and this year's budget was elevated from \$800,000.00 to \$955,000.00.

Mr. Mutschler requested a motion to approve the reports.

Motion: Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the programs report.

Second: Mr. Burris seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried.

SVC Act 66 Committee

No Report

SVC RETX Committee

Bylaws Discussion

Mr. Matthew Zamosky

Chairman Petrovich

Mr. Zamosky had no report. He did note he was reviewing HB1787 and will report on it at the next meeting.

SVC Legislative Committee

Chairman Samuel Petrovich

Chairman Petrovich had no report

SVC Pensions & Relief/Grave Marking/State Military Cemetery Committee

No Report

Chairman Petrovich had no report

Hall of Fame

Chairman Petrovich announced the nomination of Janice Gaven for induction into the hall of fame. He called for a vote.

Motion: Mr. Robert E. John motioned to approve Ms. Gaven to the hall of fame.

Second: Mr. Cyprian seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried.

Good of The Order/Announcements

Mr. Natali invited all Veteran Organization Commanders and/or their assistants who would like to attend the Veterans Day services at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery to contact him. He stated the date is November 10, 2019 at 1400.

General Weller said the SVC members should bear in mind, as they tour and/or toured Southwestern Veterans' Center and the other facilities, the high quality of care, the patient to nurse ratio and the quality of the infrastructure for our PA Veterans within the framework of the provided budget.

For Next Meeting

Chairman Petrovich stated topics for next meeting will include the election, bylaws, invocation and chapter 17 of Title 51.

General Weller asked that the pertinent section of chapter 17 referenced by Chairman Petrovich be included in the readahead.

Next Meeting

Arrowheads Community Club Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA

Adjournment

Chairman Petrovich adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

Maj. Gen (Ret) Eric G. Weller Deputy Adjutant General Veterans Affairs

Bureau of Veterans' Homes Available Beds Monthly Status Report from August 1 to 31, 2019

		Valley Veterans' Home		Average Beds		
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Vetera
lursing Care	100	92	8		92%	41
Secured	30	30	0		100%	14
Placing						0
TOTA	AL 130	122	8	4	94%	55
Non-Veteran Cens				6	5%	
	Gino J.	Merli Veterans' Center	r, Scranton - James	Miller - Comma	ındant	
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
lursing Care	156	146	10		94%	4
Secured	40	35	5		88%	1
Placing						5
TOTA	AL 196	181	15	14	92%	0
Non-Veteran Cens	us Percent			14	12%	
-		g Veterans' Home, Hol	llidaysburg - Debora	ah Nesbella - Co		
		g votorano momo, mo	madyobarg Bobore	Average Beds		Waiting List
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Vacant	Percentage Filled	Veteran
lursing Care	231	208	23	y dodin	90%	2
Secured	26	24	23		92%	0
Personal Care	101	61	40		60%	0
Oomiciliary	66	50	16		76%	0
Placing						2
TOTA		343	81	78	81%	0
Non-Veteran Cens	us Percent			80	12%	
	Pennsylvani	a Soldiers' & Sailors' H	lome, Erie - Barbar	a Raymond - Co	mmandant	
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
lursing Care	75	74	1		99%	2
Secured	32	32	0		100%	3
Personal Care	80	53	27		66%	3
Oomiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
•	20	20			10070	
Placing	AL 007	470	00	00	000/	3 5
TOTA		179	28	28	86%	5
Non-Veteran Cens				28	13%	
	Southeaste	rn Veterans' Center, S	pring City - Rohan I		mmandant	
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
lursing Care	208	203	5		98%	32
ecured	30	30	0		100%	7
ersonal Care	54	51	3		94%	8
lacing						5
TOTA	AL 292	284	8	8	97%	42
Non-Veteran Cens	us Percent			8	12%	
		ern Veterans' Center, F	Pittsburgh - Richard	R. Adams - Cor		
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
lursing Care	196	186	10		95%	13
Secured	40	31	9		78%	2
Placing			•	_	•	2
TOTA	AL 236	217	19	20	92%	13
Non-Veteran Cens		211	10	20	16%	10
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Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
ursing Care	966	909	57		94%	94
ecured	198	182	16		92%	27
ersonal Care	235	165	70		70%	11
omiciliary	86	70	16		81%	0
Placing	- 50	10	10		0170	17
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Non-Veteran Census Number			
DVVH	5	5%	
GMVC	20	12%	
HVH	39	12%	
PSSH	22	13%	
SEVC	34	12%	
SWVC	33	16%	
Total	153	12%	

