

Agenda

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

7 December 2018 at 10:00 AM

Arrowhead Community Center

1000 (5)	CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Petrovich
	Invocation	Vice-Chairman Burris
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Petrovich
1005 (10)	Introduction of SVC Members	Chairman Petrovich
1010 (5)	OATH OF OFFICE	Maj General Carrelli
	Sam Petrovich and Edgar Burris	
1015 (5)	Approval of the Oct 12 th , 2018 Meeting Minutes	REQUIRES A VOTE
1020 (10)	DMVA Military Update	Maj General Carrelli
1030 (15)	VISN 4 Update	Dr. Adelman
	OLD BUSINESS	
1045 (3)	DMVA, Chief Counsel	Ms. Elizabeth Pettis
1048 (2)	DMVA, Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs	Mr. Gilbert Durand
1050 (5)	DMVA, Bureau of Veterans Homes	Mr. Andrew Ruscavage
1055 (5)	DMVA, Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO)	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1100 (3)	Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA)	REQUIRES A VOTE
	DMVA, Division of Services & Programs	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1103 (2)	DMVA, Division of Outreach & Reintegration	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1105 (3)	SVC Bylaw Committee	Chairman Petrovich
1108 (3)	SVC Act 66 Committee	Mr. Kit Watson
1111 (3)	SVC RETX Committee	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
1114 (3)	SVC Legislative Committee	Mr. James Vollrath
1117 (3)	SVC Pensions/Relief/Grave Marking/Military Cemetery Committee	Mr. John Brenner
	NEW BUSINESS	
1120 (10)	Bylaws Vote	Chairman Petrovich
1130 (15)	Guest Speaker- Regionalization	Maj Gen Weller
1145 (5)	Good of the Order/Announcement	Chairman Petrovich
1150 (5)	Discussion Topics for next meeting	Chairman Petrovich
1155 (5)	Next Meeting:	
	Friday, February 1st @ 10:00am	
	Arrowheads Community Club, Annville	
1200	ADJOURNMENT	Chairman Petrovich
	RETIRING OF COLORS	Chairman Petrovich

State Veterans Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2018
 10:00 AM to 12:17 PM
 Arrowhead Community Center
 Annville, PA 17003

Call to Order **Chairman Edgar Burris**

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Commission Introductions

Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli	The Adjutant General
Chairman Edgar Burris	Chairman, State Veterans Commission
Maj Gen (Ret) Eric Weller	Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs
Mr. Jeffrey Elliot	Commander, AMVETS
Mr. Thomas Hanzes	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Samuel Petrovich	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans/SVC Vice-Chairman
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	President, County Directors for Veterans Affairs Association
Mr. Harold Cooney	President, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Thomas Haberkorn	President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mr. Chris Fidler	Representative, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. Louis Santangelo	Representative, Korean War Veterans
Mr. Charles Jackson	Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Kit Watson	Adjutant, The American Legion
Mr. James Vollrath	Commander, The American Legion
Mr. Neil Appleby	President, Blinded Veterans Association
Ms. Constance Snavely	Member at Large
Mr. Robert Ziltz	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Richard Fine	Designee, Jewish War Veterans
Mr. John Cyprian	Member at Large
Mr. Bruce Foster	Designee, Member at Large
Mr. William Wright	Commander, Catholic War Veterans
Mr. Gary Stopyra	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Thomas Bremer	Commander, Italian American War Veterans

Others Present

Mr. David Cowgill	VISN 4
Bernie McDonald	American Veterans
Kory Auch	Office of Administration
Richard Hudzinski	Vietnam Veterans of America
Allen McCormack	Concerned Veterans for America
Bob Gray	MOAA
Keith Beebe	MOAA

Kenneth R. Walters	KPVA
Nancy Burris	Guest
Jack Spicer	Guest
Timothy Bremer	Guest
Gilbert E. Condorsa	Korea War Veterans
Justin Slep	PSACDVA/Franklin County
Anthony DeFrancesco	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Thomas Coreau	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Lisa Kaye	PSACDVA/Monroe County
Henry Desrosiers	PSACDVA/Carbon County
Rick Hamp	DMVA-OVA
Dr. Darryl Jackson	DMVA-OVA
Joel Mutschler	DMVA-OVA
Brian Natali	DMVA-OVA
Chip Gilliland	DMVA-OVA
Elizabeth Pettis	DMVA-OVA
Janette Krolczyk	DMVA-OVA
James Cooper	DMVA-OVA
LTC Peter Miolo	DMVA-OVA
Greg Holler	DMVA-OVA

Oath of Office **Maj Gen Carrelli**

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

- Jeffrey Elliot Commander of AMVETS and Louis Santangelo Representative of Korean War Veterans

Approval of the September 7th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Burris asked if there were any questions/comments regarding the September 7th minutes, none were raised. Chairman Burris moved to have the minutes approved.

Motion: Mr. Vollrath motioned to approve the minutes.

Second: Mr. Haberkorn seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

Military Update **Maj Gen Carrelli**

General Carrelli reported that 524 PANAG that have been deployed for approximately the past year will be coming home next month. General Carrelli called upon all the attending Veteran Organizations to voluntarily participate in welcoming home these soldiers. General Carrelli reported the deployment of 163 military policemen this past month. These military policemen, many of whom are 23 years old or younger, are deployed in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and other countries throughout the Middle East. General Carrelli complimented the Veteran Organizations who attended the Johnstown departing ceremony that was held for the military policeman.

General Carrelli said he had the honor of overseeing the repatriation remains of a WWII 82nd Airborne Veteran who had served in the Market Garden operation-European Theater. The soldier's remains had recently been discovered and returned to the United States. He was buried alongside his parents. General Carrelli said he was impressed with the large turnout for the funeral. The streets were lined with citizens, Veteran Organizations members and boy scouts. In attendance were 50, 82nd Airborne soldiers who drove up from Fort Bragg to attend the funeral and stand with the Veteran's sister.

General Carrelli said "we don't forget-we never forget." General Carrelli said he attended at least 4 indigent funerals at the National Cemetery since he last attended an SVC meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the Veteran Organizations that attend and help with these funerals, the people who help identify the decedent as a

Veteran and especially Brian Natali who does a very good job of getting the indigent Veterans into the National Cemetery.

Questions/Comments

- Mr. Foster asked whether the issues of the PANAG soldiers having to switch between the TriCare Health system and the federal health care system when deployed and federal civil service technicians with PANAG not being able to be part of Tri-Care was being addressed. General Carrelli stated he understood the problems it was causing the soldiers, technicians, and their families. Stated it is being addressed at the highest levels. He noted PANAG Tri-Care is a better healthcare system than the federal healthcare system.

VISN 4

Mr. David Cowgill

Mr. Cowgill noted that SVC members had received his slides with updated access, wait time, trust and community care data as a read-ahead. Mr. Cowgill briefed on the following:

Leadership/Staffing Update: Mr. Cowgill said he was pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Jon Lasell Jr. as the new director of VA Butler Healthcare. Mr. Lasell is a decorated military Veteran with a record of excellence in leading military health care organizations.

VISN4 is recruiting for a newly created position of a VISN Whole Health and Veteran Experience Coordinator. The candidate selected will work with facility, VISN4, and VA Central Office staff on the application of the Whole Health principles and organizational processes that result in improved outcomes, such as identifying personal health and wellbeing goals and selecting appropriate complementary and integrative health approaches. The candidate will also work to ensure customer service and patient satisfaction are effectively measured, monitored, and evaluated.

New West Philadelphia Clinic: This fall the Crescenz VA Medical Center will open a new outpatient clinic on Market Street in West Philadelphia. The clinic will provide primary care and mental health care.

New Cape May CBOC: The VA has begun the process of relocating and expanding the outpatient clinic in Cape May, NJ. They are hoping to award the contract by late fall.

HealthNet: The VA has been working hard to ensure a seamless transition for Veterans and community providers since VA's contract with HealthNet Federal Services ended on September 30th. Now, new care authorizations, scheduling, coordination, and payments take place directly between VA, Veterans, and community providers. Mr. Cowgill introduced a VISN4 fact sheet report which addressed the following areas: HUD VASH Vouchers, GPD Projects/Beds, # of SSVF Grantees and CERS Projects for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 with projections for 2019.

Veterans Justice Outreach: Last month the VA announced that, under the recently signed Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018, VA will hire an additional 50 Veterans Justice Outreach specialists over the next year. They will be placed at VA medical centers and will serve as part of a justice team in a Veterans Treatment Court or other Veteran-focused court either, exclusively or in addition to other duties. There are currently 324 specialists throughout VA, including 53 added in fiscal year 2018. Since 2009, these specialists have served more than 184,00 justice-involved Veterans. There are now 551 Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused courts operating in the U.S. The Veterans Justice Outreach specialists work with Veterans during the earliest stages of the criminal justice process. They provide outreach to community law enforcement, jails and courts.

Suicide Prevention: Veterans can now reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly with an iPhone. They simply say, "Hey Siri, call the Veterans Crisis Line," and it will connect them automatically, even if they don't have the number 1-800-273-8255 already saved in their contacts. According to a recent VA-conducted study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, only about one in five gun-owning Veterans keep all their guns locked and unloaded. For someone in crisis, a locked firearm can mean the difference between a tragic outcome and a life saved. Gun safety is paramount for Veterans and their families, for recommendations they can visit the VISN4 website or check with local authorities. Veterans can pick up gun safety locks from the suicide prevention coordinator or police office at their local VA medical center.

