

# Agenda

## Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

5 April 2019 at 10:00 AM

Arrowheads Community Club

- |           |   |                         |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1000 (5)  | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>  | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
|           | Moment of Silence   | Vice-Chairman Ed Burris |
|           | Pledge of Allegiance  | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
| 1005 (10) | Commission introductions  |                         |
| 1015 (5)  | Approval of the Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> and Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 Meeting Minutes | <b>REQUIRES A VOTE</b>  |
| 1020 (10) | DMVA Military Update  | BG Gen Michael Regan    |
| 1030 (15) | VISN 4 Update   | Mr. David Cowgill       |
| 1045 (10) | Guest Speaker- Disability Rights PA   | Mr. Stephen Lew         |
|           | <b>OLD BUSINESS</b>   |                         |
| 1055 (3)  | DMVA, Chief Counsel   | Ms. Elizabeth Pettis    |
| 1058 (2)  | DMVA, Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs  | Mr. Dusty Durand        |
| 1100 (5)  | DMVA, Bureau of Veterans Homes  | Mr. Andrew Ruscavage    |
| 1105 (15) | DMVA, Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO)            | Mr. Joel Mutschler      |
| 1120 (2)  | Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA)                               | <b>REQUIRES A VOTE</b>  |
| 1122 (5)  | Act 66 Committee report   | Mr. Kit Watson          |
| 1127 (5)  | RETX Committee report   | Mr. Matthew Zamosky     |
| 1132 (2)  | Legislative Committee report  | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
| 1134 (3)  | Pensions & Relief/Grave markings Committee report                                   | Mr. John Brenner        |
|           | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>   |                         |
| 1137 (10) | Bylaws discussion   | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
| 1147 (5)  | Good of the Order   | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
| 1152 (5)  | Discussion Topics for next meeting  | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
| 1157 (3)  | <b>Next Meeting:</b>  |                         |
|           | <b>Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 10:00am</b>                                  |                         |
|           | <b>Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home</b>                                       |                         |
| 1200      | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>  | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |
|           | <b>RETIRING OF COLORS</b>   | Chairman Sam Petrovich  |

**BYLAWS OF THE STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION**

*(Effective Date - April 5, 2019)*

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE**

- Section 1.1 Name**
- Section 1.2 Purpose**
- Section 1.3 Powers and Duties**

**ARTICLE II – COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- Section 2.1 Composition**
- Section 2.2 Terms**
- Section 2.3 Removal and Resignation**
- Section 2.4 Vacancy**
- Section 2.5 Declared Vacancies**
- Section 2.6 Compensation**

**ARTICLE III – OFFICERS**

- Section 3.1 Officers**
- Section 3.2 Chair**
- Section 3.3 Vice-Chair**
- Section 3.4 Secretary**
- Section 3.5 Eligibility for Officer Position**

**ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS**

- Section 4.1 Meetings**
- Section 4.2 Meetings Cancellation**
- Section 4.3 Quorum**
- Section 4.4 Voting**

**Section 4.5**    **Written Vote by Proxy**

**Section 4.6**    **Open Meetings**

**Section 4.7**    **Rules of Order**

**Section 4.8**    **Meeting Minutes**

## **ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

**Section 5.1**    **Creation of Committees**

**Section 5.2**    **Term of Committee Membership**

**Section 5.3**    **Subject Matter Experts**

**Section 5.4**    **Committee Chairs**

**Section 5.5**    **Bylaws Governance Applicable to Committees**

## **ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 6.1**    **Amendments**

## **ARTICLE I**

### Name, Purpose, Powers and Duties

*Section 1.1.* NAME. As provided in Subchapter A of Chapter 17 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, the Commission shall be known as the State Veterans' Commission. (52 Pa.C.S. §1701)

*Section 1.2.* PURPOSE. Pursuant to Section 1702(a) of Title 51, the Commission was established by the General Assembly as an advisory commission within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (52 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b)) As a result, the purpose of the Commission to advise The Adjutant General, as the head of the Department, or his/her designee.

*Section 1.3.* POWERS AND DUTIES. The powers and duties of the Commission are limited to the general powers and duties set forth Section 1703 of Title 51 and the specific powers and duties set forth in Section 1704 of Title 51. (51 Pa.C.S. §1703 and § 1704)

## **ARTICLE II**

### Commission Members

*Section 2.1.* COMPOSITION. As specified in Section 1702(b) of Title 51, the Commission shall consist of the following persons: The Adjutant General, ex officio, or his designee; 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) Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Inc., (xii) The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., (xiii) American Ex-Prisoners of War, (xiv) Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association, (xv) Military Officers Association of America, and (xvii) The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc; and four (4) members at large appointed by the Governor. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702 (b)(1) – (4))

*Section 2.2.* TERMS. The State Commander, Commandant, or head, or her or his designee, of each veterans' organization shall serve a term concurrent with his or her service in the office from which he or she derives membership. In accordance with Section 1702(b)(3), Members-at-Large shall serve terms of four (4) years and until a successor has been appointed. The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Executive Director of American Veterans ("AMVETS") shall serve terms concurrent with their service in the office from which they derive their respective memberships. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b)(3)) All categories of Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

*Section 2.3* REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION. A Member may be removed from the Commission, with or without cause, by the relevant Veterans Service Organization or appointing authority. Any Member may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be provided to The Adjutant General, via the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in writing. Acceptance thereof

by The Adjutant General or by any other party shall not be necessary to make it effective. A member who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings without good cause maybe deemed to have resigned from the Commission.

*Section 2.54* VACANCY. Each Member shall hold office until such Member's resignation, removal, death or, in the case of Members serving ex officio or a Member at Large, ceasing to hold office. Any vacancy occurring during the term of an appointed Member shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointment of a successor in the same manner as the predecessor.

*Section 2.5.* DECLARED VACANCIES. Pursuant to Section 1702(f) of Title 51, 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. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(f))

*Section 2.6.* COMPENSATION. Pursuant to Section 1702(d) of Title 51, Members shall serve without compensation. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(d)) All Members shall be reimbursed by the Department for any necessary and reasonable out of pocket expenses while attending to official business.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Officers**

*Section 3.1.* OFFICERS. In accordance with Section 1702(c) of Tile 51, the officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and an Executive Secretary. 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. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(c))

*Section 3.2.* CHAIR. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chair, including appointment of committees.

*Section 3.3.* VICE-CHAIR. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event of the latter's inability to act because of absence or other reason and shall perform other duties delegated by the Chair.

*Section 3.4.* EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary or his or her delegate shall be responsible for all administrative tasks related to the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall maintain and may suggest review of and modifications to the bylaws, when appropriate. Nothing in this section shall prevent any other member of the Commission from suggesting review of the bylaws. The Executive Secretary shall also perform other duties delegated by the Adjutant General.

*Section 3.5.* ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER POSITION. Any Member of the Commission is eligible to become an officer, regardless of his or her status as a voting or non-voting member.

## ARTICLE IV

### Meetings

*Section 4.1.* MEETINGS. In accordance with Section 1702(e) of Title 51, the Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chair or the Adjutant General. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(e)) If the Chair elects to call a meeting, he or she shall first consult with the Executive Secretary to ensure that there is adequate space and resources to hold the meeting. The Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Chair or the Adjutant General, shall send a written notice to each Member at least fourteen (14) days in advance of a meeting via fax, mail, e-mail or other means of communication deemed reasonably likely by the Commission to reach the intended recipient. Such a notice shall contain the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

*Section 4.2* MEETING CANCELLATION. After consultation with the Executive Secretary, the Chair may cancel a meeting for good cause. The Adjutant General may cancel a meeting of the Commission in his or her sole and absolute discretion.

*Section 4.3.* QUORUM. Pursuant to Section 1702(e) of Title 51, nine (9) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(e)) If no quorum attends within a reasonable time after the hour fixed for any meeting, the Members present may fix a time to which the meeting shall stand adjourned.

*Section 4.4.* VOTING. Pursuant to Section 1702(b)(2) of Title 51, the State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Executive Director of AMVETS are non-voting members. (51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b)(2))

*Section 4.5.* WRITTEN VOTE BY PROXY. If notice is given of a vote to be taken at a Commission meeting and a Member is unable to participate, the Member may either submit his or her vote, in writing, to the Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting or may authorize another person, such as his or her staff member or another Commission member, to submit the written vote by proxy.

*Section 4.6* OPEN MEETINGS. Official actions and deliberations by a quorum of the Commission shall take place at a meeting open to the public, unless permitted otherwise by the Sunshine Act or other applicable law.

*Section 4.7* RULES OF ORDER. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law or by these Bylaws, the rules of order for meetings of the Commission and committees thereof shall follow as closely as practicable those prescribed for small assemblies or similar small bodies in the most recently published revision of Robert's Rules of Order. Such rules of order shall be construed to promote the orderly and efficient conduct of business and to avoid procedural complexity that may delay or hinder the taking of action required by law or advisable in the prudent exercise of the Commission's duties.

*Section 4.8* MEETING MINUTES. Written minutes shall be kept of each open meeting; and after approval by the Commission or committee, such minutes shall be made available for public

inspection and copying. The minutes shall be prepared as required by Section 6 of the Sunshine Act or other applicable law.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Committees**

*Section 5.1.* **CREATION OF COMMITTEES.** The Commission may establish by resolution one or more standing or special committees, each to consist of two or more Members and the Executive Secretary or his or her designee.

*Section 5.2* **TERM OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** In December of each year, the Chair shall appoint the Committee Members, who shall have terms through December 1st of that year. In the event of a vacancy on a committee, the Chair shall appoint a replacement Committee Member for the balance of the term of the vacating Committee Member. There shall be no limitation on the number of full terms for which a Committee Member may be reappointed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Committee Member shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal, it being understood that termination of membership on the Commission shall constitute a resignation from the committee.

*Section 5.3.* **SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.** The Chair may assign subject matter experts to assist and advise committee members. The subject matter experts shall not be considered members of the committees and shall not have the power to vote on matters being deliberated by the committee.

*Section 5.4* **COMMITTEE CHAIRS.** Annually, Committee Members shall elect a chair of the committee ("Committee Chair") at such time as the first committee meeting of the year or at such time as the Committee Chair position becomes vacant. The Committee Chair shall take office effective as of the day of his or her election and shall serve as Committee Chair through December 1st (or until the Committee Chair is no longer on the committee, if shorter). If the Committee Chair does not complete his or her term, then the Committee Members shall elect an interim Committee Chair at the Committee meeting following the Committee Chair's departure from the Committee. The interim Committee Chair shall serve until the new Committee Chair takes office according to the procedures outlined above. The Committee Chair shall preside at all meetings of the committee. The Committee Chair shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Commission and as described in the Committee Chair Position Description.

*Section 5.5* **BYLAWS GOVERNANCE APPLICABLE TO COMMITTEES.** The term "Commission," when used in any provision of these Bylaws relating to the organization or procedures of, or the manner of taking action by, the Board, shall be construed to include and refer to any Committee of the Commission. Any provision of these Bylaws relating or referring to action to be taken by the Commission or the procedure required therefore shall be satisfied by the taking of corresponding action by a committee of the Board to the extent authority to take the action has been delegated to such committee pursuant a resolution of the Commission, committee charter or these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Amendments**

*Section 6.1.* AMENDMENTS. The provisions of the Bylaws not set forth in Title 51 may be amended upon a motion of a Member and receiving a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Commission membership at a meeting called for such purpose. Notice of such a meeting shall contain notice that an amendment to the Bylaws will be voted upon, and a summary of the proposed amendment. The text of each amendment of the Bylaws shall be attached to the Bylaws with a notation of the date of such amendment. At any time and from time to time, the Chair may direct the Executive Secretary to certify and publish a restatement of these Bylaws, as amended as of the date of such certification.



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBURARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019**





## **DMVA MILITARY UPDATE**





# CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



## PAARNG Current Deployments

MDATE	MSAD	UNIT	OPN	PAX	MISSION	Projected Return Date
30 SEP 15	03 OCT 15	DET 1 2/104th	OEF-KU	24	MEDEVAC	02 NOV 16
07 JAN 16	09 JAN 16	2IBCT	KFOR	96	SECURITY	07 JAN 17
29 JAN 16	01 FEB 16	2 IBCT NATO 33	KFOR-OJG	29	POSTAL	27JAN 17/18 FEB 17
11 MAY 16	14 MAY 16	28ID 1-110th	OEF UAE/OIR	370	SECFOR/TNG	o/a 14JUN17
Various Individual MOB Soldiers				19	Various Missions	TBD
<b>Total PAARNG Deployed: 538</b>						

## PAANG Current Deployments

Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	OIR/SS	20/5
111 ATKW	IPR (HS)/Various/OIR	36/5/3
171 ARW	OFS/Alert Status (HS)/OIR	20/37/18
<b>Total PAANG Deployed</b>		<b>144</b>

**Total PANG Deployed 725**

## VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2019 Wait Times



Clinics FY19 through Jan. 13	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	666,431	629,133	95.7%	5.1
Mental Health	96,500	92,758	97.6%	3.5
Primary Care	154,668	151,413	97.9%	3.4
Specialty Care	262,331	236,897	92.9%	7.5

## 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	13	2	8	4
Abie Abraham HCC	9	1	6	3
Coatesville VAMC	16	2	8	3
Erie VAMC	27	9	15	2
Lebanon VAMC	22	4	10	2
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	30	5	16	2
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	15 (Hz) 21 (UD)	4 (Hz) 9 (UD)	11 (Hz) 7 (UD)	3 (Hz) 2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	19	3	21	8
Wilmington VAMC	17	3	7	1

Data updated 1/7/19 with wait times for last 30 days.