RETX- Exempt list(New)	mvfigsqlprod01 9/13/2019
-	rep_VADC_RETX_Exempt_List_New

Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
13524	13094	357	73	110

Summary of Activity from 08/17/2019 to 09/13/2019

Apps Created : 229	
New	155
Review:	74
Apps Approved :197	
New	156
Review	41
Apps Denied Fin:	22
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	11
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	14
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibilty Changed):	52

Summary of Inelgible Reason

Reason	Count
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	2
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not have a total and/or 100% permanent disability during their lifetime.	1
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	2
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stated that you have a future exam , therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	5
You do not occupy the property for which you have claimed exemption as your principal dwelling.	1

Summary of Activity from 8/17/2019 to 9/13/2019

APPS APPROVED	197
NEW	156
REVIEW	41

APPS DENIED	
Financial Need	22
Ineligible	11
No Response	14
Change of Eligibility	52

HH Over Income	55
NEW	47
REVIEW	8

28%
30%
20%

APPS CREATED	229
TOTAL ADJUDICATED	296



community.

APPLICATION FOR INDUCTION INTO THE HALL OF FAME

PURPOSE: The Hall of Fame is established to recognize and home with
PURPOSE: The Hall of Fame is established to recognize and honor achievements of outstanding Veterans who have completed honorable active service.
1. NOMINEE'S INFORMATION TODAYS DATE: 6-5-19
APPLICANT NAME: Robert Gordon Stade
ADDRESS: NA
CITY, STATE: NA
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE: McKean
TELEPHONE: NA
BRANCH OF SERVICE: U.S. Army
DATES OF SERVICE: 7 Nov 42 - 25 Jun 45
MILITARY/PERSONAL AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS: Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leat Cluster, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with 5 Bronze Stars
2. SPONSOR'S NAME: KEN VYBIRAL I nominate the above individual for the following reason(s): "Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 15 October 1944 in France. While advancing on enemy soldiers toward the direction of the Mortagne River, the light machine gun section that Technical Sergeant Robert G. Slade was attached to received a heavy barrage of small arms and mortar fire, Slade, discovering that out of his entire machine gun section he was the only man on his feet, manned his machine gun and successfully covered the road, which was a natural approach from the German positions. His accurate fire inflicted many casualties and prevented the enemy from attacking. Even though numerous shells burst in the trees near Slade's position, he remained with his gun and stopped several German assaults. Together with riflemen of his company and the attached weapons, he broke up the enemy counterattack". SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE.
3. <u>NARRATIVE SUMMARY:</u> Attached to this application must be a brief biography not to exceed one typed page. This
parrative chould suppose the st

narrative should summarize the nominee's accomplishments and service to veterans and

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Technical Sergeant

Robert G. Slade

US Army 45th Division 180th Infantry Company C October 15, 1944 WW II McKean County, PA

Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 15 October 1944 in France. While advancing on enemy soldiers toward the direction of the Mortagne River, the light machine gun section that Technical Sergeant Robert G. Slade was attached to, received a heavy barrage of small arms and mortar fire. Slade, discovering that out of his entire machine gun section he was the only man on his feet, manned his machine gun and successfully covered the road which was a natural approach from the German positions. His accurate fire inflicted many casualties and prevented the enemy from attacking. Even though numerous shells burst in the trees near Slade's position he remained with his gun and stopped several German assaults. Together with the riflemen of his company and the attached weapons he broke up the enemy counterattack.