Question/Comments:

- Mr. Foster said more and more Veterans are being treated outside of the VA, but the prescriptions their doctors are prescribing are not being honored by the VA. Mr. Cowgill said he was aware of the problem. Mr. Cowgill said it is caused by lack of communications in the records sharing system and he will address it with Dr. Adelman. Mr. Cyprian stated many Veterans are complaining that their accounts are being turned into collection agencies on behalf of their doctors, due to VA not paying the doctors in a timely fashion. Mr. Cyprian asked if the cause was a workload problem in not getting the claims processed. Mr. Cowgill agreed, and said they are working on the problem. Mr. Burris said, regarding the SSVF, several areas lost their funding. He cited the example of Soldiering On, which had not received any additional funding but was asked to take on more territory. Mr. Cowgill said he didn't have an answer and will look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

New Committee Members Discussion

Chairman Burris

Mr. Burris reported that, at the last SVC meeting, it was recommended to have the same members that serve on the SVC Act 66 committee serve on the PWVC Act 66 committee. Mr. Vollrath noted that the PWVC does not have an Act 66 committee, it is the whole body that advocates for Act 66 monies. However, he noted the members who are on both the SVC and PWVC should serve on the SVC Act 66 committee. It was mentioned that a list of PWVC appointments would be forthcoming. No questions or discussion followed.

ACT 66 Motion Discussion

Chairman Burris

Mr. Burris stated that, at the previous SVC meeting, a motion was made requesting that General Carrelli fund Act 66 at an additional \$500,000.00 per year for the next four years. General Carrelli stated that he fully understood the motion, the reasons behind the motion, and agreed with them. However, he explained in detail the factors that would not allow him to make a commitment he might not be able to keep. He noted that in future budgets, whether 2 years out or more, he may have other programs such as homelessness, mental health counseling, adult day care or employment which would require the monies being earmarked. He said he must take into consideration what the Veterans needs are and prioritize those needs. General Carrelli stated he would not make a commitment in good faith that he could not keep; therefore, he cannot agree with the motion. He said he will remain vigilant with Act 66 and will support the efforts of the SVC to keep fighting for a budget increase with the legislature.

Question/comments

- Mr. Foster asked General Carrelli about any increases in the 2019 fiscal year budget. General Carrelli explained that, by law, he was unable to discuss the 2019 budget due to it being in the budget cycle and only being released in February 2019. General Carrelli explained that budgets are amended all the time after they are released.
- General Carrelli said the health of the Act 66 program hinged on the organizations spending the monies on what they contractually agreed to and surviving an audit. He noted the fastest way public programs get defunded are through organizations failing audits. General Carrelli pointed out that the audit done last year on one of the grantees had some issues, the second grantee audit looks good.
- A broad discussion on audits ensued. Many of the SVC members requested that their organizations be audited, wanted the parameters of the audit in a standardized formula, such as a checklist, and overall wanted to know what is expected of them. General Carrelli said an audit isn't required to maintain proper and accurate financial records. General Weller explained there is an audit planned for each organization that received Act 66 monies, that they will be done as manpower allows, and that he is very fastidious regarding audits. He further explained that each organization will be notified prior to the audit and will be told what is expected of them. Chief Counsel Pettis informed the members that a list of what is required in the financial report is embedded in each contract that they signed.

Chairman Burris brought the discussion to an end.

DMVA Chief Counsel

Ms. Elizabeth Pettis

Ms. Pettis asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. There were none.	
DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs	LTC Peter Meilo
LTC Meilo asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. There were none.	
DMVA Bureau of Veterans' Homes	Dr. Darryl Jackson
Dr. Jackson reported that all the homes are fully licensed and there are no suspensions against any of them. Dr. Jackson referred to his slides which were in the read-ahead and asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. There were none.	
DMVA PIRO	Mr. Joel Mutschler
Mr. Mutschler reported that he recently attended the annual VSO training in Erie and stated that two things impressed him. The first was the passion and dedication that the field VSOs have for their jobs. The second was the amount of knowledge that the VSOs have. He also said the training covered a lot of material and PA is a leader in the professional training that they provide to their VSOs. General Carrelli remarked on the good work all the VSOs do everyday and the importance of their jobs. He called upon the organizations present to help collect the information necessary to show the locations of the VSOs throughout the Commonwealth. Armed with this information a detailed map will be able to be constructed. The map will allow an overview showing the strengths and weaknesses of the locations. General Carrelli said he wanted to identify the locations where a VSO or more VSOs may be needed. Once identified, funds will be sought to overcome the blind spots. General Carrelli said he wanted more work load and outcome data collected and integrated into the map to display a sophisticated, digitized overview. Mr. Foster motioned to have the DMVA-OVA construct the map, Mr. Pliska seconded the motion. During discussion General Weller suggested that the DMVA-OVA coordinate with the SVC organizations to collect the necessary data to construct the map. Mr. Foster then said his motion was unnecessary, he and Mr. Pliska withdrew it.	
DMVA Services & Programs	Mr. Brian Natali
Mr. Natali stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead, asked for questions, but none were asked. He asked for a vote.	
Approval of Programs Reports	
Motion: Mr. Cyprian made a motion to approve the programs reports.	
Second: Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
DMVA Outreach & Reintegration	Mr. Chip Gilliland
Mr. Gilliland said his materials were presented in the read-ahead, he asked for questions or comments. There were none.	
SVC Bylaw Committee	Mr. Samuel Petrovich
Mr. Petrovich began by briefly recapping what happened at the previous meeting. He requested comments from members and their respective organizations and provided his email address. Mr. Petrovich said he received only two comments and sent those to the committee members to discuss. However, he did not hear back from the committee members. In the interim, Mr. Petrovich stated he had a family tragedy and put the Bylaws on hold. He stated that he will get the committee members together to discuss the submitted comments and his own. He will hold a second reading and vote on the Bylaws at the December 7 th meeting.	
SVC Act 66 Committee	Mr. Gary Stopyra
Chairman Burris stated the earlier discussion on Act 66 negated the need to discuss it again.	
SVC RETX Committee	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
Mr. Zamosky said he did not have a report to present at this time. However, he reported there is a scheduled committee meeting and a report will be made at the December 7 th meeting. General Weller requested that the Retx committee explore a way to consolidate all the bills concerning the Retx program, considered in the legislature, into one. Mr. Zamosky agreed. Mr. Zamosky then noted that there is one	

bill in the legislature that might pass this session. During the next session everything starts over. General Weller said it would be a good idea to stay focused on consolidating at the next session.

SVC Legislative Committee

Mr. James Vollrath

Mr. Vollrath stated that he was turning the presentation of his report over to Mr. Keith Beebe, Vice President and Chairman of the PWVC legislative committee. Mr. Beebe reported the following: “The legislative committee of the PWVC is compiling its list of Veterans issues that we propose to focus on for the 2018-2019 term. Major General Weller and Dusty Durand, of DMVA, and previously Joel Mutschler, have been working closely with us in developing and supporting these issues and we highly appreciate it. In our meeting yesterday, we reviewed our current issues, modified several of them, dropped some entirely and added a couple of new ones. These issues, once fully compiled, must still be voted upon by the full PWVC for acceptance but here are some of the highlights of what we will present to that council. We will ask to seek, this time, an independent (outside of the government) study on how to best achieve long-term care for Veterans in need of state assistance. Increase the current level of funding for the Act 66 Outreach programs and continue to seek additional funding for upcoming state fiscal year budgets. As you know, we were successful in getting additional funding for the program this year. This time, we will also be looking to conduct an outside audit of the performance of the program which should help in describing that performance to legislators and key staff members during our advocacy efforts. Continue to seek legislation that would allow sentenced Veterans to apply for a post-conviction review of their sentences if Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) were incurred while serving their country. An issue of caring for Veterans affected by drug and alcohol abuse. Continue the work to create a state bonus for service in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (Global War on Terror). Increase funding for the Veterans Transportation Network. Again, these issues (and others) must still be accepted by the PWVC, but they will be among those proposed by the Legislative Committee. Thank-you, that is my report.”

Chairman Burris said he really appreciated the report and believes it is an excellent idea that the SVC and PWVC work hand-in-hand.

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

Mr. Bruce Foster

Mr. Brenner was not present. Chairman Burris asked if there were any questions, comments or discussion. Nothing was raised.

NEW BUSINESS

SSVF Funding Discussion

Chairman Burris

Chairman Burris said the SSVF funding had been covered earlier and asked for questions. There were none.

2019 Meeting Calendar

Chairman Burris

Chairman Burris pointed out that the 2019 meeting calendar contained two meetings being held at different homes. Chairman Burris thanked Mr. Appleby for suggesting last year that the SVC hold some of their meetings at homes. He thought it was very important and informative to all members.

Mr. Watson differed with Chairman Burris’s assessment. He cited needed cost cutting measures such as holding all the meetings at FITG and providing members with hard copies of the read-ahead. Mr. Watson suggested that the reason many of the members did not bring the read-ahead with them was due to the cost of coping it. Mr. Vollrath concurred with Mr. Watson.

General Weller stated that all the members receive a digitalized copy of the read-ahead in a PDF format, and the read-ahead is posted on the website. General Weller stated he would comply with whatever the body wanted. It was decided to continue as established with the addition of having several hard copies of the read-ahead placed at the sign-in table at each meeting.

Chairman Burris reported it was his decision to discontinue having all the slides on the screen at each meeting because it was taking away from discussion on issues.

Mr. Haberkorn stated that attending the meeting in Erie would be a burden to some of the members due to the distance and the age of the members. Mr. Jackson concurred with Mr. Haberkorn.