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

February 2019 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

## VISN 4 Care in the Community



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

<b>Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)</b>	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018	85,879
FY19Q1 (10/1-12/31)	21,129

## VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>All of FY18</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	88.9	88.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	83.5	82.3
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	85.0	84.2
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	86.6	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>All of FY18</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	87.5	82.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81.3	73.7
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.5	81.7	83.0	76.3
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.3	77.7	80.5	73.2

*% 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>All of FY18</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	84.2	84.8	85.6	82.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	75.8	77.9	78.0	73.2
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	79.2	79.3	80.2	76.5
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	73.9	76.2	76.5	74.0

*% of responses with agree or strongly agree*

### Initiatives

- Veterans Registry Enhancement Launched
  - Veterans have option to upload discharge documents
  - Existing users will be able to edit their information & will receive an email providing instructions
- Regionalization Update
  - Vision: To establish regional offices, develop partnerships with federal, state and local government, Veteran Service Organizations and regional service providers to identify and meet the emerging needs of Veterans and their families.
  - Working Group established and project plan developed

### Meetings/Events

- 20 Feb 19 – Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services
- 5 Apr 19 – State Veterans Commission

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov)

### GAC-VS

- Women Veterans Committee
  - Planning stages for the next Women Veterans Town Hall and Expo
  - After review of the preliminary data from the survey, the responses mirror the national occurring concerns among women Veterans
- Aging Committee
  - Expanding Veteran Long Term Care Partnerships

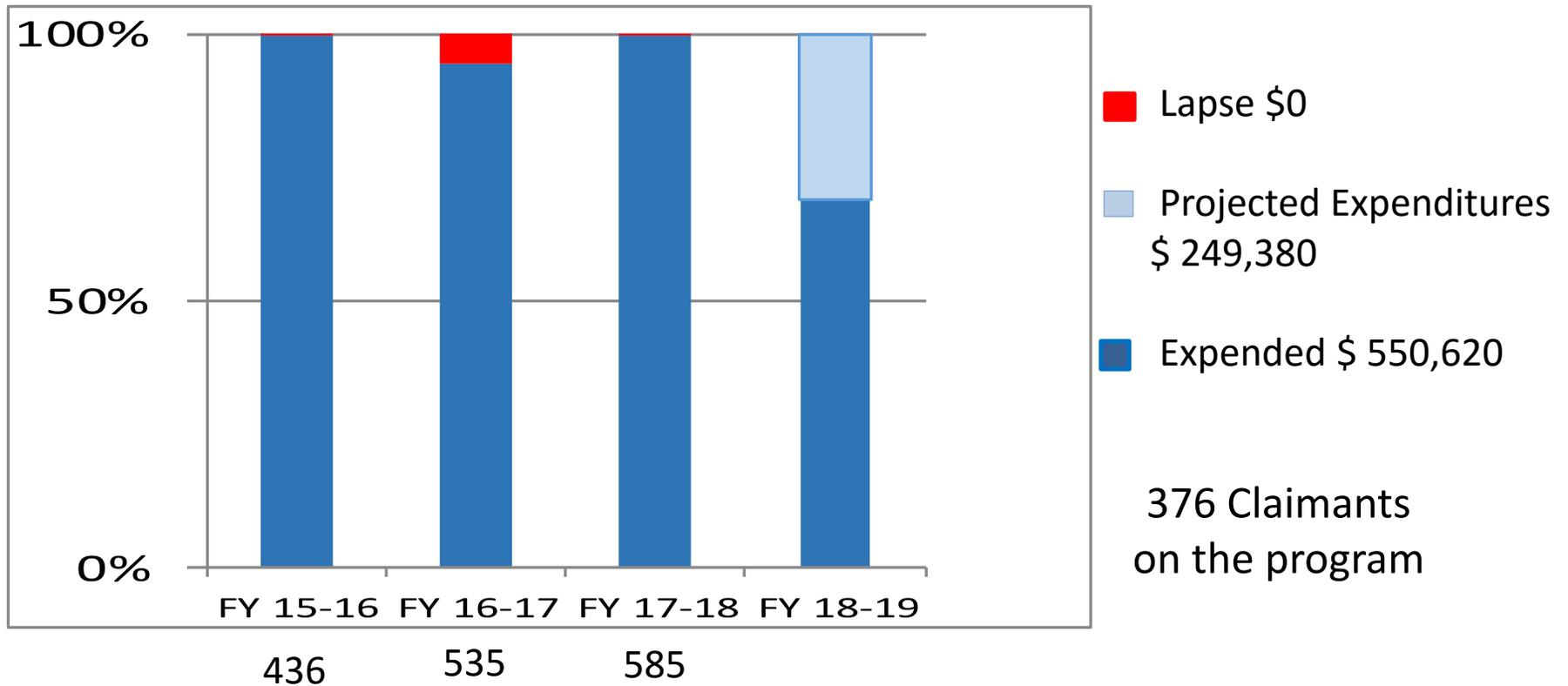
### Contact Us

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](mailto:RA-VA-Info@pa.gov).

# VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$800,000



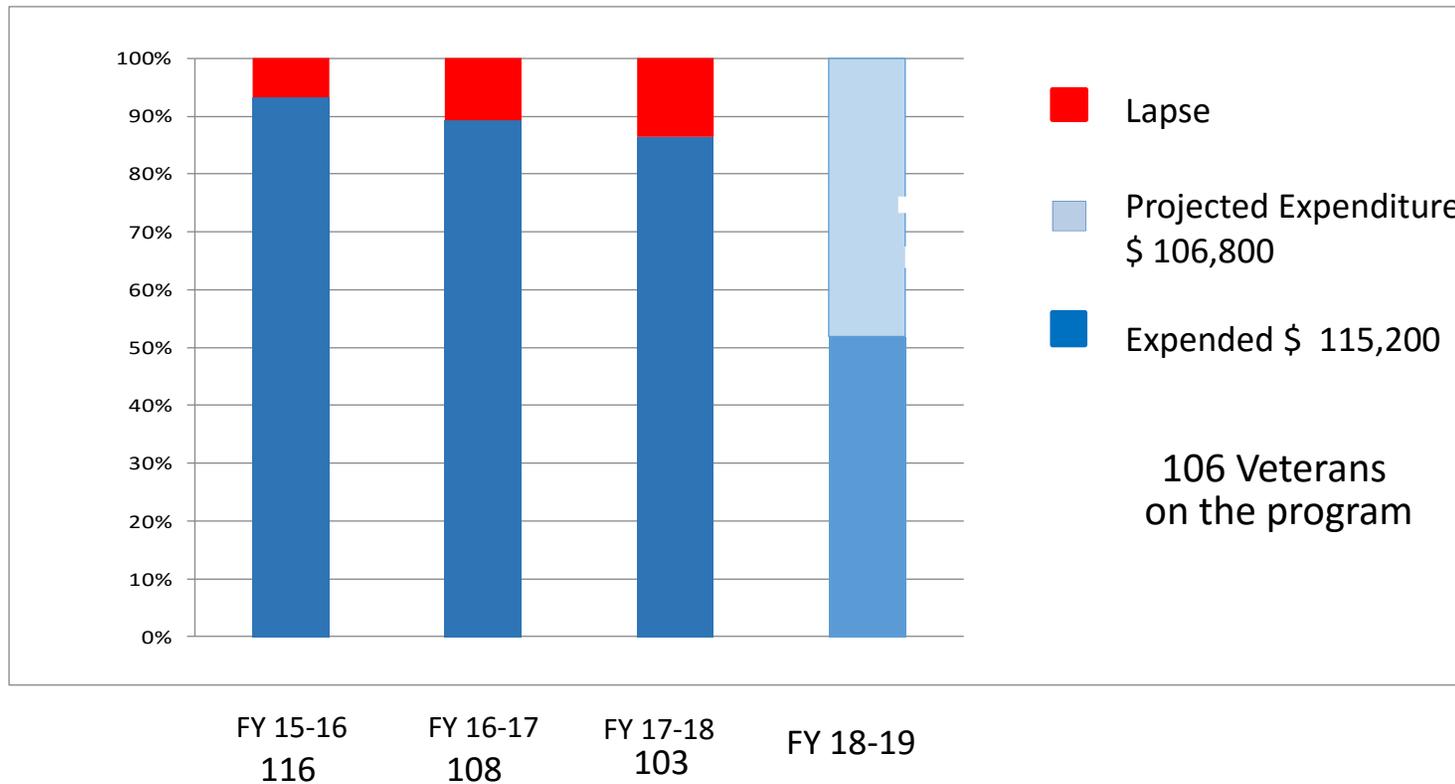
As of 15 Jan 2019

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# BLIND VETERANS PENSION



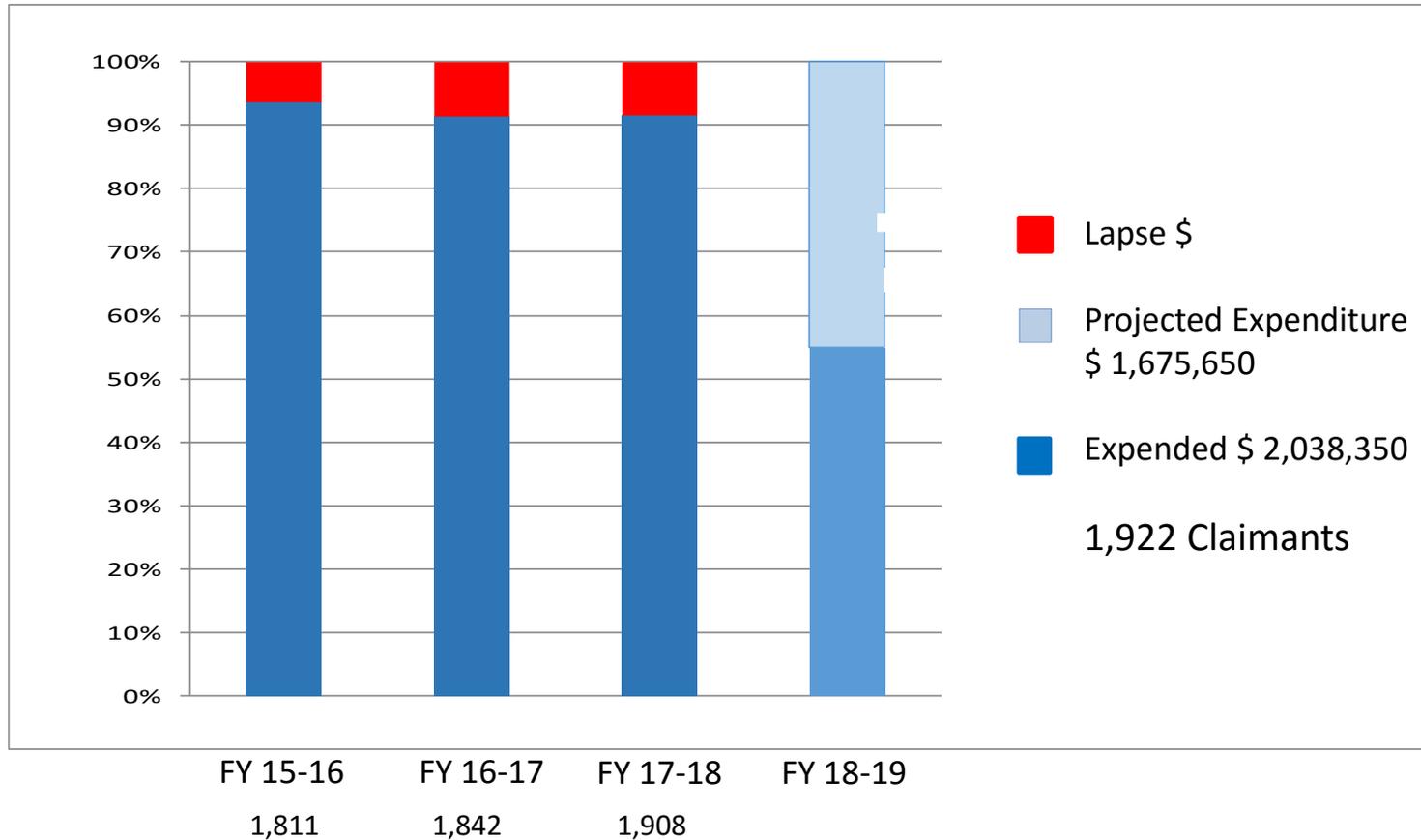
## \$222,000



# AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



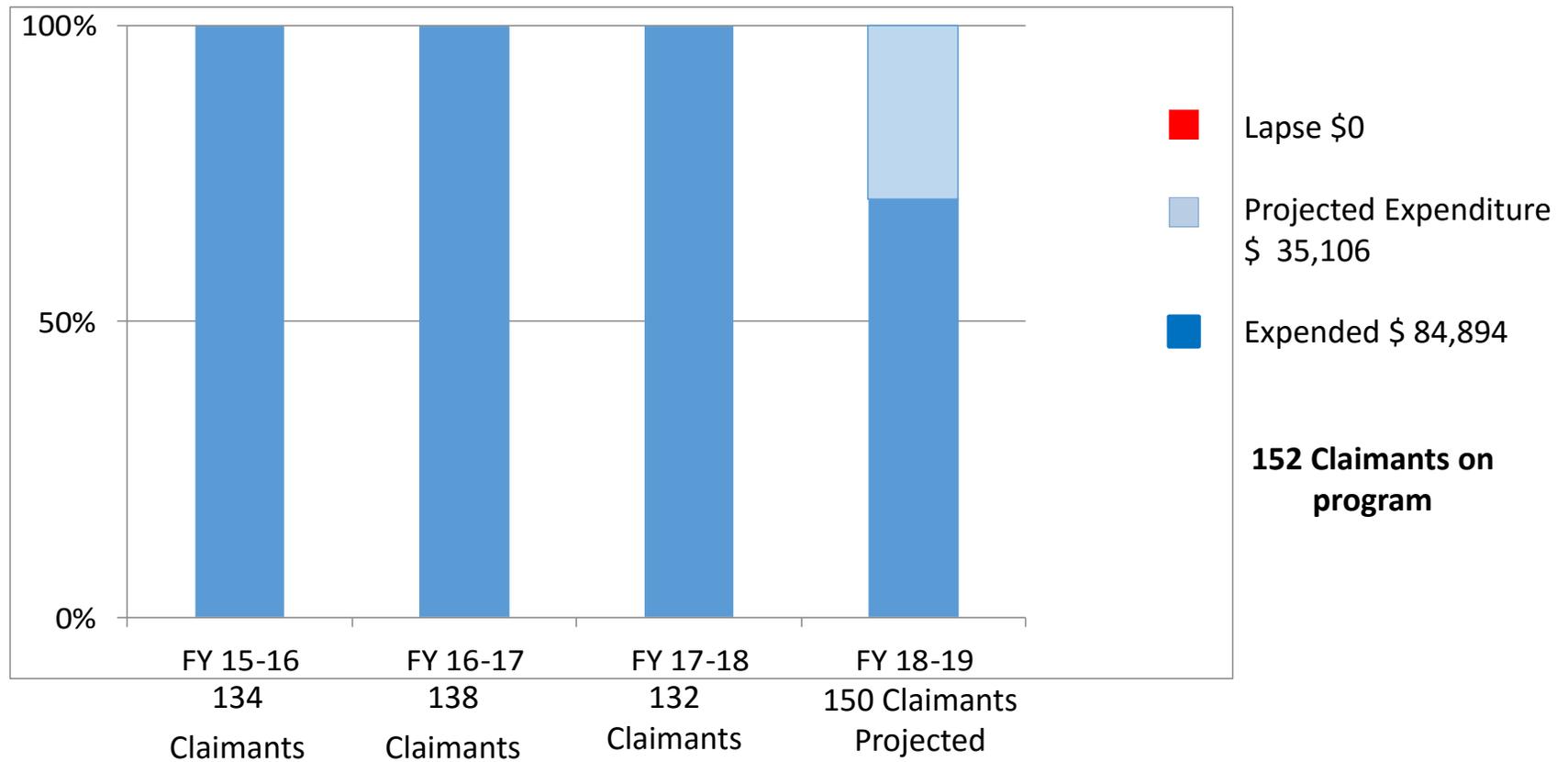
**\$3,714,000**



# EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



# \$120,000



## PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



**Total Applications: 13,120**

**Payments Sent: 10,015**

**Total Payments: \$ 4,220,162.50**

**Average Payment: \$421.38**

**Average Processing Time: 7.85 days**

# MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 15 January 2019

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 128,922.09
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,721,670.35
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,850,592.44
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 860,921.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 989,670.58

As of 15 Jan 2019

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# PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



## Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2018)	\$360,657.35
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$3,889.03
License Plate Donations	\$24,035.00
Interest	\$4,234.14
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$32,158.17
Expenses	(\$102,060.93)
Ending Balance	\$290,754.59

15 Jan 2019

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# ODAGVA / ACT 66 SUMMARY



<b>FY 18 - 19</b>	
<b>Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary</b>	
<b>Year to Date Claims Submitted</b>	<b>Year to Date Value of Awards</b>
<b>10,942</b>	<b>\$87,759,860.00</b>

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

**As of 18 January 19**

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# VETERANS' TRUST FUND



Source	VTF Report			Total	# HOV Sold
	Week	Month to Date	Fiscal Year Total		
Appropriation Transfer to VTF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700,000.00	
HOV License Plate	\$15.00	\$240.00	\$1,425.00	95 \$46,155.00	3,077
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$23,345.00	-1,015 \$0.00	0
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$210.00	14 \$2,715.00	181
Checkoff & Donations	\$27,868.00	\$69,213.00	\$746,944.13	\$8,331,398.06	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$40.44	\$175.00	\$305.00	\$4,290.00	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$688.35	\$1,978.49	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,133.98	\$93,729.26	
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)	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$33,224.10	\$778,929.18	
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	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,059.00	
VTA	\$13,716.00	\$43,755.00	\$551,034.00	3,366,412.32	
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>\$14,207.44</b>	<b>\$25,888.00</b>	<b>\$235,551.56</b>	<b>\$2,477,915.86</b>	<b>3,258</b>

As of 18 January 19

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# OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



## Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	32	30			<b>62</b>
Mobile Outreach Van Events	29	16			<b>45</b>
Veteran Interactions	434	313			<b>747</b>
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	107	54			<b>161</b>
Legislator Attended Events	17	15			<b>32</b>

### Upcoming Events – December

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

As of 18 January 19

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## NEXT MEETING



Friday, **APR 5TH**, 2019

at **10:00AM**

**Arrowheads Community Club**

**Fort Indiantown Gap**

**Annville, PA 17003**

**\*Visit [www.svc.pa.gov](http://www.svc.pa.gov) for all SVC info.\***



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 5TH, 2019**





## **DMVA MILITARY UPDATE**





**VISN 4**  
**Mr. DAVID COWGILL**



## VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2019 Wait Times



Clinics FY19 through March 17	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	1,083,540	1,022,945	95.7%	5.1
Mental Health	158,646	152,467	97.5%	3.5
Primary Care	247,969	242,792	97.9%	3.5
Specialty Care	425,834	384,725	93.0%	7.5

## 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	15	2	10	7
Abie Abraham HCC	9	1	9	2
Coatesville VAMC	15	2	8	2
Erie VAMC	19	4	13	2
Lebanon VAMC	25	3	8	2
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	31	6	19	2
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	15 (Hz)	4 (Hz)	8 (Hz)	5 (Hz)
	21 (UD)	8 (UD)	9 (UD)	2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	14	3	14	7
Wilmington VAMC	18	3	12	2

Data updated 3/11/19 with wait times for last 30 days.

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

April 2019 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

## VISN 4 Care in the Community



<b>Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)</b>	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018	85,879
FY19 (10/1-2/28)	36,445

## VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 through November</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	88.9	87.7	88.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	83.5	84.6	83.6
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	85.0	87.6	85.2
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	86.6	88.4	85.4

*% 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>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 through November</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	87.5	90.3	83.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81.3	83.8	74.6
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.4	81.7	83.0	85.0	77.8
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.4	77.7	80.5	80.6	74.6

*% 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>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 through November</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	84.2	84.8	85.6	84.7	82.7
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	75.8	77.9	78.0	78.3	73.9
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	79.2	79.3	80.2	83.7	77.8
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	73.9	76.2	76.5	79.2	75.1

*% of responses with agree or strongly agree*



**GUEST SPEAKER  
MR. STEPHEN LEW**





# DISABILITY RIGHTS

PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES COUNCIL (DDC)

Disability Rights PA

Disability Advocacy Support Grant  
Veterans Support

## Focus (or Purpose) of the Grant

To help returning veterans and their communities, including families, develop competencies in assimilating and supporting returning veterans with service connected disabilities and with special reference to those who have sustained injuries before age 22.

# Project Profile of Veterans

Veterans of any age presently, who before the age of 22, sustained a (service-connected) disability

## EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF DISABILITIES

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Disability
- Mental Health Disability

# Issues Rising To the Top for these Veterans

- Transportation
- Stigma
- Housing
- Physical Health Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Employment
- Mental /Behavioral Health Services

# Meaningful Project Participation and Guidance By Veterans

- Create a diverse and cross disability Advisory Committee to guide the work of the Project
- Advisory Committee with at least 50% representation of veterans who have successfully transitioned as well as those who have difficulty transitioning to civilian life and veterans with bad paper discharges (other than Honorable)
- Engagement Collaborators and Referral Resources (military and civilian)

# Learning From and Strategies With Veterans

- Survey discharged veterans on their satisfaction with how prepared they were for reentering civil life.
- Conduct Focus Groups to identify stigmas and strategies to lessen impact on Veterans.
- Identify a group which is disproportionately affected by this issue.
- Identify strategies that will be used to ensure that any impact on the group you have identified as the disparate group is ameliorated.

# Project Outcomes

- Create a resource guide for those veterans who are preparing for civilian life and ensure the guide has broad input to increase the likelihood of use by the military upon discharge.
- Develop a resource for pre-discharge counseling which enables the veteran to successfully transition to civilian life.
- Empowerment and Self-Determination Training for service members in pre-discharge planning phase.

# Veteran Satisfaction Post Project

Measure the satisfaction level of veterans who used the guide using the same satisfaction survey prior to development and implementation.

Q & A



**OLD BUSINESS**





**DMVA, CHIEF COUNSEL  
MS. ELIZABETH PETTIS**





**DMVA  
POLICY, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
MR. GILBERT DURAND**





**DMVA BUREAU OF VETERANS HOMES  
MR. ANDREW RUSCAVAGE**



## Current Licensure Status

Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
<b>Date of Last Inspection - Status</b>						
<b>PA Department of Health</b>	02/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	12/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	09/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/18 Full Standard Licensure Status
<b>PA Department of Human Services</b>	N/A	N/A	11/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	N/A
<b>US Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	04/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/19 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/18 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/19 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/19 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/18 Full Standard Licensure Status

## Update for Veterans' Homes

Project	Project Title	Project Funding
PSSH	Renovation & General Repairs	\$4,158,032

Status Update:

02/27/2019: 100% Completion of Construction

03/20/2019: Scheduled PA DOH (Nursing Care Facilities) Occupancy Survey. PA DOH (Life Safety Division) granted occupancy.

Program Outline: Major renovations to nursing care building to include: floors, walls, windows, lighting, bathrooms, nursing stations, and cameras. Other work performed includes new dry goods storage area, installation of water treatment system, upgrades to HVAC and boilers.

Federal Grant: Bureau was successful with capturing \$2,630,354 Federal VA grant dollars to supplement subject State project allocation.

## Update for Veterans' Homes

Project	Project Title	Project Funding
SEVC	Construct New Maintenance Building	\$7,578,232

Status Update:

03/28/2019: Scheduled Construction Completion Date

PA L&I occupancy approval is delayed pending receipt of furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) items.

Program Outline:

- Construction of new 15,000sf Maintenance and Transportation Building.
- Three transportation bays to perform maintenance on State vehicles.
- Installed emergency generator power to support operations of department.

## Update for Veterans' Homes

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Funding</b>
DVVH	Renovation & General Repairs	\$5,599,149

Status Update:

03/18/2019: 20% Completion of Construction

11/27/2019: Scheduled Construction Completion

Program Outline: Major renovations to entire facility includes: floors, doors, elevators, nursing stations, and cameras. Other work performed includes roof, water heaters, boilers, HVAC, expansion of existing canteen, and dietary department renovations.

Federal Grant: Bureau was successful with capturing \$3,997,500 Federal VA grant dollars to supplement subject State project allocation.

## Update for Veterans' Homes

(DVVH CONTINUATION):

### Facility Updates:

- On 09/26/2018, DAG-VA terminated the Personal Care program totaling 41-personal care beds.
- Upon project completion, DAG-VA will request the Department of Veterans Affairs to recertify 41-nursing care beds. DVVH will be a 171-nursing care facility.

## Update for Veterans' Homes

Project	Project Title	Project Funding
SEVC	Renovations & New Adult Day Healthcare Program	\$4,100,000

Status Update (DESIGN):

03/26/2019: 35% design review conference @ DGS

08/23/2019: 100% scheduled design completion

01/29/2021: 100% scheduled construction completion

Program Outline: Renovations to include: replacement of existing chiller and cooling towers, install new HVAC to support Tilghman Hall (dietary department), replace the existing main domestic water distribution piping, and renovate existing space in Coates Hall to construct new adult day healthcare program to support a total of 30-participates.

Federal Grant: Bureau has received the Department of Veterans Affairs participation approval totaling \$2,496,000 regarding Federal VA grant.