PSSH Hall of Fame Nomination

Name: Robert G. Slade Rank: Technical Sergeant

Action:

"Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 15 October 1944 in France. While advancing on enemy soldiers toward the direction of the Mortagne River, the light machine gun section that Technical Sergeant Robert G. Slade was attached to received a heavy barrage of small arms and mortar fire. Slade, discovering that out of his entire machine gun section he was the only man on his feet, manned his machine gun and successfully covered the road which was a natural approach from the German positions. His accurate fire inflicted many casualties and prevented the enemy from attacking. Even though numerous shells burst in the trees near Slade's position he remained with his gun and stopped several German assaults. Together with the riflemen of his company and the attached weapons he broke up the enemy counterattack".



2020 STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR

Friday, March 6, 2020 - 10:00 am

Arrowheads Community Club Building # 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA 17003-5002

Friday, June 5, 2020 - 10:00 am

Arrowheads Community Club Building #9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA 17003-5002

Friday, September 4, 2020 - 10:00 am

Arrowheads Community Club Building # 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA 17003-5002

Friday, December 4, 2020 - 10:00 am

Arrowheads Community Club Building # 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap Annville, PA 17003-5002

*Note - Meeting locations are subject to change upon special event or circumstance

CHAPTER 17

STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION AND DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Subchapter

- A. State Veterans' Commission
- B. Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs
- C. Funds
- D. County Directors of Veterans Affairs

Enactment. Chapter 17 was added April 29, 1998, P.L.296, No.49, effective immediately.

Prior Provisions. Former Chapter 17, which related to State Veterans' Commission, was added April 29, 1988, P.L.381, No.60, and repealed April 29, 1998, P.L.296, No.49, effective immediately.

SUBCHAPTER A

STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION

Sec.

- 1701. Definitions.
- 1702. State Veterans' Commission.
- 1703. General powers and duties.
- 1704. Specific powers and duties.
- 1705. Veterans' home hall of fame.

1701. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established by this chapter.

1702. State Veterans' Commission.

- (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established within the department an advisory commission to be known as the State Veterans' Commission.
 - (b) Composition. -- The commission shall be composed of:
 - (1) The Adjutant General, ex officio, or his designee.
- (2) The State commander, commandant or head, or his designee, of each of the following named veterans' organizations:
 - (i) The American Legion.
 - (ii) AMVETS.
 - (iii) Blinded Veterans Association.
 - (iv) Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America.

- (v) Disabled American Veterans.
- (vi) Jewish War Veterans of the United States.
- (vii) Marine Corps League.
- (viii) Military Order of the Purple Heart.
- (ix) State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs.
 - (x) Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
 - (xi) (Deleted by amendment).
- (xii) Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Inc.
 - (xiii) The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
 - (xiv) American Ex-Prisoners of War.
 - (xv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association.
 - (xvi) Military Officers Association of America.
 - (xvii) The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
- (3) Four members at large appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Adjutant General, each of whom shall be a veteran and a member in good and regular standing of a Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized national veterans' organization active in this Commonwealth. At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam era. Members at large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor has been appointed.
- (4) The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Executive Director of AMVETS as nonvoting members.
- (c) Officers.--The commission shall annually elect a chairman and vice chairman at the first meeting of the commission after October 1. The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall serve as the executive secretary to the commission.
- (d) Compensation and expenses.--Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses for attendance at meetings.
- (e) Meetings and quorum. -- The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman or the Adjutant General. Nine members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.
- (f) Declared vacancies.--The Governor, upon recommendation of the Adjutant General, shall declare a vacancy to exist whenever any member at large fails to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause. Any declared vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term.