<p>Mr. Stopyra asked General Carrelli and General Weller if it would be possible for the DMVA to provide a bus to transport the members to the meeting in Erie. General Carrelli deferred to Chief Counsel Pettis for an opinion on whether it would be legal or not. Chief Counsel Pettis stated she would have to research it. General Carrelli said if it's legal he will do it.</p> <p>Mr. Vollrath made a motion to have all the SVC meetings held at FITG. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion. Chairman Burris called for a vote.</p>
<p>Motion: Mr. Vollrath motioned for all the SVC meetings to be held at FITG.</p>
<p>Second: Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.</p>
<p>The body disagreed, motion failed.</p>
<p>Subsequently, Mr. Appleby made a motion to approve the 2019 meeting calendar. Mr. Natali reported that the date of October 4th, 2019 may have to be changed to October 11th due to possible annual VSO training. Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion. Chairman Burris called for a vote with the condition that the calendar may change.</p>
<p>Motion: Mr. Appleby made the motion to approve the 2019 meeting calendar</p>
<p>Second: Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.</p>
<p>Body agreed, motion carried.</p>
<p>Point of Order Chairman Burris</p>
<p>Chairman Burris deferred to Mr. Holler. Mr. Holler requested, as recorder of the minutes, that when members know in advance that they will be presenting a complex motion to the committee, that they prepare it in written form. This would ensure that the motion can be accurately recorded in the minutes as presented.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SERVICE ORGANIZATAION UPDATES</p>
<p>Service Update – American Veterans Mr. Jeffrey Elliot</p>
<p>Mr. Elliot reported that AMVETS has been in existence since the conclusion of WWII. Any member of the armed forces and coast guard can join if they served honorably. The main object of AMVETS is to advocate for Veterans and their families. AMVETS supports youth centric programs from K thru 12 with an emphasis on democracy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Good of The Order/Announcements</p>
<p>Mr. Haberkorn raised several issues. He wanted to know if there was any available information on Veterans preference hiring, any information from the Governors Office regarding members at large and if interested members would be able to get a brief on how the money was distributed in the 2017/18 budget.</p> <p>General Carrelli stated that the Veterans preference, under Act 71, was still in the execution stages under the direction of the Office of Administration. He said at this time there isn't enough data to provide a report and as soon as there is enough data to formulate a report, he will present it to the committee.</p> <p>General Weller stated they have not yet heard back from the Governor's Office regarding members at large.</p> <p>General Carrelli asked General Weller that to provide a briefing on the FY 2017/18 budget to all interested SVC members at the next meeting, either before the meeting or directly afterwards.</p> <p>Chairman Burris asked how many members wanted a brief on the budget? Two members raised their hands.</p> <p>Mr. Appleby announced his appreciation of, and compliments to, the Lebanon VA for its low vision program. He also announced that tomorrow, October 13th, will be Navy Day.</p> <p>Mr. James Metcalfe, Director of the FITG National Cemetery, invited all attendees to the Veterans Day ceremony that will be held on November 11th, 2018 at the National Cemetery.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">For Next Meeting</p>
<p>Chairman Burris told the members that whatever they would like to discuss for the next meeting should be presented to the next Chairman for the calendar year 2019. Chairman Burris turned the meeting over to Chief Counsel Pettis to conduct the election.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Election</p>
<p>Mr. Mutschler handed out ballots for Chairman to eligible voting members. Chief Counsel Pettis asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Zamosky nominated Chairman Burris, Chairman Burris accepted.</p>

Mr. Vollrath nominated Mr. Petrovich, Mr. Petrovich accepted.
Chief Counsel Pettis announced, after tallying the votes, that Mr. Petrovich was officially elected to be the Chairman of the SVC for the calendar year 2019.
Chief Counsel asked for nominations for Vice Chairman, Mr. Stopyra nominated Mr. Burriss. Mr. Burriss accepted. Chief Counsel Pettis then asked for any other nominations, there were none. Chief Counsel asked the members for a yea vote and then a nay vote for Mr. Burriss being the Vice Chairman. It was all yea votes and no nay votes. Chief Counsel Pettis announced that Mr. Burriss was the Vice Chairman.
Chairman Burriss then turned the meeting over to General Carrelli to swear in the new Chairman and Vice Chairman.
General Carrelli said he will do the swearing in at the next meeting.
Chairman Burriss asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Elliot motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Mr. Cyprian seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

Next Meeting

Friday, December 7th, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Arrowhead Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003

Adjournment

Chairman Burriss adjourned the meeting at 12:17 PM.

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

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



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 7TH 2018**





DMVA MILITARY UPDATE



VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2018 Wait Times



Clinics	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	2,376,487	2,264,437	96.7%	4.3
Mental Health	343,164	331,711	98.3%	2.9
Primary Care	535,701	525,771	98.2%	3.7
Specialty Care	925,032	846,725	94.3%	6.4

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care		Mental Health Care	
	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>
James E. Van Zandt VAMC (Altoona)	14	3	7	3
Abie Abraham HCC (Butler)	9	0	7	2
Coatesville VAMC	16	3	9	3
Erie VAMC	19	4	13	2
Lebanon VAMC	20	4	13	3
Crescenz VAMC (Philadelphia)	33	4	15	2
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	22 (Hz) 25 (UD)	5 (Hz) 8 (UD)	9 (Hz) 6 (UD)	4 (Hz) 2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	17	2	15	7
Wilmington VAMC	18	3	6	2

Data updated 11/26/18 with wait times for last 30 days.

[accesstocare.va.gov](https://www.accesstocare.va.gov)

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Provider Agreements	
October 2016	789
December 2017	1,617
February 2018	1,718
End of fiscal year 2018	2,129

Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018	85,879

VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru August</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	89.4	88.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	84	82.2
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	85.5	84.3
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	87.1	84.1

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru August</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	87.5	82
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81.6	73.6
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.5	81.7	83	76.2
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.3	77.7	80.4	73

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Specialty Care Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru August</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	84.2	84.8	85.6	82.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	75.8	77.9	77.6	73
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	79.2	79.3	79.9	76.4
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	73.9	76.2	76.1	73.8

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

Current Licensure Status

Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Date of Last Inspection - Status						
PA Department of Health	02/06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	01/26/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/25/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/02/2017 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	03/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	N/A
US Department of Veterans Affairs	04/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status



Initiatives

- Veterans Registry Enhancement
 - Veterans will have option to upload discharge documents
 - OVA will be able to edit the database; produce reports; and edit existing user data
 - Existing users will be able to edit their information & will receive an email providing instructions
 - [Expected launch by 12 Dec 18](#)
- Regional Concept

Meetings/Events

- 7 Dec – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 7 Dec - State Veterans Commission
- 20 Feb 19 – Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services

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

GAC-VS

- Women Veterans Committee
 - Survey complete and committee is reviewing results
- Aging Committee
 - [2018 PA Link Veterans Day message sent 11/5-11/9 to PA Link Partners across the Commonwealth](#)
- Veteran Homelessness
 - Workgroups focused on Transitional Housing; Adult Day and LIFE Programs; Cross-system collaboration and resource inventory

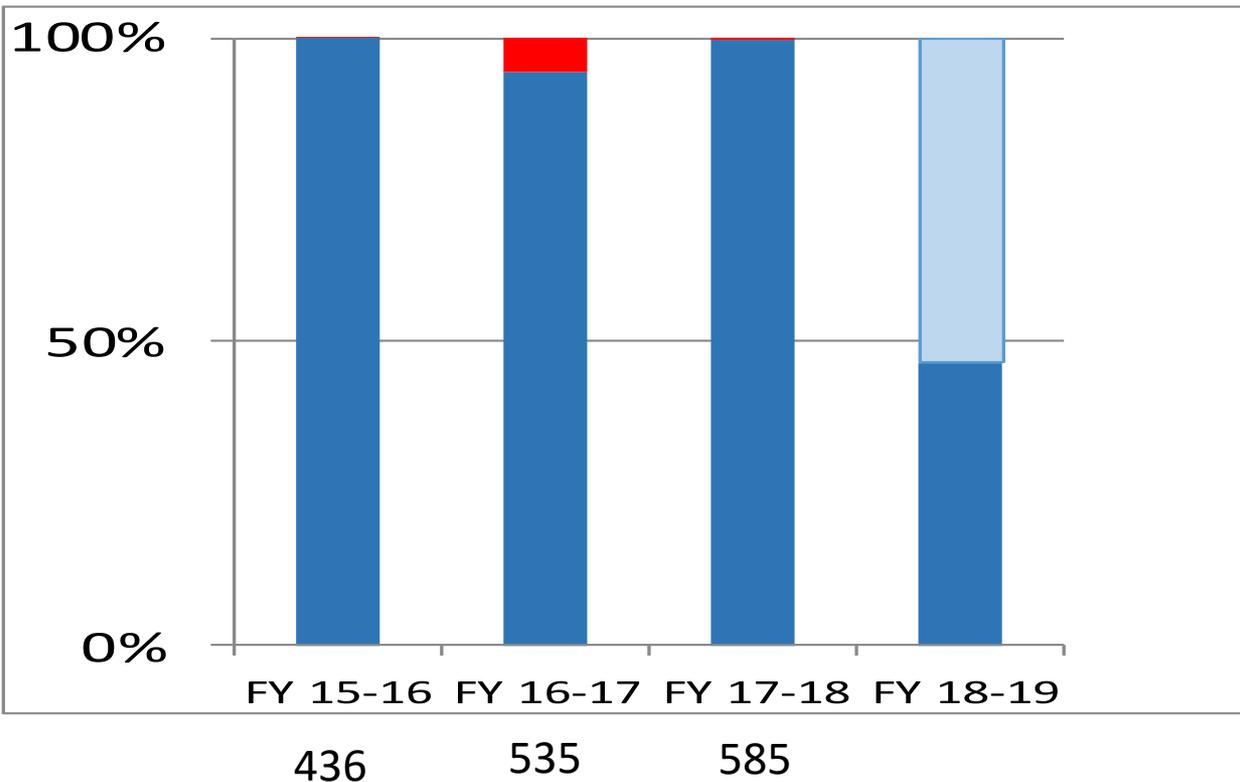
Contact Us

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.

VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$800,000



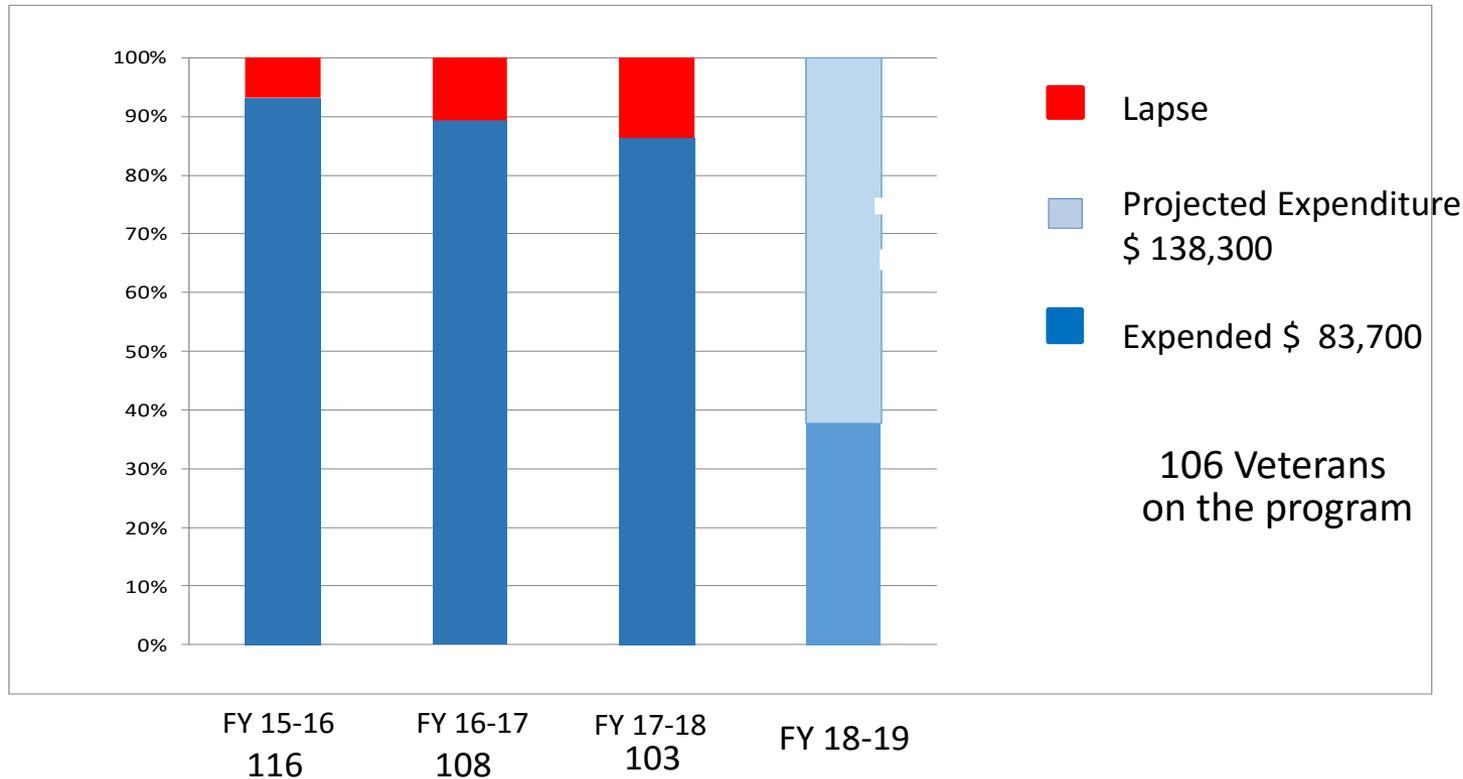
- Lapse \$0
- Projected Expenditures \$ 427,826
- Expended \$ 372,174