**DMVA BUREAU OF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES,  
REINTEGRATION AND OUTREACH  
MR. JOEL MUTSCHLER**



## Initiatives

- Opioid Use Disorder Response
- Regionalization Update
  - Vision: To establish regional offices, develop partnerships with federal, state and local government, Veteran Service Organizations and regional service providers to identify and meet the emerging needs of Veterans and their families.
  - Working Group established and project plan in progress
- Veterans Registry Enhancement Launched
  - Veterans have option to upload discharge documents
  - Existing users are able to edit their information

## Meetings/Events

- 5 Apr 19 – State Veterans Commission
- 2 May 19 – PWVC Meeting

## GAC-VS

- Women Veterans Committee
  - Planning stages for the next Women Veterans Town Hall and Expo in Pittsburgh May 2019
  - Theme: “I’m Not Invisible”
- Aging Committee
  - Partnership between DMVA and PDA to reach veterans through PACE. Education on PACE for VSOs, VISN, and community providers
- Expanding Veteran Long Term Care Partnerships

## 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](mailto:RA-VA-Info@pa.gov).

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at [www.dmva.pa.gov](http://www.dmva.pa.gov)

## Opioid Use Disorder Response – Veteran Related



SAMHSA awarded \$55.9 Million in federal grant funding to combat the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania. Of that funding the following initiatives directly relate to the Veterans' community:

- **Opioid Housing Initiative:** \$15 Million in SOR funding to DHS will fund pilot projects in eligible urban and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth to help individuals to become and remain engaged in evidence-based treatment interventions, provide individuals with the necessary support services to maintain housing stability, and provide pre-tenancy education services. Veterans are a priority population in this initiative.
- **Veterans in Crisis Outreach:** \$350,000 in SOR funding per year to support the development and implementation of regional programs focusing on the education, prevention or identification of OUDs for Pennsylvania Veterans, their families or caregivers and the identification of resources for treatment referral. This federal fiscal year DMVA is developing a communications plan to increase awareness of the resources that are available.
- **Veteran Service Officer Awareness Training:** \$50,000 in SOR funding to provide training to our Veteran Service Officers on the Opioid Crisis and our Warm Hand Off protocols. Scopes of work are under development to provide for a 30 minute online training component and to provide for a two hour training block during DMVA's annual Veteran Service Officer Training event.

## Mission

- Increase awareness of all benefits (to include Fed/State Health Benefits) for our approx. 800,000 veterans
- Provide best advice/assistance in obtaining federal/state financial benefits
- Provide highest quality care to the residents of our State Veterans Homes

## Vision

Be lead Veteran advocate within the Commonwealth

- Lead state in number/quality of services for veterans/their families
- Coordinate veteran services with sister departments/agencies
- Advocate passage of new legislation for benefit of veterans

## Issues



Veteran - A person who served in the U.S. Military and was willing to sacrifice their life for their country as they protected rights and freedoms as guaranteed under the Constitution of the United State of America.

Why are we here? We are all veteran advocates.

PT. A: DMVA is funded for our veterans Homes, state benefits, and outreach.

PT. B: BLUF- Shift from an almost exclusive focus on claims/ services/ veterans homes to a more complete view of veterans affairs (to include the successful transition of our returning veterans). Generally speaking, services are available or could be available with the free flow of organized information.

How do we get from Point A to Point B?

## Current DMVA Org Chart:



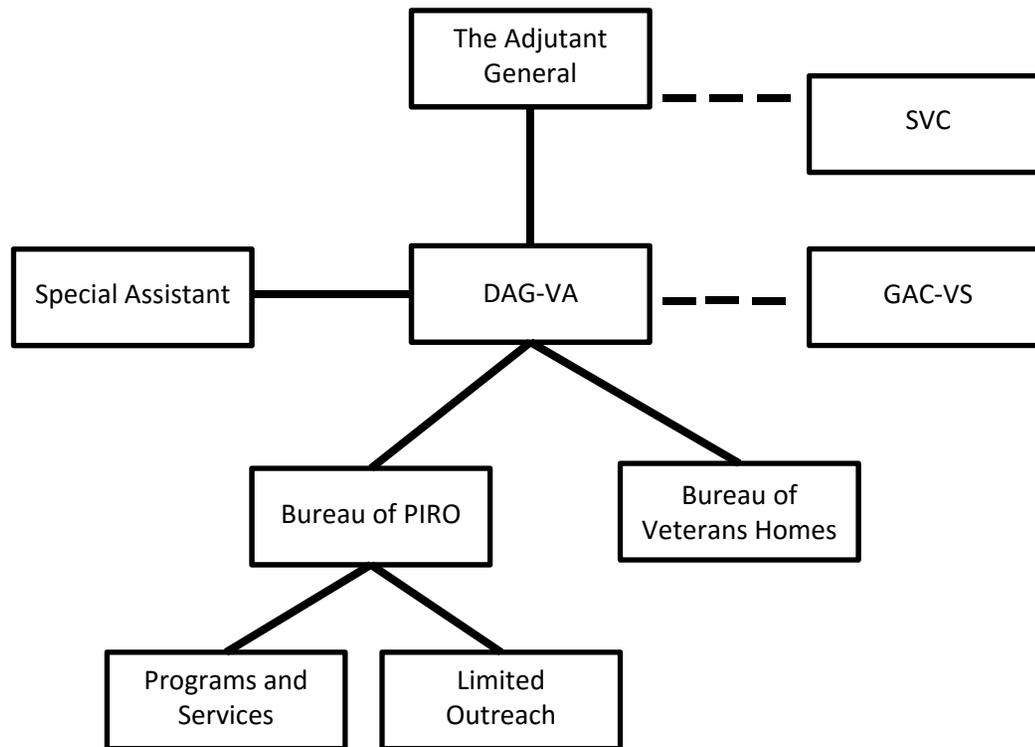
### PROS:

-DMVA-OVA-Staffed appropriately for funded programs.

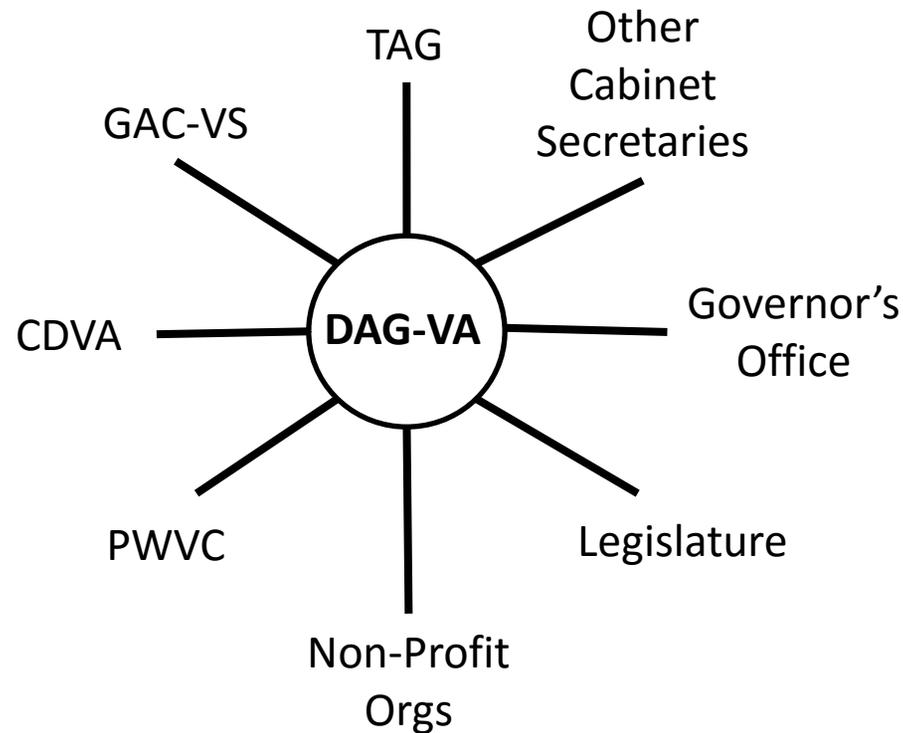
### CONS:

-Funding limited to Homes and Programs.

-Lacking complete view of veterans issues as it relates to funding and staffing.



## Production Injects:



What is missing? Organized flow of, and access to, information.

Veterans Groups feel the core-funded mission of DMVA should include:

Administer Bureau of Veterans Homes  
Administer Outreach Program (plus GAC-VS)  
Administer Benefits Programs (plus SVC and VSO Certification)



**-Currently unfunded initiatives:**

Address Veterans Homelessness  
Address Veterans Mental Health issues  
Address Veterans PTSD issues  
Address Veterans Drug/ Alcohol issues  
Address Veterans Suicide Prevention  
Address Veterans Employment issues  
Address Veterans 'Aging in Place' programs  
Address Veterans Judicial issues (to include incarceration)

## Option 1: PWVC suggestion 8 May 2015



### PROS:

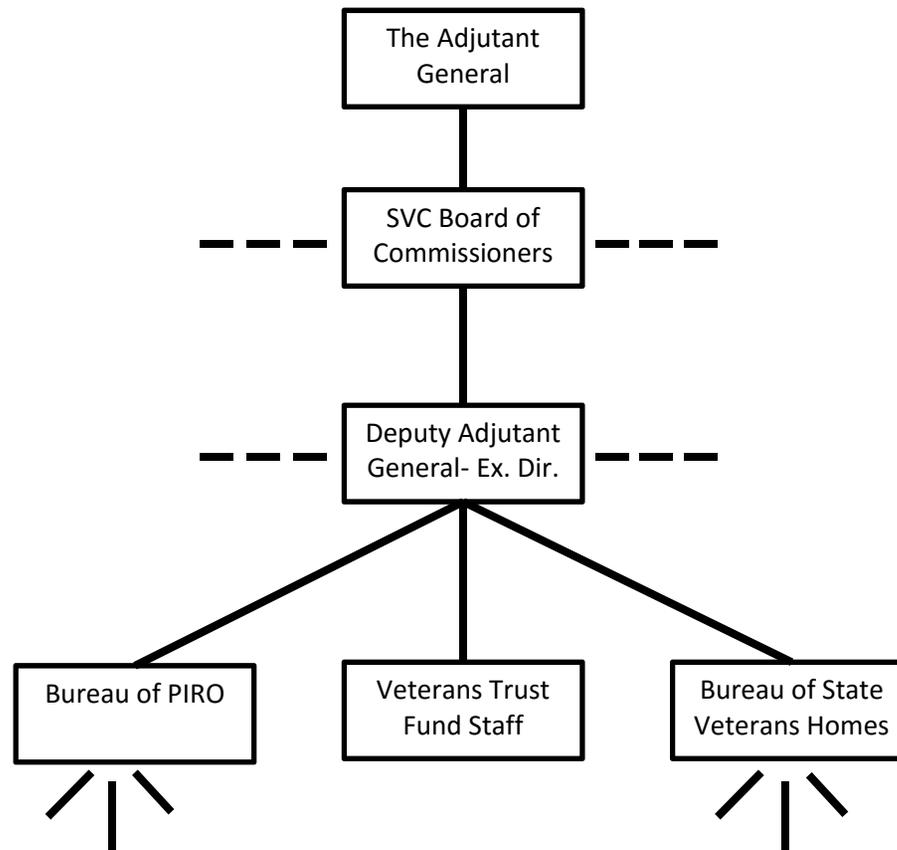
-None

### CONS:

-Adds layer of bureaucracy

-Cost prohibitive

-All the same barriers are in place



(Bruce Foster, Rich Hudzinski, Chuck Jackson)

“SVC...composition has inevitably led to it reflecting the composition of the PA War Veterans Council, a non-profit association, for the most part, of old line veterans organizations.”

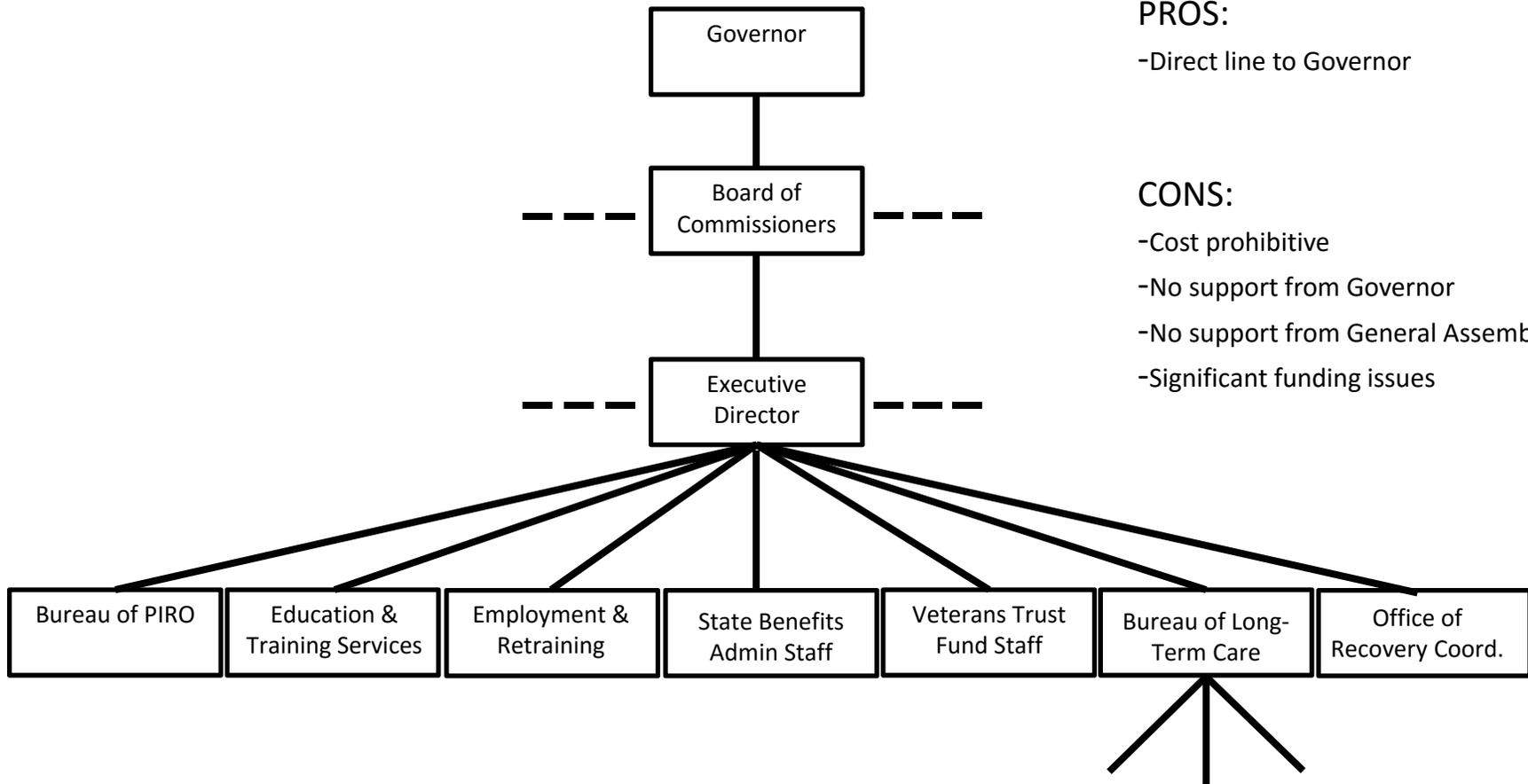
“Today, the commission’s (SVC) general powers and duties seemingly suggest its primary role is advisory in nature.”