(June 25, 1999, P.L.233, No.33, eff. imd.; Nov. 22, 2000, P.L.670, No.90, eff. imd.; May 12, 2010, P.L.200, No.28, eff. imd.; June 13, 2016, P.L.335, No.42, eff. 60 days)

2016 Amendment. Act 42 amended subsec. (b)(2).

2000 Amendment. Act 90 amended subsec. (b).

Cross References. Section 1702 is referred to in sections 1711, 1731, 8501, 8701, 8901, 9304 of this title.

1703. General powers and duties.

The commission shall advise the Adjutant General and the department on all matters pertaining to the status, welfare, benefits, employment and support of veterans and veterans' programs in this Commonwealth and shall perform such other functions as are provided by law.

1704. Specific powers and duties.

The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Advise the Adjutant General upon such matters as the Adjutant General may bring before it.
- (2) Investigate the work of the department and make recommendations to it regarding the department's administration of the laws providing for the payment of pensions and relief, for the marking of graves of veterans and for the selection, acquisition and maintenance of a State military cemetery.
- (3) Investigate and recommend to the Governor legislation for submission to the General Assembly concerning veterans and their activities.
- (4) Oversee veterans' temporary assistance payments under Chapter 85 (relating to veterans' temporary assistance).
- (5) Certify educational gratuity payments for eligible children under Chapter 87 (relating to educational gratuity program).
- (6) Determine eligibility of veteran applicants for real property tax exemptions under Chapter 89 (relating to disabled veterans' real estate tax exemption).
- (7) Promulgate rules and regulations governing all actions of the commission under paragraphs (4), (5) and (6). (Oct. 4, 2016, P.L.882, No.109, eff. imd.)

2016 Amendment. Act 109 amended par. (4).

Cross References. Section 1704 is referred to in section 710 of this title.

1705. Veterans' home hall of fame.

(a) General rule.--Each veterans' home operated by the Commonwealth shall establish and dedicate a hall of fame to recognize and honor the military achievements of outstanding veterans who have completed honorable, active duty military service and who reside or resided in the geographic region

served by the veterans' home. The area or space in the veterans' home dedicated to the hall of fame may be used for other purposes.

- (b) Selection of inductees.—The advisory council for each veterans' home shall, consistent with the guidelines established by the commission in subsection (c), nominate eligible veterans for induction into the hall of fame by the commission and perform such other duties relating to the hall of fame as approved by the commission. Any Medal of Honor recipient shall be automatically inducted into the hall of fame.
- (c) Oversight.--The commission shall develop guidelines for the halls of fame. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) Eligibility criteria for qualified candidates.
- (2) Procedures for nomination of candidates and selection of inductees.
 - (3) Ceremonies to officially honor the inductees.
- (4) Manner of recognizing or presenting the inductees in the halls of fame.
 - (5) Maintenance of the halls of fame.
- (6) Duties of the advisory councils of the veterans' homes relating to the halls of fame.
- (d) Documentation.--Each eligible veteran or his or her representative shall be responsible for obtaining the documentation necessary to establish his or her eligibility from the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, Missouri.
- (e) Centralized list.--The State Veterans' Commission shall keep a centralized list of all hall of fame inductees from all regional veterans' homes.

(June 22, 2000, P.L.343, No.40, eff. 60 days)

2000 Amendment. Act 40 added section 1705.

SUBCHAPTER B

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Sec.

- 1711. Qualifications and status.
- 1712. Specific duties.

1711. Qualifications and status.

(a) Deputy Adjutants General.--In addition to such other Deputy Adjutants General as may be named in the department, there shall be a Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, who shall perform the duties under section 1712 (relating to

specific duties) and such other duties as the Adjutant General may assign.

- (b) Appointment.--The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall be selected and appointed as other Deputy Adjutants General are selected and appointed. He shall be a veteran and an active member of at least one of the veterans' organizations listed under section 1702(b) (relating to State Veterans' Commission).
- (c) Compensation.--The compensation of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall be as established by law.
- (d) Status.--The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans'
 Affairs shall be accorded all the rights, emoluments and
 privileges, except pay and allowances, of a brigadier general in
 the Pennsylvania Guard and shall be addressed as "General."