249 Claimants
on the program

BLIND VETERANS PENSION



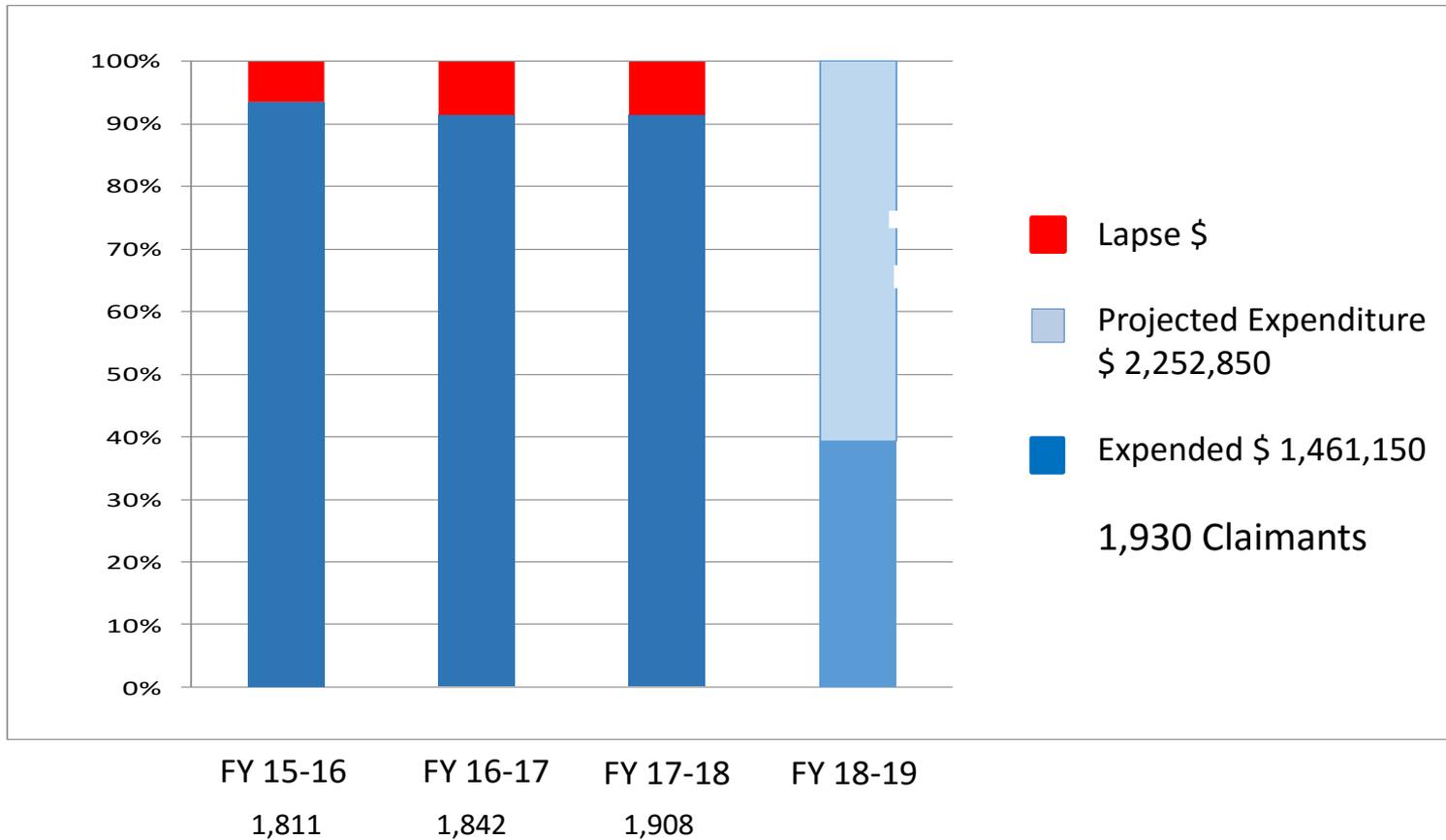
\$222,000



AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



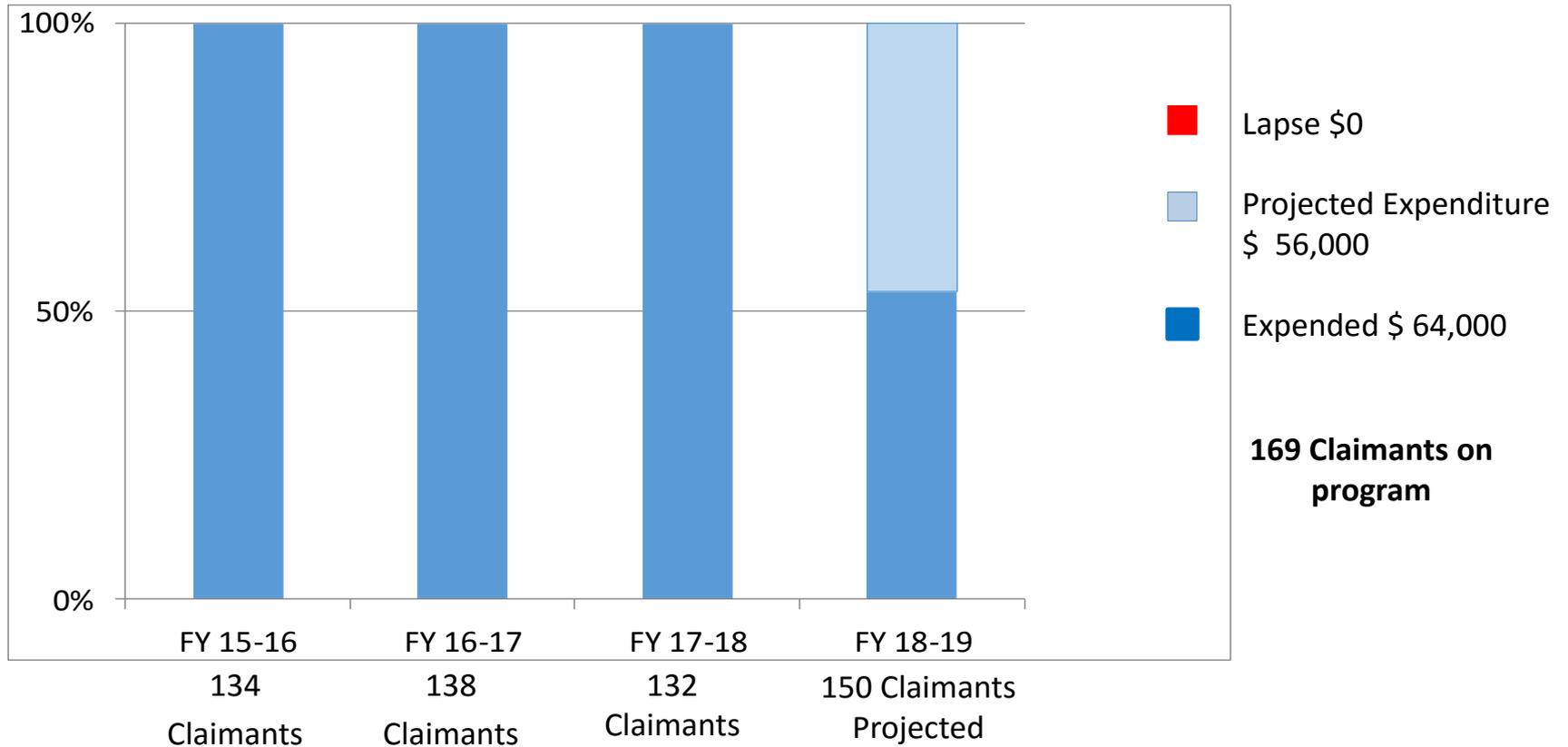
\$3,714,000



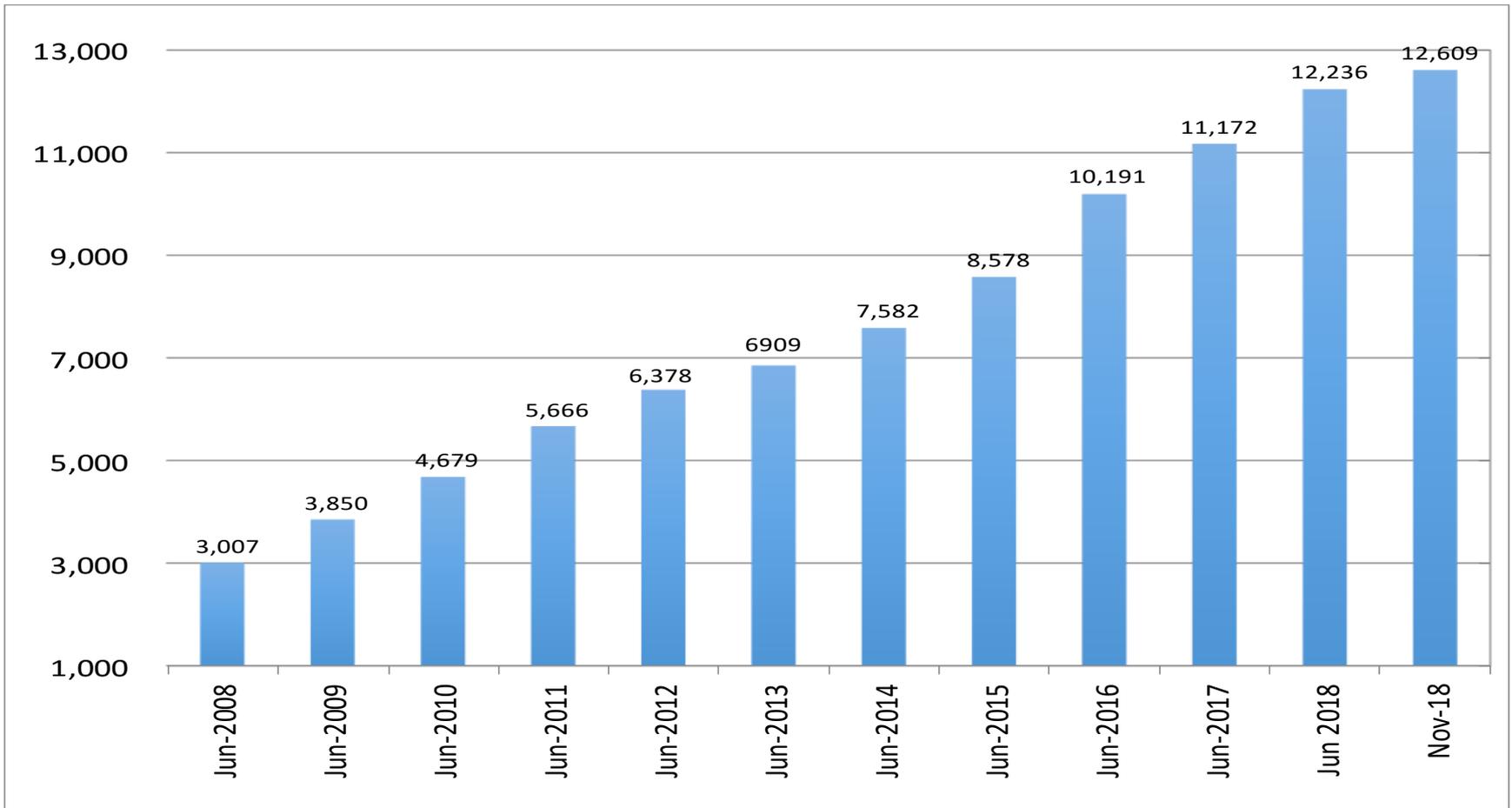
EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



\$120,000



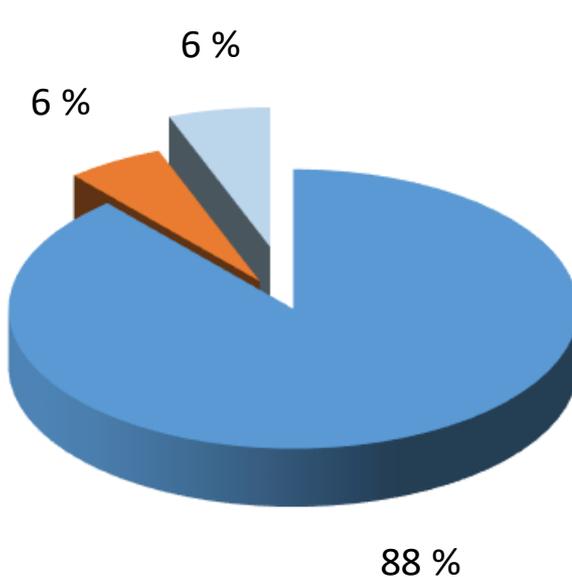
DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 14 Nov 2018

> [community](#) > [commonwealth](#) > [country](#)

DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM



■ Applications (Approved): 368

■ Applications Denied (Financial Need): 23

■ Did not meet Eligibility criteria: 24

Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria:

- 5: Property not solely owned by Veteran and Spouse
 - 1: Do not occupy the property as principal dwellin
 - 4: Did not have 100% Permanenet Disability in their lifetime
 - 5: No war time service
 - 9: Not total or 100% Disabled - Future Exam
-
- 24 Applications Ineligible by Reason Code

*343 Applications Received since 22 September 2018

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



Total Applications: 13,117

Payments Sent: 9,916

Total Payments: \$ 4,175,112.50

Average Payment: \$421.05

Average Processing Time: 7.31 days

OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 14 November 2018

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 128,186.36
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,721,180.40
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,849,366.76
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 853,921.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 995,444.90

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2018)	\$360,657.35
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$1,883.19
License Plate Donations	\$23,805.00
Interest	\$2,791.19
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$28,479.38
Expenses	(\$99,447.38)
Ending Balance	\$289,689.35

ODAGVA / ACT 66 SUMMARY



FY 18 - 19	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
6,881	\$38,366,916.00

FY 17 - 18	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
34,708	\$225,309,603.00

As of 19 Nov 18

> community > commonwealth > **country**

OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	32	17			49
Mobile Outreach Van Events	29	10			39
Veteran Interactions	434	170			604
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	107	47			154
Legislator Attended Events	17	9			26

Upcoming Events – December

- **Legislative Events** – None
- **Events** – Bass Pro Shops Monthly Outreach, Cabela’s Monthly Outreach
- **Legislators Attending Events** – None

As of 19 November 18

> community > commonwealth > country

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	\$795.00	53	\$45,525.00	3,035
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$23,345.00	-1,015	\$0.00	0
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	7	\$2,610.00	174
Checkoff & Donations	\$14,150.00	\$42,719.00	\$520,958.50		\$8,105,412.43	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$80.00		\$4,065.00	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$583.11	\$583.11		\$1,873.25	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,628.14		\$84,223.42	
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 17-18)	-\$315.25	-\$315.25	-\$3,797.11		\$800,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$649,684.75	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$502,127.20	
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	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$23,059.00	
VTA	\$17,828.00	\$37,400.00	\$369,239.00		3,184,617.32	
Working Balance	-\$3,362.75	\$6,242.36	\$151,362.86		\$2,393,727.16	3,209