“The means of selection to the commission (SVC) is not based on ability, subject knowledge or skill sets needed.”

“For all intents and purposes, the commission (SVC) has become a rubber stamp for the needs of the PWVC and the DMVA...”

“Resize the commission (SVC) board – the number of commissioners is reduced to 5 members...”

## Option 2: LVMAC suggestion 6 July 2017



### PROS:

-Direct line to Governor

### CONS:

-Cost prohibitive

-No support from Governor

-No support from General Assembly

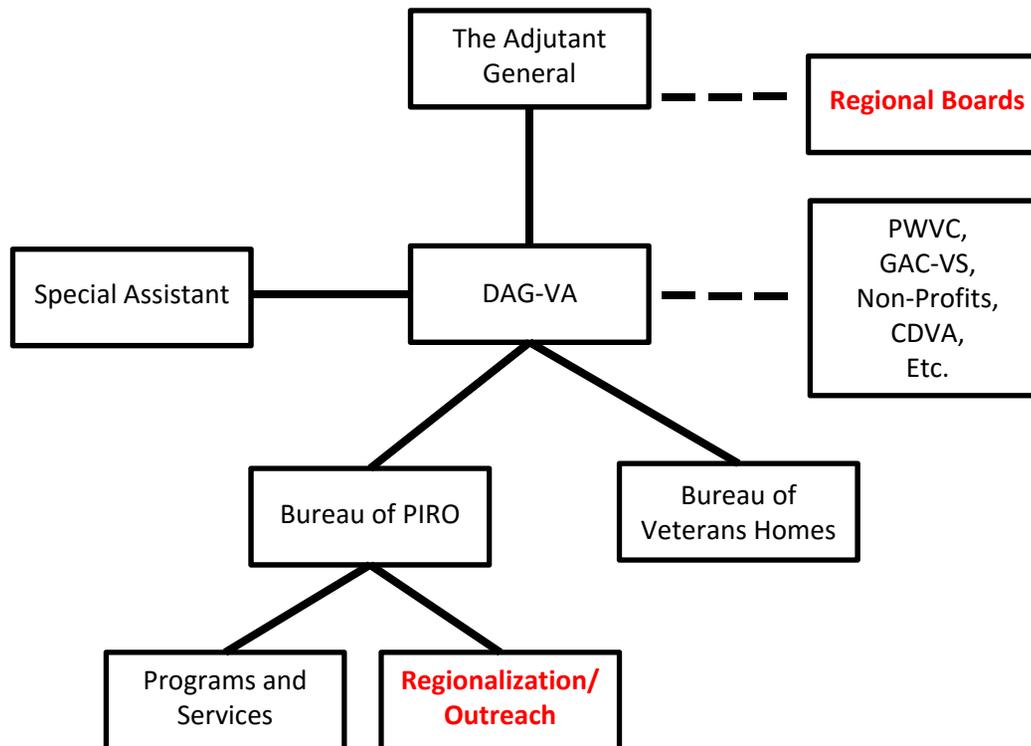
-Significant funding issues

“Subsequent developments have suggested that reforming the State Veterans Commission, which has increasingly become irrelevant to veterans affairs through legislative changes and habits formed over the years is needed....”

“Shifts an almost exclusive focus on claims to services and state veterans homes...toward a more complete view of veterans affairs.”

“Officially recognizes the PWVC as an advisory body.... Same for PA Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs.”

# DMVA Option 1



## PROS:

- Cost neutral
- Ground level input
- Organized access to resources that other agencies or departments already have

## CONS:

- Considerable time investment to foster relationships
- Resource constraints over time if relationships are not maintained

- Regionalization will address following issues:
  - Veterans Outreach
  - Veterans Homes Admissions (as it relates to Mental Health)
  - Address Veteran Home Domicile Transition
  - Address Veteran Homelessness/ Employment/ Drug-Alcohol/ PTSD etc.)
  - Veterans Mental Health Issues
  - Enhance partnerships with State Agencies (also Fed/ County/ Local/ Private)



## Regional Plan Benefits



- Establishing **simple database** (spreadsheet) information by County
- Creates organized **access to information**
- Promotes organized **use of information**
- Promotes access to additional **resources (manpower)**
- Promotes access to additional **funding**
- Promotes organized **cross tell** between all agencies and orgs
- Promotes **deconfliction** of events/ programs
- Would directly/ indirectly address all **veterans issues**

## SVC Purpose (Title 51)

- Advisory Board

## SVC Viability

- Last two years level of effort:

  - MAL

  - Bylaws

  - Service Org/County Directors

  - Korean War Veterans

- What has been accomplished?

  - RETX- still open

  - 500K- Act 66 funds

## Recommendation:



- PWVC- DMVA Brief on Issues 8 X per year
- SVC- 2 X per Year
  - After commander installment/prior to new appointments.
- 5 Regional Boards- 2 X per year at lowest level

# ODAGVA / ACT 66 SUMMARY



<b>FY 18 - 19</b>	
<b>Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary</b>	
<b>Year to Date Claims Submitted</b>	<b>Year to Date Value of Awards</b>
<b>14,879</b>	<b>\$146,131,590.00</b>

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

**As of 20 March 19**

> community > commonwealth > country

# OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



## Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	32	30	5		<b>67</b>
Mobile Outreach Van Events	29	16	1		<b>46</b>
Veteran Interactions	434	313	553		<b>1300</b>
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	107	54	39		<b>200</b>
Legislator Attended Events	17	15	0		<b>32</b>

### Upcoming Events – April

- **Legislative Events** – Representative Mark Gillen’s Veteran Expo
- **Events** – Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s Monthly Outreach – Donegal Trout Unlimited Veteran Event – McKean County Veteran’s Resource Fair – Erie Veteran’s Resource Fair – Quehanna Boot Camp Re-Entry Fair
- **Legislators Attending Events** – None

As of 20 March 19

> 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	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$1,860.00	124	\$46,590.00	3,106
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$23,345.00	-1,015	\$0.00	0
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	16	\$2,745.00	183
Checkoff & Donations	\$34,901.00	\$59,507.00	\$974,443.93		\$8,558,897.86	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$355.00		\$4,340.00	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$946.74		\$2,236.88	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,738.02		\$104,333.30	
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)	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$33,224.10		\$778,929.18	
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	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$23,059.00	
VTA	\$16,306.73	\$28,088.00	\$653,316.00		3,468,694.32	
Working Balance	\$18,609.27	\$31,434.00	\$372,146.79		\$2,614,511.09	3,289

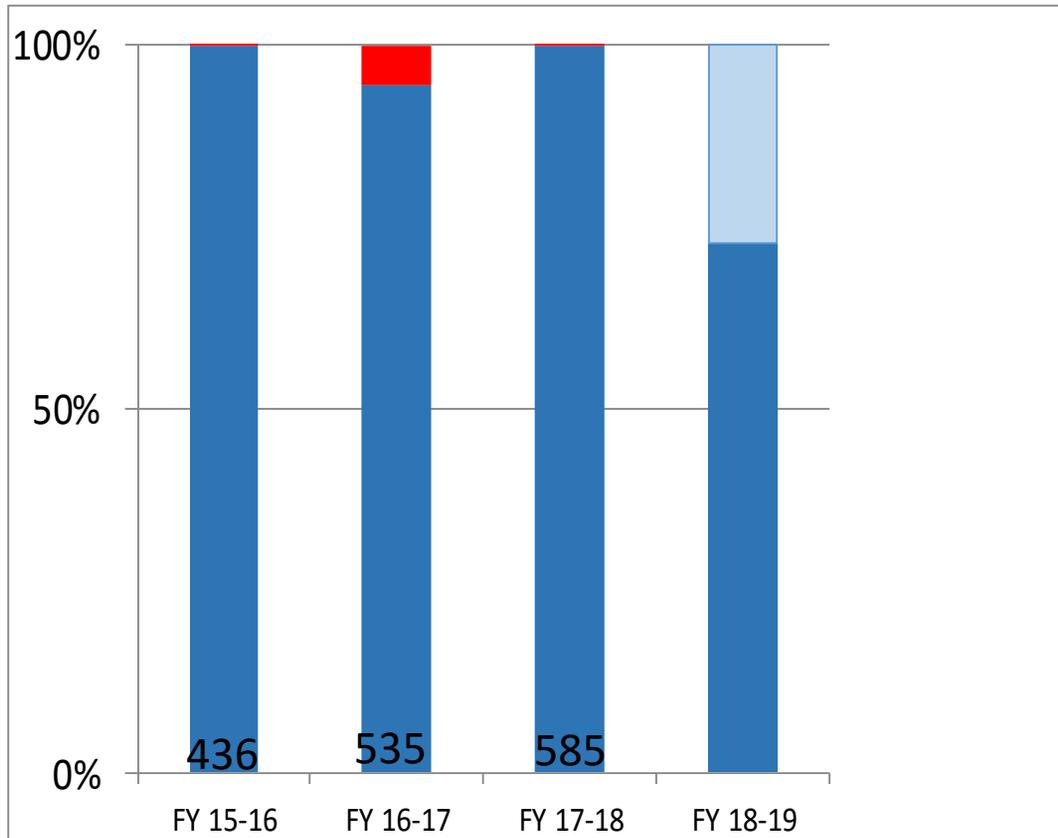
As of 20 March 19

> community > commonwealth > country

# VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$900,000



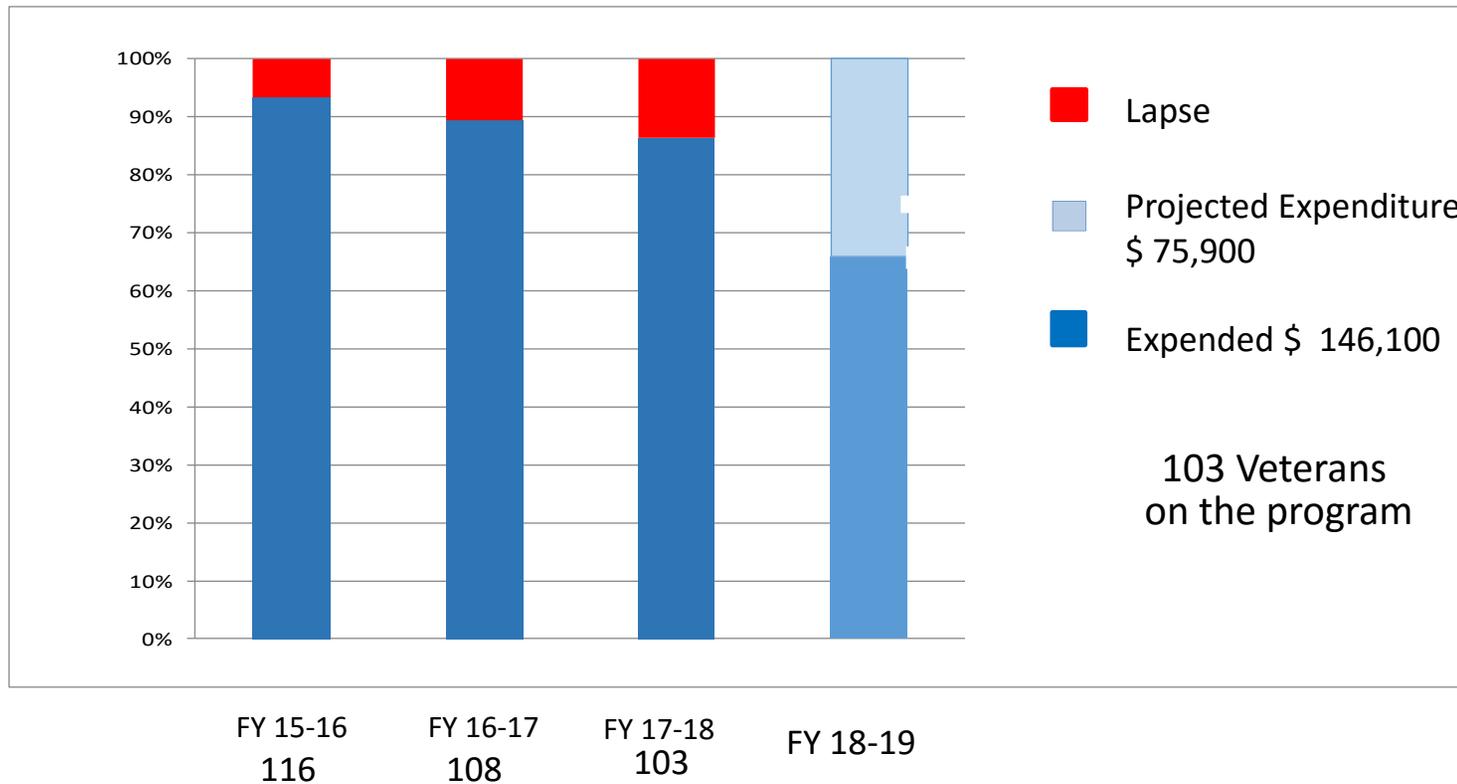
- Lapse \$0
- Projected Expenditures \$ 243,938
- Expended \$ 656,062