1712. Specific duties.

In addition to such other duties as may be provided by law or as assigned by the Adjutant General, the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall have the following specific duties:

- (1) To recommend to the Adjutant General and the Governor, with the advice of the State Veterans' Commission, new legislation and amendments to existing statutes concerning veterans and their activities for consideration by the General Assembly.
- (2) To cooperate with all Federal and State departments and agencies in the interest of veterans.
- (3) To aid in filing and prosecuting claims of Pennsylvania's veterans and their dependents under Federal or State laws or regulations.
- (4) To aid veterans in seeking employment or reemployment after their honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States.
- (5) To aid veterans requiring medical care in securing hospitalization provided by a Federal or State medical or care facility.
- (6) To aid in the rehabilitation of injured, wounded or compensable veterans in educational institutions or vocational training institutions for which they may be eligible by law.
- (7) To cooperate with and advise the Department of Education with respect to vocational training programs for veterans, particularly programs suited to casualties.
- (8) To administer relief provided by the Commonwealth for veterans and their dependents.
- (9) To administer the distribution under the direction of the Adjutant General of any compensation to veterans or their dependents that has been or may be granted by the Commonwealth.
- (10) To investigate the work of other State agencies in administering laws affecting veterans and their dependents.

- (11) To investigate, compile and maintain complete and accurate data concerning veterans of the armed forces of the United States and all State and municipal activities related thereto.
- (12) To compile from the records transmitted from the various counties of this Commonwealth a record of the burial places in this Commonwealth of deceased veterans, including such information as the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs or his designee deems necessary and appropriate.
- (13) To disseminate information concerning Pennsylvania's veterans and Pennsylvania's veterans' programs to veterans' organizations, to the public press and other media and to the general public.
- (14) To biannually submit, through the Adjutant General, to the Governor a report of State activities on behalf of veterans.
- (15) To serve as a clearinghouse for all problems or issues related to Pennsylvania's veterans and their dependents.
- (16) To serve as Executive Secretary of the State Veterans' Commission.

Cross References. Section 1712 is referred to in section 1711 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER C

FUNDS

Sec.

1721. Veterans' Trust Fund.

Enactment. Subchapter C was added October 24, 2012,
P.L.1602, No.194, effective in 30 days.

1721. Veterans' Trust Fund.

- (a) Source of revenue.--In addition to transfers under section 1719-G of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, the Veterans' Trust Fund shall include funds from the following sources:
- (1) Proceeds paid by the Department of Transportation under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1320 (relating to contributions to Veterans' Trust Fund).
- (2) Amounts payable to the fund under 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1361 (relating to special motorcycle plates related to veterans) and 1364(b) (relating to special plates for veterans).
- (2.1) Fines collected and payable to the fund under 18 Pa.C.S. § 6701 (relating to wearing of uniforms and insignia and misrepresentation of military service or honors).

- (3) Grants, gifts, donations and other payments from a person or government entity.
 - (4) Money appropriated to the fund.
- **(b) Appropriation.--**Money in the fund is appropriated on a continuing basis to the department for purposes set forth in subsection (c).
- (c) Authorized purposes.--The department may expend money from the Veterans' Trust Fund for the following purposes:
- (1) Grants for programs or projects to support Pennsylvania veterans and their families to:
 - (i) (Deleted by amendment);
 - (ii) veterans' service organizations; and
- (iii) other charitable organizations with a primary mission to serve Pennsylvania veterans.
- (2) Grants or funding for new, innovative and expanded activities or programs operated by a county director of veterans affairs or the State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs.
 - (3) (Deleted by amendment).
- (4) Assistance to Pennsylvania veterans in need of shelter or other necessities of living to the extent that other funds or resources are not available under Chapter 85 (relating to veterans' temporary assistance).
 - (5) (Deleted by amendment).
- (6) Payments to the Motor License Fund for actual costs incurred by the Department of Transportation to implement 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1320 (relating to contributions to Veterans' Trust Fund) and 1510 (relating to issuance and content of driver's license).
- (7) Department-sponsored training and informational programs for Pennsylvania veterans. No more than 10% of the balance in the fund as of October 1 of the previous year may be used for this purpose.
- (d) Contributions.--The department may solicit and accept gifts, donations, legacies and other money for deposit into the fund from a person, a foundation, a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)), an estate, a veterans' service organization or a government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth.
- (e) Operation.--The department shall adopt a statement of policy for the maintenance and use of the fund within 60 days of the effective date of this section. The policy shall be published as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, but shall not be subject to review under section 205 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law, sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October