As of 19 November 18

> community > commonwealth > country



SVC BY-LAW COMMITTEE



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Sam Petrovich (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	DAV
Mr. John Cyprian	MAL
Mr. Neil Appleby	BVA
Mr. Robert C. Ziltz	MCL
Mr. Thomas Hanzes	VFW
Mr. Rick Hamp	DMVA



SVC ACT 66 COMMITTEE



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Kit Watson (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	TAL
Mr. John Pliska	AMVETS
Mr. Charles Jackson	MOPH (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. John Getz	VFW
Mr. Chip Gilliland	DMVA



SVC RETX COMMITTEE



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Matthew Zamosky (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	CDVA
Mr. John Brenner	MAL
Mr. Jeffrey Elliot	AMVETS
Mr. Harold Cooney	MOAA
Mr. Kit Watson	TAL
Mr. Cory Bender	DMVA



SVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Samuel Petrovich (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	DAV
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Robert Gray	MOAA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Christopher Fidler	KPVA
Mr. Mr. Charles Jackson	MOPH (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. John Brenner	Member-at-Large
Mr. Bruce Foster	TAL (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Dusty Durand	DMVA



**SVC PENSIONS & RELIEF/ GRAVE MARKING/
MILITARY CEMETERY COMMITTEE**



Pensions & Relief/Grave Marking/Cemetery Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. John Brenner(COMMITTEE CHAIR)	MAL
Mr. Thomas Haberkorn	VVA
Mr. Louis Santangelo	KWV
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	CDVA
Mr. Chris Fidler	KPVA
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA

NEXT MEETING



Friday, **FEB 1ST**, 2018

at **10:00AM**

Arrowheads Community Club

Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA 17003

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

2019 STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR

Friday, February 1, 2019 - 10:00 am

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

Friday, April 5, 2019 - 10:00 am

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

Friday, June 7, 2019 - 10:00 am

Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home
560 East Third Street
Erie, PA 16512

Friday, September 6, 2019 - 10:00 am

Southwestern Veterans' Center
7060 Highland Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Friday, October 11, 2019 - 10:00 am

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

Friday, December 6, 2019 - 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**

Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission Bylaws

Version 1.3

20 November 2018

INDEX:

Article I. Name and definitions

Article II. Purpose, Powers and Duties, and Scope

Article III. Membership (Voting), Members at Large (Voting), Non-Voting Members, Chairperson (Pending final procedure approval)

Article IV Terms of Members, Reappointment, Vacancies, Removal, Resignations, and Expenses, Protocol

Article V Meetings, Quorum, Voting, and Amendment of Bylaws

Article VI Establishment, Composition, Duties, and Rules of Committees

Article VII Awards, Recognition

ARTICLE I. Name and definitions

Section 1 – Name

The name of this body shall be the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC).

Section 2 – Definitions

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

“Title 51”- Title 51 Pa Consolidated Statutes (PaC.S), Military Affairs (Military and Veterans' Code)

“TAG”- The Adjutant General

“Certify” – Attest to meeting a standard

“Chairman or Chairperson”- State Veterans' Commission Chairman or Chairperson.

“Vice Chairman or Chairperson”- State Veterans Commission Vice Chairman or Vice Chairperson

‘The Executive Secretary’- The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs

“Commission”- State Veterans' Commission.

‘Committee’- A Committee established by TAG or the SVC

“Department”- The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

‘Advise’- ‘to give a recommendation’

‘Investigate’- ‘carry out research or study into so as to discover facts or information’.

‘Oversee’- ‘Inspect or Examine’ so as to discover facts or information
‘Determine Eligibility’- ‘meeting the stipulated requirements’
‘Promulgate rules and regulations’- ‘to make known or publish the terms of’

Article II. Purpose, Powers and Duties, and Scope

Section 1 – Purpose

In accordance with 51 Pa C.S. 1703 and 1704, the purpose of the commission is contained in its General Powers and Duties and Specific Powers and Duties.

It is administratively dependent, however, upon the Department for the execution of its daily responsibilities because the Department has reserved unto itself the necessary employees. It provides the Executive Secretary in the form of the Deputy Adjutant General, who is the equivalent of an Executive Director of a commission in any other state commission.

Section 2 – Powers and Duties of the State Veterans Commission.

The Commission shall advise the Adjutant General upon such matters as the Adjutant General may bring before it’. It shall investigate the work of the Department and make recommendations to it regarding the laws providing for the payment of pensions and relief, for the marking of grave of veterans and for the selection, acquisition and maintenance of a State military cemetery’, and finally the State Veterans Commission shall ‘Investigate and recommend to the Governor legislation for the submission to the General Assembly concerning veterans and their activities’.

- (1) The Department will facilitate the investigative and oversight function of the State Veterans Commission by providing program reports for review prior to each normally scheduled meeting.
- (2) The State Veterans Commission will maintain a Legislative Committee which will provide a report/briefing to the Commission membership for discussion/approval.
- (3) Oversee Veterans Temporary Assistance payments under Chapter 85 as it relates to Veterans Emergency Assistance. The Department will provide reports to the SVC prior to each normally scheduled meeting.
- (4) Certify educational gratuity payments for eligible children under Chapter 87 (relating to educational gratuity program)’. The Department will provide reports to the SVC prior to each normally scheduled meeting.
- (5) ‘Determine eligibility of veteran applicants for real property tax exemptions under Chapter 89 (relating to disabled veterans’ real estate tax exemption)’.
- (6) ‘Promulgate rules and regulations governing all actions of the commission under paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) by publishing or causing to be published changes to required documentation and advertising any changes on the DMVA website.
- (7) To develop and recommend rules for conducting Commission meetings. This power includes but is not limited to determining the scope of responsibilities of committees, the number of members for each committee and the procedure for formally adopting the approval of committee reports before release to the Commission.
- (8) To assign topics for research and study to each committee.
- (9) ‘The Commission shall develop guidelines for the halls of fame (of each veterans’ home) in accordance with law and established policy.

Section 3 – Scope.

Members of the State Veterans Commission will perform their duties as assigned in accordance with law and established policy of the Department.

Article III. Membership (Voting), Members at Large (Voting Pending Final Approval), Non-Voting Members, Chairperson

Section 1 – Membership (Voting)

- (1) The Commission shall be comprised of members as cited in Title 51, PaC.S § 1702 (b)
- (2) Designees are authorized. The name of the designee should be provided to the Executive Secretary via letter/ email stating the meetings that they will be designee for.
- (3) Each properly seated member or designee is allotted 1 vote

Section 2 – Members at Large

Pending Final Approval of process submitted to the Governor.

Section 3- Non- Voting Members

- (1) ‘The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) and the Executive Director of the AMVETS are non-voting members’.

Section 4– Chairperson

- (1) ‘The Commission shall annually elect a chairman and vice chairman at the first meeting of the commission after October 1’.
- (2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be selected from voting and non-voting members.
 - a. Election of a non-voting member to the office of chairman or vice-chairman does not grant a vote that a member would not have otherwise been entitled to.
- (3) Duties of the Chairman as it pertains to the SVC specifically are:
 - a. Chairs SVC meetings and oversees Committee meetings. The Chairman acts as an ex officio on all committees
 - b. Requests Special meetings, through the Executive Secretary, if needed.
 - c. Requests ‘out of cycle’ votes/ polling thru the Executive Secretary if needed
 - d. Assists and approves the Executive Secretary in preparing the agenda for future Commission meetings
 - e. Working with Commission members and coordinating with the Department, in developing goals for the SVC fiscal year and monitors progress through gathering appropriate metrics.
 - f. Acts as the SVC Liaison to the Governors’ Advisory Council on Veterans Services

Section 5- Executive Secretary

- (1) The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans’ Affairs shall serve as the Executive Secretary to the Commission with specific duties to the State Veterans Commission:
 - a. Post SVC meeting notices (dates, times, location, etc.)
 - b. Ensure safety and accuracy of all SVC records
 - c. Prepares, in conjunction with Chairman, the SVC meeting agenda.

- d. Review and post SVC minutes
- e. Assume responsibility of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, Chair elect and vice Chair.
- f. Prepares program/ package relating to new member orientation.
- g. Organizes Special meetings for the Chairman
- h. Organizes 'out of cycle' votes/ polling for the Chairman.
- i. Process correspondence for the SVC
- j. Process travel claims related expenses for eligible members

Article IV Terms of Members, Reappointment, Vacancies, Removal, Resignations, and Expenses, Protocol

Section 1 – Terms of Members

- (1) The State Commander, Commandant or head, or his designee, of each of the member organizations shall serve concurrent with their service in the office from which they derive their membership.
- (2) Members at Large shall serve terms as specified by 51 Pa C.S. 1703 and 1704 or until such time as a successor has been appointed.
- (3) State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Executive Director of the AMVETS shall serve terms concurrent with their respective appointing authorities.

Section 2 – Reappointment

Commission Members (including Members at Large) shall be eligible for reappointment. Members at Large shall serve until their successors are appointed, provided they represent the interests of their respective organizations for which they were appointed.

Section 3 – Vacancies

- (1) Any vacancy on the Commission by a member organization shall be filled by the member organization in accordance with their respective bylaws, charters or practices. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy under this section shall serve the balance of the previous member's term and remains eligible for reappointment in accordance with Section 2 above. Member at Large vacancies will be filled in accordance with Article III, Section 2.