453 Claimants  
on the program

# BLIND VETERANS PENSION



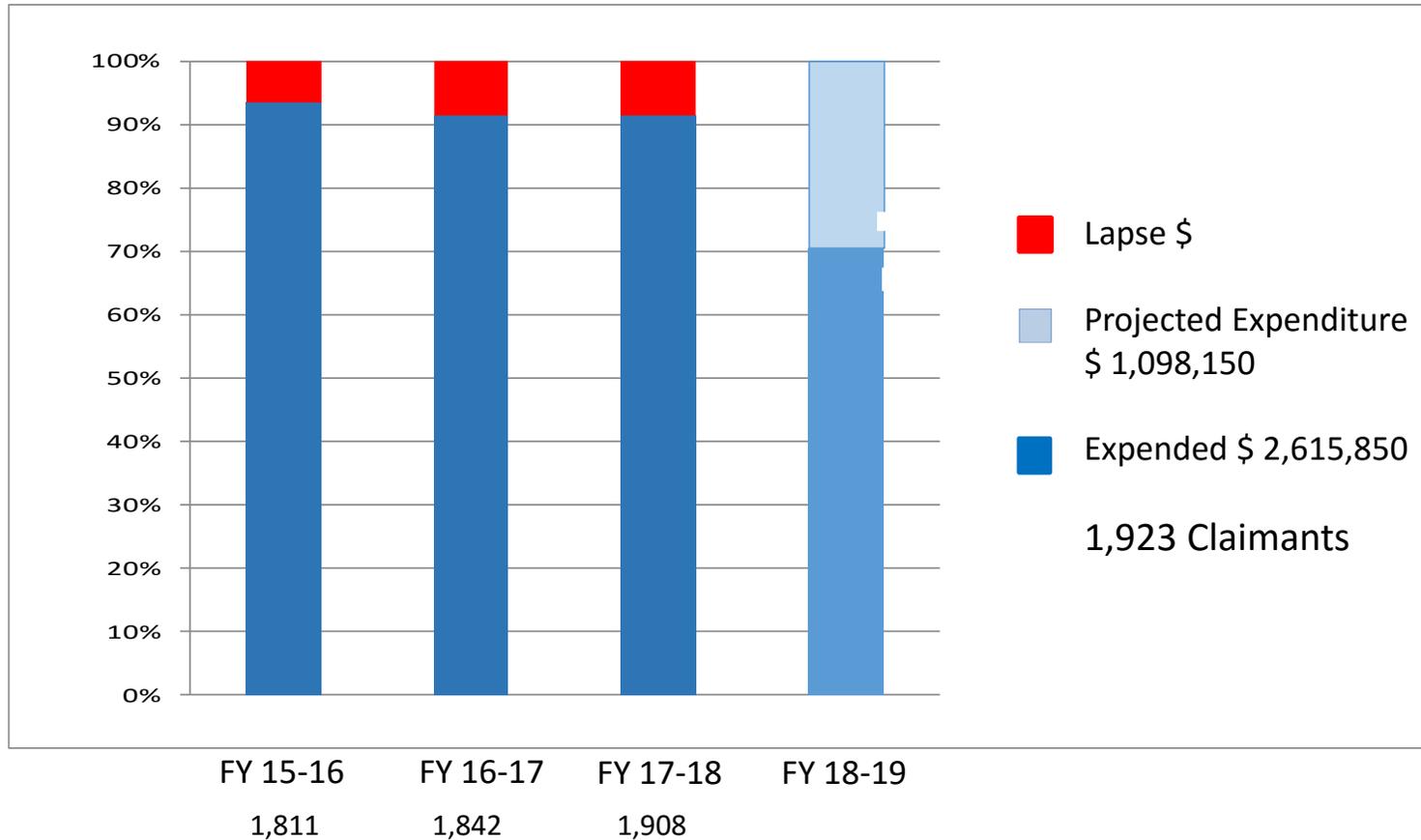
## \$222,000



# AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



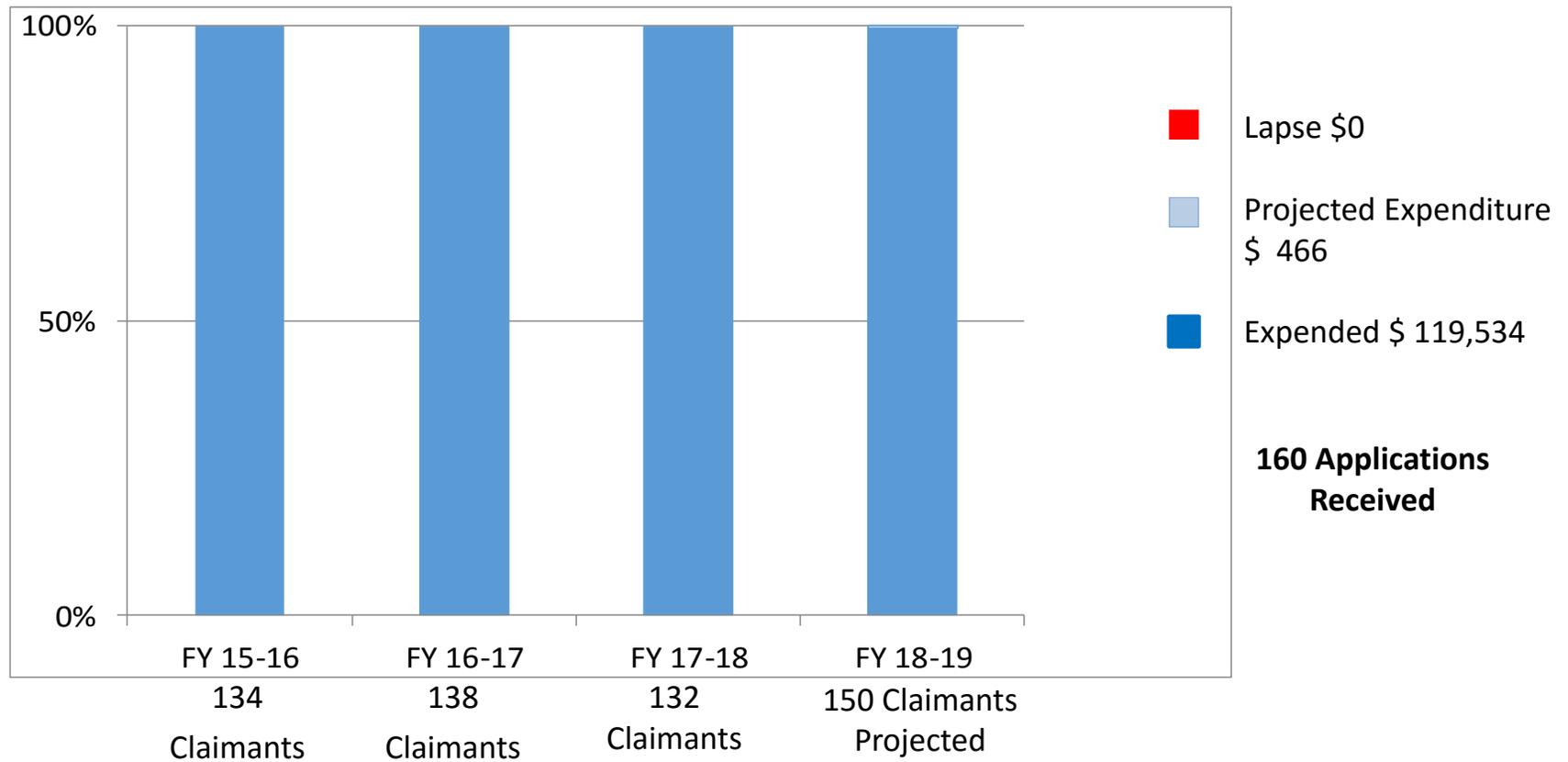
## \$3,714,000



## EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



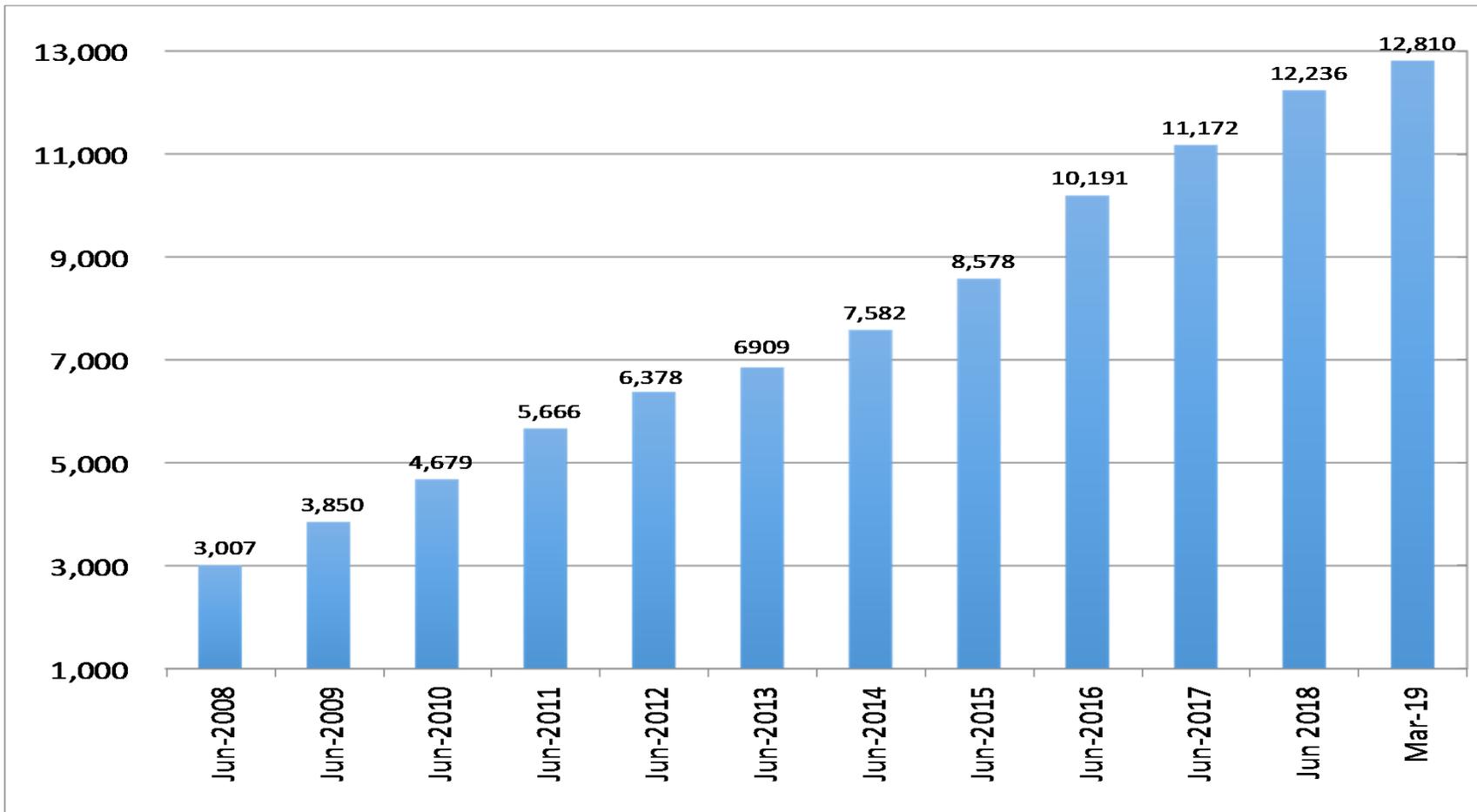
# \$120,000



As of 15 Mar 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

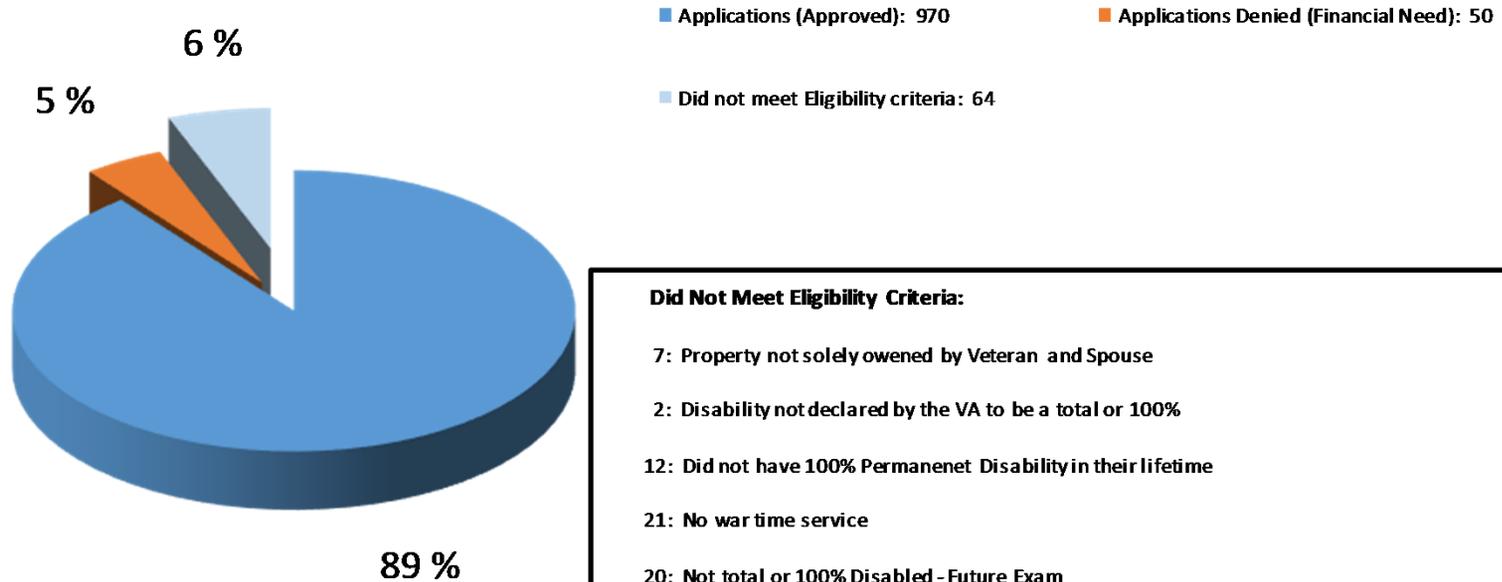
# DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 15 Mar 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

# DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM



- Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria:**
- 7: Property not solely owned by Veteran and Spouse
  - 2: Disability not declared by the VA to be a total or 100%
  - 12: Did not have 100% Permanent Disability in their lifetime
  - 21: No war time service
  - 20: Not total or 100% Disabled - Future Exam
  - 2: Property Ownership Change
  - 64: Applications Ineligible by Reason Code

\*1,074 Applications Received since 15 November 2018

## PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



**Total Applications: 13,121**

**Payments Sent: 10,046**

**Total Payments: \$ 4,231,487.50**

**Average Payment: \$421.21**

**Average Processing Time: 7.89 days**

# MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 4 February 2019

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 129,896.83
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,721,710.61
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,851,607.44
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 860,921.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 990,685.58

As of 15 Mar 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

# PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



## Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2018)	\$360,657.35
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$7,950.85
License Plate Donations	\$24,150.00
Interest	\$5,466.93
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$37,567.78
Expenses	(\$104,166.02)
Ending Balance	\$294,059.11

15 March 2019

> community > commonwealth > country



## **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**



## 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. Thomas Bremer	MAL
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. <u>Bruce</u> Foster	TAL (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Gilbert 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
Ms. Constance Snavelly	MAL
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA



## **SVC BY-LAW COMMITTEE**



## 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



**NEW BUSINESS**





## **BYLAWS DISCUSSION**





**GOOD OF THE ORDER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**





## **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**



## NEXT MEETING



**Friday, June 7th, 2019**

**at 10:00AM**

**PA Soldiers' and Sailors' Home**

**560 East Third Street**

**Erie, PA 16512**

**\*Visit [www.svc.pa.gov](http://www.svc.pa.gov) for all SVC info.\***

Approved at the October 14, 2016 State Veterans' Commission Meeting > community > commonwealth > country

# State Veterans Commission

## Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

<b>Commission Introductions</b>
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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, Blind Veterans of America
Ms. Constance Snavelly	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
Mr. John Pliska	Executive Director, AMVETS

<b>Others Present</b>
-----------------------

Mr. David Cowgill	VISN 4
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 Mielo	DMVA-OVA
Greg Holler	DMVA-OVA
<b>Oath of Office</b>	<b>Maj Gen Carrelli</b>
Major General Carrelli administered the Oath of Office to the following newly appointed Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission members:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeffrey Elliot Commander of AMVETS and Louis Santangelo Representative of Korean War Veterans</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes</b>	
Chairman Burris asked if there were any questions/comments regarding the September 7 <sup>th</sup> minutes, none were raised. Chairman Burris moved to have the minutes approved.	
<b>Motion:</b> Mr. Vollrath motioned to approve the minutes.	
<b>Second:</b> Mr. Haberkorn seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
<b>Military Update</b>	<b>Maj Gen Carrelli</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne soldiers who drove up from Fort Bragg to attend the funeral and stand with the Veteran's sister.</p> <p>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</p>	

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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.	
<b>DMVA Policy, Planning &amp; Legislative Affairs</b>	<b>LTC Peter Meilo</b>
LTC Meilo asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. There were none.	
<b>DMVA Bureau of Veterans' Homes</b>	<b>Dr. Darryl Jackson</b>
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.	
<b>DMVA PIRO</b>	<b>Mr. Joel Mutschler</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mr. Foster then said his motion was unnecessary, he and Mr. Pliska withdrew it.</p>	
<b>DMVA Services &amp; Programs</b>	<b>Mr. Brian Natali</b>
Mr. Natali stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead, asked for questions, but none were asked. He asked for a vote.	
<b>Approval of Programs Reports</b>	
<b>Motion:</b> Mr. Cyprian made a motion to approve the programs reports.	
<b>Second:</b> Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
<b>DMVA Outreach &amp; Reintegration</b>	<b>Mr. Chip Gilliland</b>
Mr. Gilliland said his materials were presented in the read-ahead, he asked for questions or comments. There were none.	
<b>SVC Bylaw Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Samuel Petrovich</b>
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 <sup>th</sup> meeting.	
<b>SVC Act 66 Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Gary Stopyra</b>
Chairman Burris stated the earlier discussion on Act 66 negated the need to discuss it again.	
<b>SVC RETX Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Matthew Zamosky</b>
<p>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<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>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</p>	

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**

**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.

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.

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.	
<b>Motion:</b> Mr. Vollrath motioned for all the SVC meetings to be held at FITG.	
<b>Second:</b> Mr. Jackson seconded the motion.	
The body disagreed, motion failed.	
Subsequently, Mr. Appleby made a motion to approve the 2019 meeting calendar. Mr. Natali reported that the date of October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 may have to be changed to October 11 <sup>th</sup> 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.	
<b>Motion:</b> Mr. Appleby made the motion to approve the 2019 meeting calendar	
<b>Second:</b> Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.	
Body agreed, motion carried.	
<b>Point of Order</b>	<b>Chairman Burris</b>
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.	
<b>SERVICE ORGANIZATAION UPDATES</b>	
<b>Service Update – American Veterans</b>	<b>Mr. Jeffrey Elliot</b>
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.	
<b>Good of The Order/Announcements</b>	
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. 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. General Weller stated they have not yet heard back from the Governor's Office regarding members at large. 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. Chairman Burris asked how many members wanted a brief on the budget? Two members raised their hands. Mr. Appleby announced his appreciation of, and compliments to, the Lebanon VA for its low vision program. He also announced that tomorrow, October 13 <sup>th</sup> , will be Navy Day. Mr. James Metcalfe, Director of the FITG National Cemetery, invited all attendees to the Veterans Day ceremony that will be held on November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at the National Cemetery.	
<b>For Next Meeting</b>	
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.	
<b>Election</b>	
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. 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. Burris. Mr. Burris 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. Burris being the Vice Chairman. It was all yea votes and no nay votes. Chief Counsel Pettis announced that Mr. Burris was the Vice Chairman.

Chairman Burris 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 Burris 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, Oct 12th, 2018 at 10:00 AM  
Arrowhead Community Club  
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003

**Adjournment**

Chairman Burris 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 Minutes

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
10:00 AM to 11:53 PM  
Arrowhead Community Center  
Annville, PA 17003

<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Chairman Samuel Petrovich</b>
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The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Samuel Petrovich.

<b>Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance</b>
--

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

<b>Commission Introductions</b>
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Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli	The Adjutant General
Chairman Samuel Petrovich	Chairman, State Veterans Commission
Maj Gen (Ret) Eric Weller	Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs
Mr. Jeffrey Elliot	Commander, AMVETS
Mr. John Pliska	Executive Director, AMVETS
Mr. Edgar Burris	Member at Large/SVC Vice-Chairman
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs.
Mr. Keith Beebe	Designee, 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. Jon Hosfeld	Designee, The American Legion
Ms. Constance Snavelly	Member at Large
Mr. Robert Ziltz	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Bruce Foster	Designee, The American Legion
Mr. Gary Stopyra	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Thomas Bremer	Commander, Italian American War Veterans

<b>Others Present</b>
-----------------------

Dr. Michael Adelman	VISN 4
Kory Auch	Office of Administration
Richard Hudzinski	Vietnam Veterans of America
Allen McCormack	Concerned Veterans for America
Kenneth R. Walters	KPVA
Nancy Burris	Guest
Gilbert E. Condorsa	Korea War Veterans
Anthony DeFrancesco	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Thomas Coreau	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Belinda Albright	PSACDVA/Northumberland County

Robert Cudworth	MOAA/DAV
Andrew Ruscavage	DMVA-OVA
Rick Hamp	DMVA-OVA
Joel Mutschler	DMVA-OVA
Chip Gilliland	DMVA-OVA
Tom Lee	DMVA-CCO
Janette Krolczyk	DMVA-OVA
Corey Bender	DMVA-OVA
Gilbert Durand	DMVA-PPL
Greg Holler	DMVA-OVA
<b>Oath of Office</b>	<b>Maj Gen Carrelli</b>
Major General Carrelli administered the Oath of Office to the following newly appointed Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission members:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samuel Petrovich, Chairman and Edgar Burris, Vice-Chairman/Member at Large</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes</b>	
Chairman Petrovich stated the read-ahead did not contain the October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 minutes. He decided to table a vote on those minutes until the February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019 meeting. No vote was taken.	
<b>Military Update</b>	<b>Maj Gen Carrelli</b>
<p>General Carrelli reported that 530 PANG members have returned home from their overseas assignment. He stated 600 PANG members will be deployed to Poland in March 2019 to support NATO against Russian aggression. General Carrelli said that these PANG members are truly a great group of young people, dedicated to their mission.</p> <p>General Carrelli expressed his appreciation to all the organizations represented around the table for their dedicated support and service to the PANG members when leaving and returning from their missions. General Carrelli also applauded the Veterans' Organizations for their volunteerism at the Veterans' Homes around the state. He noted his recent holiday visit to the Southeast Veterans' Home and the interaction of the service members with the residents and how their visit was appreciated by the residents.</p> <p>General Carrelli reported on the tragic problem of suicide among our Veterans. He said this year we lost 11 PANG members to suicide. General Carrelli said he has a meeting every month to discuss the suicide issue and review the in-depth field investigations that are done on each suicide. The data that the field investigations produce is compiled and used to develop modeling and trends to identify markers that allow for intervention and to be proactive through training. General Carrelli intends to make recognizing the signs of suicide training available to a wide group of service organizations.</p> <p>General Carrelli said in the past two weeks PA had lost a soldier and an Airman who were killed in action and the PANG is doing everything they can for the families.</p> <p>General Carrelli reported that Governor Wolfe was holding a Pearl Harbor Day ceremony with PANG members.</p>	
<b>VISN 4</b>	<b>Dr. Michael Adelman</b>
<p>Dr. Adelman noted that SVC members had received his slides with updated access, wait time, trust and community care data as a read-ahead. Dr. Adelman briefed on the following:</p> <p><b>Leadership/Staffing Update:</b> Dr. Adelman said that Dr. JoAnne Suffoletto, who was the associate chief of staff for education and innovative learning at VA Pittsburgh, is now the chief of staff at VA Butler Healthcare. Karin McCraw, director of VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and Daniel Hendee, director of the Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, both will retire at the end of the year. They have been working through the process of recruiting replacements for both facility directors. In the interim, Patricia O'Kane, Associate Director of Clinical Operations at the Philadelphia VA, will serve as the director there. Barbara Forsha, Deputy Director at VA Pittsburgh, will serve as the director in Pittsburgh. Mr. Hendee retires after 36 years of service, and Mrs. McGraw after 39. They are grateful to them both for providing the highest quality of care to our Veterans,</p>	

exhibiting exemplary leadership and serving as an example for all employees to emulate. We wish them much happiness and success in retirement.

**New Network Virtual Primary Care Hub:** VISN 4 is pleased to announce the award of the VISN four Virtual Primary Care Hub to the Wilmington VA Medical Center. Over the next year, Wilmington plans to optimize primary care access across VISN 4 through the enhancement of virtual provider visits and contingency staffing for extended provider absences or vacancies, while at the same time emphasizing continuity of Patient Aligned Care Teams. They plan to collaborate with these teams on the management of chronic diseases and offer provider support to existing VISN 4 and facility call centers.