- 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth Attorneys Act or the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.
- (f) Report.--By July 31, 2013, and every year thereafter, the department shall submit to the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives a report detailing the Veterans' Trust Fund revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year and describing the activities, programs and projects which received funds.

(July 8, 2015, P.L.120, No.18, eff. 60 days; Oct. 4, 2016, P.L.882, No.109, eff. imd.; June 28, 2018, P.L.432, No.64, eff. 60 days; July 2, 2019, P.L.393, No.62, eff. 60 days)

- 2019 Amendment. Act 62 added subsec. (a)(2.1).
- 2018 Amendment. Act 64 deleted subsec. (c)(5).
- 2016 Amendment. Act 109 amended subsecs. (c) and (d).
- 2015 Amendment. Act 18 amended subsec. (a).

Cross References. Section 1721 is referred to in section 6701 of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses); section 1320 of Title 75 (Vehicles).

SUBCHAPTER D

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec.

1731. Accreditation.

Enactment. Subchapter D was added May 15, 2013, P.L.23, No.5, effective in 60 days.

1731. Accreditation.

- (a) Eligibility.--In order to be eligible for appointment as a director of veterans affairs in a county of this Commonwealth, a person must maintain a United States Department of Veterans Affairs accreditation in accordance with the provisions of 38 CFR § 14.629 (relating to requirements for accreditation of service organization representatives; agents; and attorneys) with one of the following:
 - (1) The department.
- (2) A veterans' organization listed under section 1702(b) (relating to State Veterans' Commission).
 - (b) Time. --

- (1) A person who is appointed as a director of veterans affairs in a county of this Commonwealth shall have up to one year from the date of appointment to attain the training and certification required under this title.
- (2) A person who has been appointed as a director of veterans affairs in a county of this Commonwealth prior to the effective date of this section shall have one year from the effective date of this section to attain the training and certification required under this title.
- (c) Additional duties.--In addition to the duties provided for under a statute other than this title, a director of veterans affairs shall do all of the following:
- (1) Serve as a local contact between the United States
 Department of Veterans Affairs, the department and an individual
 in the armed forces of the United States, an individual who was
 discharged from the service and a dependent of the individual.
- (2) Advise an individual in the armed forces, a veteran or a dependent of the individual or veteran of available Federal, State and county veterans' benefits.
- (3) Aid an individual in the armed forces, a veteran or a dependent of the individual or veteran in completing required Federal, State and local veterans' affairs forms in compliance with current regulations and policies.
- (4) Work under the direct supervision of the county commissioners and within the guidelines provided by the department and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (5) Participate in programs provided by the department, including:
- (i) Annual training and refresher courses provided by the Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs.
- (ii) Five-year recertification as required by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans' service officer accreditation.
- (d) Office duties.--The Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall establish a county director of veterans affairs training program, agreed upon with the State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs, which shall include the following:
- (1) Development of program guidelines and procedures as required under this subchapter.
 - (2) Maintenance of training records.
- (3) Maintenance of competency scores for purposes of documenting and monitoring accreditation status.
 - (4) Annual recertification and qualification.