Section 4 – Removal. Members may be removed from the Commission for the following reasons:

- (1) A member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall forfeit his or her seat unless the chairperson, upon written request from the member, finds that the member should be excused from a meeting.
- (2) A member shall forfeit his or her seat if he or she no longer represents the interests of their respective organization for which he or she was appointed. Members-at-Large shall forfeit his or her seat if he or she no longer represents the interests determining their selection under Article III, Section 2.

Section 5 – Resignations

- (1) Any member desiring to resign from the commission shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the chairperson. In the case of ex-officio members, the member organization will

- immediately designate the replacement. In the case of members-at-large the nominating and appoint as described in Article III, Section 2 will be used in naming determine the replacement.
- (2) Any resignation must be accepted by the Chairman of the SVC prior to the resignation having an effective date.

Section 6 – Expenses

- (1) Nongovernmental Commission members shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel and related actual expenses accrued in the performance of their duties as members, in accordance with Commonwealth travel policy.
- (2) Committee members who are not members of the Commission may not receive reimbursement.

Section 7- Protocol

The Commission shall not be inhibited in expressing its own positions before officials, legislators, or the public, when in the interest of the veterans and families it serves. However, no commissioner is authorized to speak in the name of the Commission when not expressing commission positions. Preferably and when practicable, the Chairman or the Commission of the Whole will first be consulted.

Article V Meetings, Quorum, Voting, and Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1 – Meetings

- (1) The commission shall meet upon the call of the Chairman. Generally, the Commission will meet at least 6 times per year.
- (2) Meetings shall be held at such times and places as scheduled by the Chairman through the Executive Secretary.
- (3) Scheduled meetings will be held even if there is not a quorum of SVC members in attendance
- (4) The Chairman may request through Executive Secretary, special meetings of the commission, provided notice is sent to members at least 14 calendar days in advance.
- (5) The meeting agenda shall be developed by the Chairman through the Executive Secretary and shall be comprised of the following:
 - (a) Call to Order
 - (b) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
 - (c) Commission Introductions
 - (d) Introduction of Others present
 - (e) Presentations (8 minute time limit)
 - (e) Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - (f) Oath of Office (if needed)
 - (g) TAG Update
 - (h) DAG-VA Update (brief by exception)
 - (i) Department Legislative Update (brief by exception)
 - (k) Department General Counsel Update (brief by exception)
 - (l) VISN 4 Update
 - (m) Questions regarding and Approval of Department Reports
 - (1) These reports will be sent to Membership approx. 1 week prior to the scheduled Commission meeting. Department staff will not brief the reports but will be available to answer any questions about the reports. Acceptance of the reports will require a vote by the Commission.
 - (n) Submission of Committee Reports
 - (1) Pensions and Relief/ Grave Marking/ State Military Cemetery (brief by exception)

- (2) Legislation (brief by exception)
- (3) Veterans Emergency Assistance (brief by exception)
- (4) Educational Gratuity (brief by exception)
- (5) Real Estate Tax Exemption (brief by exception)
- (6) Act 66 (brief by exception)
- (7) New Committees (brief by exception)
- (o) Old Business
- (p) New Business
 - (1) Membership is expected to highlight emergent issues affecting Veterans
- (q) Good of Order Announcements
- (r) Adjourn

Section 2 – Quorum

- (1) Nine voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.
- (2) If a quorum is not established, the commission may conduct any business that does not require a vote, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Receiving reports from committees;
 - b. Informational updates; and
 - c. Presentations for the good of the order.
- (3) Minutes shall still be recorded for non-quorum meetings. They shall be received but not accepted at the next meeting of the SVC.

Section 3 – Voting

- (1) Each voting member, or designee of the State Veterans Commission who has been properly appointed shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of its members.
- (2) A simple majority of the quorum is needed in order to approve any matters requiring a vote on any issue, including approval of committee reports, previous meeting minutes and recommendations.
- (3) All votes of the State Veterans Commission are considered to be a recommendation and non-binding on the Adjutant General.
- (4) The voting rights of the members shall be exercised by the member personally and may not be exercised by alternates/ proxy unless a letter of proxy has been submitted by the member to the Executive Secretary prior to the meeting naming their designee.
- (5) Routine and procedural votes shall be conducted by voice. All other votes, such as the election of officers, shall be conducted by ballot.

Section 4 – Amendment of Bylaws

- (1) The recommendation to amend the bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the current commission membership at any regular or special meeting duly convened.
- (2) In order to be considered, proposed amendments must be submitted to each commission member in writing at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken.
- (3) Amendments will go into effect upon approval of the Commission.
- (4) Grammar edits not affecting meaning do not require a vote

Article VI Establishment, Composition, Duties, and Rules of Committees

Section 1 – Establishment

The Commission shall establish committees which may research and study the following areas or others as needed:

- (1) Pensions and Relief/ Grave Marking/ State Military Cemetery
- (2) Legislation
- (3) Veterans Financial Assistance
- (4) Educational Gratuity
- (5) Real Estate Tax Exemption.
- (6) Act 66 of 2007 (Veteran Service Officer Grant Program)
- (7) Emerging Need as deemed appropriate

Section 2 – Composition

- (1) The Commission Chairperson assisted by the Executive Secretary shall appoint committee members, who may include those who are not members of the Commission and who have expertise pertaining to the specific topics and tasks assigned.
- (2) The Commission chairperson may appoint Commission members to serve as chairperson and, as needed, vice chairperson for each committee or may instruct the committee members to designate and report their own.
- (3) Each committee shall be comprised of at least three voting Commission members.
- (4) The terms of voting committee members shall be concurrent with their service on the Commission.
- (5) Any Commission Member desiring to serve on an alternate committee shall submit his or her desire in writing to the Commission chairperson and Committee chairperson.

Section 3 – Duties

Committees convened by the commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To study and report on the topics assigned by the Commission.
- (2) To facilitate the creation of the reports and, with the permission of the Commission, invite individuals to assist in preparation of reports for the Commission.
- (3) To approve reports and recommendations for submission to the Commission. Only members appointed to each committee may participate in approving reports and recommendations to the Commission.

Section 4 – Rules

- (1) Committees shall meet at the discretion of the committee chairperson.
- (2) Committee meetings shall be held at such times and places as the committee chairperson shall decide.
- (3) A Committee shall be comprised of at least 3 voting Commission Members and any additional personnel who, based on interest and or required expertise, are approved by the Committee Chairperson and the Chairman of the State Veterans Commission. All members of a committee are considered voting members.

(4) Participation at any meeting may be accomplished by means of teleconference or a similar communication device or platform. Chairpersons are encouraged to leverage virtual communication technology to reduce reimbursable expenses.

Article VII Awards, Recognition

Section 1- Terms of Awards

- (1) Members, who qualify, may be submitted by the Commission Chairperson, for consideration for the Pa Commendation Medal.
- (2) The Commission will be responsible for submitting the required documentation.

DRAFT

Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Available Beds Monthly Status Report
from November 1 to 30, 2018

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	100	99	1		99%	39
Secured	30	30	0		100%	10
Placing						0
TOTAL	130	129	1	2	99%	49
Non-Veteran Census Percent				2	4%	
Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	156	138	18		88%	2
Secured	40	32	8		80%	0
Placing						2
TOTAL	196	170	26	24	87%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				25	10%	
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	231	216	15		94%	2
Secured	26	22	4		85%	0
Personal Care	101	63	38		62%	0
Domiciliary	66	50	16		76%	0
Placing						2
TOTAL	424	351	73	74	83%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				74	12%	
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	53	53	0		100%	16
Secured	32	32	0		100%	8
Personal Care	80	49	31		61%	5
Domiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
Placing						3
TOTAL	185	154	31	21	83%	26
Non-Veteran Census Percent				26	12%	
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	208	203	5		98%	52
Secured	30	29	1		97%	0
Personal Care	54	48	6		89%	11
Placing						7
TOTAL	292	280	12	16	96%	56
Non-Veteran Census Percent				14	13%	
Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	196	188	8		96%	1
Secured	40	35	5		88%	1
Placing						2
TOTAL	236	223	13	11	94%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				12	14%	
Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	944	897	47		95%	112
Secured	198	180	18		91%	19
Personal Care	235	160	75		68%	16
Domiciliary	86	70	16		81%	0
Placing						16
TOTALS	1,463	1,307	156	139	89%	131
Non-Veteran Census Percent				147	12%	

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVVH	4	4%
GMVC	17	10%
HVH	42	12%
PSSH	18	12%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	31	14%
Total	147	12%

Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Authorized Beds Monthly Status Report
from November 1 to 30, 2018

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	141	99	1	41	0	99%	5		1		1		39	24
Secured	30	30	0	0	0	100%	0		1		1		10	10
Placing													0	0
TOTAL	171	129	1	41	0	99%	5	7	2	4	2	2	49	34
Non-Veteran Census Percent						4%		6		3		2		

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	156	138	18	0	0	88%	15		6		6		2	16
Secured	40	32	8	0	0	80%	2		1		1		0	2
Placing													2	0
TOTAL	196	170	26	0	0	87%	17	12	7	4	7	9	0	18
Non-Veteran Census Percent						10%		15		6		8		

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	231	216	15	0	0	94%	7		1		7		2	1
Secured	26	22	4	0	0	85%	0		0		0		0	0
Personal Care	101	63	38	0	0	62%	1		0		0		0	0
Domiciliary	66	50	16	0	0	76%	0		0		0		0	0
Placing													2	0
TOTAL	424	351	73	0	0	83%	8	21	1	2	7	9	0	1
Non-Veteran Census Percent						12%		15		2		8		

Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	75	53	0	22	0	100%	3		0		2		16	7
Secured	32	32	0	0	0	100%	1		0		3		8	7
Personal Care	80	49	31	0	0	61%	2		3		0		5	1
Domiciliary	20	20	0	0	0	100%	0		0		0		0	0
Placing													3	0
TOTAL	207	154	31	22	0	74%	6	4	3	5	5	2	26	15
Non-Veteran Census Percent						12%		5		4		4		

Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	208	203	5	0	0	98%	15		2		8		52	20
Secured	30	29	1	0	0	97%	1		3		0		0	3
Personal Care	54	48	6	0	0	89%	1		0		0		11	2
Placing													7	0
TOTAL	292	280	12	0	0	96%	17	13	5	7	8	8	56	25
Non-Veteran Census Percent						13%		15		6		8		

Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	196	188	8	0	0	96%	11		2		3		1	2
Secured	40	35	5	0	0	88%	1		1		2		1	0
Placing													2	1
TOTAL	236	223	13	0	0	94%	12	8	3	7	5	8	0	1
Non-Veteran Census Percent						14%		10		5		7		

Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes														
Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	1,007	897	47	0	0	89%	56		12		27		112	70
Secured	198	180	18	0	0	91%	5		6		7		19	22
Personal Care	235	160	75	0	0	68%	4		3		0		16	3
Domiciliary	86	70	16	0	0	81%	0		0		0		0	0
Placing													0	0
TOTALS	1,526	1,307	156	0	0	86%	65	58	21	19	34	29	131	94

Non-Veteran Census Percent

12%

62

20

32

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVVH	4	4%
GMVC	17	10%
HVH	42	12%
PSSH	18	12%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	31	14%
Total	147	12%

RETX- Exempt list(New)

mvfigsqlprod01
11/15/2018
rep_VADC_RETX_Exempt_List_New

Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
12609	12244	335	30	75

Summary of Activity from 09/22/2018 to 11/14/2018

Apps Created : 343	
New	203
Review:	140
Apps Approved :368	
New	221
Review	147
Apps Denied Fin:	23
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	24
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	36
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibility Changed):	59

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	Count
Property Ownership Change	1
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	4
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.	3
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	5
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.	9
You do not occupy the property for which you have claimed exemption as your principal dwelling.	1
Your disability has not been declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	1

367

DAUPHIN
LEBANON

6

8

ADAMS	5
ALLEGHENY	19
ARMSTRONG	4
BEAVER	2
BEDFORD	1
BERKS	16
BLAIR	4
BRADFORD	1
BUCKS	25
BUTLER	1
CAMBRIA	10
CARBON	5
CENTRE	5
CHESTER	9
CLARION	3
CLEARFIELD	5
CLINTON	3
COLUMBIA	1
CRAWFORD	7
CUMBERLAND	3
DELAWARE	11
ELK	1
ERIE	9
FAYETTE	4
FOREST	1
FRANKLIN	5
GREENE	1
HUNTINGDON	1
INDIANA	3
JEFFERSON	3
LACKAWANNA	7
LANCASTER	9
LAWRENCE	5
LEHIGH	5
LUZERNE	17
LYCOMING	3
MCKEAN	5



pennsylvania

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
invites applications for:

Veterans Services Specialist, DMVA

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal opportunity employer supporting workplace diversity.

SALARY: \$43,012.00 - \$65,389.00 Annually

JOB TYPE: Non-Civil Service Permanent Full-time

DEPARTMENT: Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

LOCATION: Lebanon County

OPENING DATE: 11/19/18

CLOSING DATE: 12/04/18 11:59 PM

JOB CODE: 48249

POSITION NUMBER: 00079685

UNION: Non-Union

BARGAINING UNIT: A3

PAY GROUP: ST06

BUREAU/DIVISION CODE: 6203

BUREAU/DIVISION: Veterans Services Fort Indiantown Gap

WORKSITE ADDRESS: Fort Indiantown Gap

CITY: Annville, PA

ZIP CODE: 17003

CONTACT NAME: Jennifer Boisvert

CONTACT PHONE: 717-861-2696

CONTACT EMAIL: jboisvert@pa.gov

THE POSITION:

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is looking for someone to advise and assist veterans and/or their beneficiaries with filling out required forms, obtaining record information, and explaining the eligibility requirements for various State programs managed by the Office of Veterans Affairs. Enjoy helping others? Apply to become a Veteran Service Specialist!

We offer a competitive salary and state benefits including health insurance, dental, vision, life insurance coverage; excellent vacation, sick, and holiday leave package; and retirement plan. Please join us in serving our Veterans at the PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Apply today!

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

If you are a Veteran looking for work focused on assisting veterans and their advocates, we have an exciting job for you! This position is located at Fort Indiantown Gap and has responsibility for administering state-mandated financial assistance programs for Pennsylvania's veterans and their beneficiaries and supporting accredited Veterans Service Officer operations.

Read the complete [position description](#) for more information.

WORK SCHEDULE:

8:15 AM – 4:30 PM

Monday - Friday

7.5 hours/day; 37.5 hours/week

Lunch Period: 45 Minutes

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, TRAINING & ELIGIBILITY:

Four years of experience in analyzing and determining individuals' eligibility for public benefit programs; or

Two years of experience in analyzing and determining individuals' eligibility for public benefit programs and an associate's degree in human services, business administration, public administration, or a related field; or

A bachelor's degree in human services, business administration, public administration, or a related field; or

An equivalent combination of experience and training.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Completion of military service in a branch of the United States Armed Forces and separation under honorable conditions. Possession of a valid PA Class 'C' Driver's License.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE FILED ONLINE AT:
<http://www.employment.pa.gov>

Position #S-2018-30722
VETERANS SERVICES SPECIALIST, DMVA
AH

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT:
613 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

jobs@pa.gov

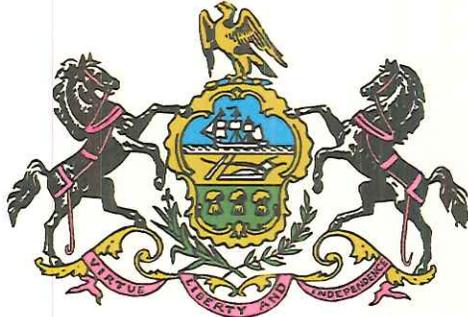
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Veterans Services Specialist, DMVA Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. This position is at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Are you willing and able to work in Lebanon County, PA?
- Yes
 No
- * 2. How many years of experience do you have in analyzing and determining individuals' eligibility for public benefits programs?
- None
 Less than 1 year
 1-less than 2 years
 2-less than 3 years

- 3-less than 4 years
 - 4+ years
- * 3. Indicate if you have a degree in human services, business administration, public administration, or a related field.
- Master's degree (or greater)
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Associate's degree
 - I have a degree in a non-related field.
 - I do not have a degree.
- * 4. Have you completed military service in a branch of the United States Armed Forces and separated under honorable conditions?
- Yes
 - No
- * 5. Do you have a valid Pennsylvania non-commercial 'Class C' driver's license?
- Yes
 - No
- * Required Question

Senate of Pennsylvania



HARRISBURG, PA

In the Senate, October 17, 2018

- Whereas, The United States entered World War I with a declaration of war against Germany on April 6, 1917, in response to German maritime aggression, including the sinking of merchant and supply ships, resulting in American civilian and military casualties, thus violating American neutrality; and
- Whereas, Twenty-six million men of the 54 million men in the United States were either registered for the draft or in service; and
- Whereas, The need to quickly build the strength of the military resulted in a total of 4.8 million men serving during the conflict, during which individuals of all races, ethnicities and creeds came together to forge a new American identity; and
- Whereas, World War I forever changed the course of warfare due to the development of new technologies, including aviation, tanks, anti-aircraft artillery, motor transport, aircraft carriers, chemical weapons, submarines and anti-submarine warfare, underwater mines and sonar; and
- Whereas, The American Expeditionary Forces fought in 13 distinct campaigns during World War I and suffered 244,000 casualties, more than 36,000 of those being Pennsylvanians; and
- Whereas, Pennsylvanians alone purchased more than \$3 billion for the war effort through the sale of Victory and Liberty Bonds, and produced more than half of the steel used by the Allies during the war; and
- Whereas, Nineteen months and five days following the entry of the United States into the war, Germany signed an armistice agreement on November 11, 1918; and
- Whereas, World War I claimed the lives of more than 5 million Allied soldiers, with nearly 13 million wounded; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorate the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of World War I, and recognize and honor the historical significance and valorous service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate honor the memory of those members of the United States Armed Forces who fell in the course of service to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate commend the United States Armed Forces for their gallant service during World War I, recognizing the contribution their actions made to preserve and protect the interests of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate call upon all residents of this Commonwealth to join in the commemoration of the centennial of the end of World War I, be they at home or overseas.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 478, introduced by Senators Randy Tulakovich, Jay Costa, David S. Argall, Ryan P. Pument, Lisa Baker, Camera Bartolotta, John P. Blake, James R. Brewster, Michele Brooks, Patrick M. Browne, Andrew E. Dinniman, John K. Eichelberger, Jr., Mike Folmer, Wayne D. Fontana, John R. Gardner, Stewart J. Greenleaf, Vincent J. Hughes, Scott E. Hutchinson, Thomas K. Killion, Scott Martin, Bob Mensch, John C. Rafferty, Jr., Mike Regan, Guy Reschenthaler, Judith L. Schwank, Sharif Street, Kim L. Ward, Donald C. White and John F. Yudichak, and adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, two thousand eighteen.

Attest:

Megan Martin

Megan Martin, Secretary