**Clinic Relocations:** Coatesville VAMC relocated their Springfield VA clinic to new and expanded space on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. VA Pittsburgh relocated their Fayette County VA clinic to new and expanded space on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lebanon VAMC will relocate their Lancaster County VA Clinic to new and expanded space on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Shop VCS.com:** ShopVCS.com is now live. This exclusive online shopping site for Veterans and VA employees features a wide variety of products and specific services with over 100,000 products from top brands. Order and pay via your desktop, smartphone or tablet anytime. Visit [www.shopVCS.com](http://www.shopVCS.com) to create an account.

**VA's new website:** On Nov. 8, the new VA.gov website launched. The new website is designed to give you-our customers- the best possible experience by consolidating information in one easy to navigate place.

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

#### Question/Comments:

- Mr. Fidler stated it was his understanding that 20 Veterans a day commit suicide, 14 of whom are not receiving VA care. He inquired whether the VA can close the gap on the number who are not receiving care. Mr. Adelman reported that the VA has done a lot to bridge the gap. The VA has increased the awareness of the signs of suicide through outreach programs and arming family members with information on how to recognize those signs along with early intervention programs while the service members are still on active duty. He stated the VA now addresses the issue as soon as an at-risk Veteran comes into the VA, they get mental health care that same day. Dr. Adelman reported studies revealed that service members, especially males, don't like to be seen coming to the VA building and going to the mental health section. This prompted the VA to intensify its treatment of mental health issues through Telemedicine resources. Mr. Burris provided two anecdotal outcome examples of Veterans struggling with suicide ideation. One Veteran refused his family's advice to seek treatment and subsequently committed suicide. The other Veteran who did take the advice of family, sought treatment through the Telemedicine program and recovered. Mr. Burris's point was the complexity of the suicide problem. Mr. Zamosky asked why the VA can't pay for the partial amount due when a Veteran gets non-VA care. Dr. Adelman stated if the illness is service connected and an emergency the VA covers the medical costs; otherwise the Veteran's insurance must be billed. He did announce that the Mission Act will be implemented in June.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **DMVA Chief Counsel**

**Mr. Thomas Lee**

Mr. Lee asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. There were none. Mr. Lee then stated that during the upcoming discussion and eventual vote on the Bylaws all the SVC members must bear in mind that the Bylaws and Policy are the same thing. He stated that policy must be written so it can be followed and immortalized in the Bylaws.

##### **DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs**

**Mr. Dusty Durand**

Mr. Durand announced that the PA legislature is dismissed until they re-convene for a new legislative year in January. He noted this is the time to develop our legislative agenda, address issues and make new proposals. He invited the members of the SVC to submit their proposals, he had already begun the procedure with the PVWC and DMVA in preparation for re-introducing old bills and introducing new ones. He informed the SVC members that a pressor will be coming out soon listing all our legislative successes. He advised the SVC

members to keep the Member-at-Large committee intact due to the new selection procedure in case they must address a snafu.

General Carrelli suggested all SVC members take advantage of the opportunity to introduce themselves to the newly elected members of the federal and PA legislators. He said the opportunity to present the benefits of the Veterans' programs to the newly elected officials is paramount.

**DMVA Bureau of Veterans' Homes** **Mr. Andrew Ruscavage**

Mr. Ruscavage reported that addition to what was in the read-ahead packet he had some regulatory updates. He reported that the PA Soldiers' and Sailors' Home received an efficient free survey/inspection from the PA Department of Health which is difficult to achieve. He asked the SVC members to review the Holiday events calendar for all the Homes and requested they participate.

Questions/Discussion

- Mr. Elliot asked why three of the six homes did not receive the same inspection from the PA Department of Human Services. Mr. Ruscavage explained that those three Homes no longer provide personal care because they were replaced with skilled nursing due to the increased need.

**DMVA PIRO** **Mr. Joel Mutschler**

Mr. Mutschler stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead and informed the SVC members that he will be presenting from now forward on the PIRO report, Services and Programs, and Outreach and Reintegration.

Mr. Mutschler reported that he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lancaster Clinic and expressed how the clinic will be a great opportunity for treatment of the 30,000 Veterans in Lancaster County.

Mr. Mutschler reported that the consumer price index increase was 4.5% which will move the RETX Presumptive Amount to \$92,594 starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Mr. Foster noted that the SVC must cast a vote on the increase and motioned to do so.

**Motion:** Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the increase.

**Second:** Mr. Burris seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

**DMVA Services & Programs** **Mr. Joel Mutschler**

Mr. Mutschler stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead, asked for questions, but none were asked. He requested a vote.

**Approval of Programs Reports**

**Motion:** Mr. Getz made a motion to approve the programs reports.

**Second:** Mr. Elliot seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

**DMVA Outreach & Reintegration** **Mr. Joel Mutschler**

Mr. Mutschler said his materials were presented in the read-ahead, he asked for questions or comments.

Questions/Discussion

- Mr. Foster recommended that the Act 66 submitted report in the read-ahead be changed to have similar end of year comparison reports. Mr. Mutschler said he will take that under consideration.
- Mr. Jackson stated that he did not understand the VTF chart. He stated that the construction of the chart was confusing and believed the chart lacked significant information as to how the money is distributed. He called for a reconfiguration of the chart to display a better appreciation of how the funds are used. General Carrelli briefly explained his understanding of the chart. However, General Carrelli said we are here to provide you with the information you would like to review. General Carrelli called on the SVC members to tell him how they would like to see the information displayed.
- Mr. Hudzinski stated he had a concern with the VTF chart only displaying \$7,000,000 for VSO over the life time of the VTF, he believed that amount was inaccurate.

- Mr. Hemp stated the VTF chart displayed in the read-ahead was a tally sheet, and that a detailed annual end of year report is compiled.
- Mr. Mutschler said he will meet with SVC members at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss a way forward.

Chairman Petrovich called for a vote to accept the Outreach and Reintegration reports.

**Motion:** Mr. Getz made a motion to approve the Outreach and Reintegration report.

**Seconded:** Mr. Elliot seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

**SVC Bylaw Committee**

**Mr. Samuel Petrovich**

Chairman Petrovich stated there will not be a report due to taking a vote on the Bylaws under new business. However, Mr. Petrovich asked the SVC members to be aware of Mr. Lee’s opinion on Bylaws and Policy prior to their voting. He stated he wasn’t necessarily in agreement with Mr. Lee’s opinion but would discuss it later.

**SVC Act 66 Committee**

**Mr. Kit Watson**

Chairman Petrovich announced that due to this committee being revised there will not be a report today.

**SVC RETX Committee**

**Mr. Matthew Zamosky**

Mr. Zamosky said the committee had two recommendations. The first is to explore expanding the exemption eligibility for the surviving spouse when the service member is killed in the line of duty. The second is the removal of the wartime eligibility section due to categorizing Veterans who served during times of peace. He then added that the committee discussed the issues of VA income versus household income, and what the impact would be if changed. He said the committee didn’t have enough information to formulate a conclusion.

**SVC Legislative Committee**

**Chairman Samuel Petrovich**

Chairman Petrovich reported there will not be a report due to the committee being revised.

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

**Mr. John Brenner**

Mr. Brenner was not present, no report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Bylaws Vote**

**Chairman Petrovich**

Chairman Petrovich stated that all members had received a copy of the Bylaws to be voted on today, and then called for a motion to vote.

Mr. Jackson said he was very proud of the hard work the committee had done to formulate the Bylaws. However, he put forth a motion to vote on the Bylaws with the inclusion of four changes that were recommended by VVA and MOPH. He then read the four changes into the record. (See attachment for details). Copies were handed out to each member/guest to review.

Mr. Petrovich said there is a motion to vote on the Bylaws pending the inclusion of the four changes.

Mr. Beebe seconded the motion.

Mr. Foster asked if legal had the chance to review the submitted four changes. Mr. Lee stated that legal had not and only opined on the Bylaws that were submitted for today’s vote. Mr. Foster suggested the four changes be sent to legal for review.

Mr. Burris stated that since legal did not review the four changes submitted today the SVC should consider this to be the first reading and no vote taken. Mr. Zamosky agreed and suggested the four changes go back to the committee and legal for review.

Mr. Jackson rescinded his motion, Mr. Beebee rescinded his second.

Mr. Jackson motioned the Bylaws go back to committee with the four changes. Mr. Foster seconded.

**Motion:** Mr. Jackson made a motion to accept the Bylaws with the four changes.

**Second:** Mr. Beebee seconded the motion.

**Motion:** Mr. Jackson rescinded his motion.

**Second:** Mr. Beebe rescinded his second.

**Motion:** Mr. Jackson made a motion to send the Bylaws back to committee with the four suggested changes.

**Second:** Mr. Foster seconded.

Body agreed, motion carried.	
<b>Guest Speaker-Regionalization</b>	<b>Maj Gen Weller</b>
<p>General Weller briefed the SVC members on his plan of regionalization. General Weller introduced the DMVA-OVA mission statement and vision. He then explained what DMVA is funded to administer; Bureau of Veterans Homes, Outreach Programs and Benefits Programs plus the SVC, GAC-VS and VSO certification. However, he must constantly address questions regarding issues DMVA is not funded to provide: such as, Veterans homelessness, mental health, PTSD, drug/alcohol abuse, suicide prevention, employment issues and aging in place programs. General Weller stated that the wrong answer to those questions is that DMVA isn't funded to address them, the right answer is to find a way to address them. But to address them requires money and resources. The search to address those issues and fund them lead him to the development of a system of regionalization of all available resources.</p> <p>General Weller divided PA into 5 regions consisting of 15 counties each. He enlisted the assistance of key OVA staff members, county Veteran directors and VSOs to identify all the available Veterans' resources in each county. He formed partnerships of willing 501(c)(3)s that had money to spend and were willing to work with his concept. He located a significant number of premier treatment centers that specialized in certain issues such as PTSD and drug/alcohol abuse that even offered scholarships to uninsured Veterans.</p> <p>General Weller stated he didn't need sophisticated software to develop his data base only a spread sheet listing the available resources in each county which would allow a person to find the right service in the immediate area or a premier treatment center in another county. This will assist in targeted placement by DMVA admissions as well as non-DMVA outreach centers.</p> <p>General Weller reported the pilot program in Adams County is going well and preparing to establish regionalization in that region.</p>	
<b>Good of The Order/Announcements</b>	
<p>Mr. Durand announced that next week is Stop Overdoses in PA and that in eight areas opioid addicts and families of opioid addicts will be able to get free doses of Naloxone.</p> <p>Mr. Foster complemented the VFW for the job they did at the Veterans Memorial Ceremony on Veterans Day.</p> <p>Ms. Snively reminded the SVC members of the Wreathes Across America program being held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the laying of wreaths and the candle light service.</p>	
<b>For Next Meeting</b>	
<p>Chairman Petrovich requested that all SVC members be prepared to discuss what their organizations are doing and should be doing. He wanted all organizations that are implementing unique programs to report to the SVC, so the other organizations can copy the concept. He stated all committees should be prepared to report on what their purpose and goals are for the upcoming year. He stated the SVC needs to have its own legislative agenda/goals to present to the TAG so he can carry them forward.</p>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	
<p>Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 10:00 AM  Arrowhead Community Club  Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003</p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	
<p>Chairman Petrovich adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.</p>	

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

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

RETX- Exempt list(New)

mvtgsqlprod01  
3/18/2019  
rep\_VADC\_RETX\_Exempt\_List\_New

**Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)**

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
12810	12255	460	95	152

**Summary of Activity from 11/15/2018 to 03/15/2019**

Apps Created : 1074	
New	574
Review:	500
Apps Approved :970	
New	493
Review	477
Apps Denied Fin:	50
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	64
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	70
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibility Changed):	219

**Summary of Ineligible Reason**

Reason	Count
Property Ownership Change	2
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	7
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.	12
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	21
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.	20
Your disability has not been declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	2

	976
DAUPHIN	21
LEBANON	21
ADAMS	8

ALLEGHENY	29		
ARMSTRONG	7		
BEAVER	11		
BEDFORD	7		
BERKS	33		
BLAIR	18		
BRADFORD	13		
BUCKS	58		
BUTLER	11		
CAMBRIA	15		
CAMERON	1		
CARBON	11		
CENTRE	7		
CHESTER	34		
CLARION	1		
CLEARFIELD	9		
CLINTON	7		
COLUMBIA	3		
CRAWFORD	9		
CUMBERLAND	16		
DELAWARE	33		
ELK	5		
ERIE	33		
FAYETTE	21		
FOREST	1		
FRANKLIN	15		
FULTON	2		
GREENE	4		
HUNTINGDON	2		
INDIANA	15		
JEFFERSON	5		
JUNIATA	2		
LACKAWANNA	20		
LANCASTER	23		
LAWRENCE	10		
LEHIGH	19		
LUZERNE	39		

LYCOMING	17		
MCKEAN	5		
MERCER	12		
MIFFLIN	4		
MONROE	40		
MONTGOMERY	35		
MONTOUR	5		
NORTHAMPTON	32		
NORTHUMBERLAND	4		
PERRY	3		
PHILADELPHIA	57		
PIKE	15		
POTTER	8		
SCHUYLKILL	14		
SNYDER	1		
SOMERSET	7		
SULLIVAN	1		
SUSQUEHANNA	5		
TIOGA	12		
UNION	3		
VENANGO	4		
WARREN	4		
WASHINGTON	10		
WAYNE	9		
WESTMORELAND	30		
WYOMING	5		
YORK	35		

Bureau of Veterans' Homes  
Available Beds Monthly Status Report  
from February 1 to 28, 2019

<b>Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	100	99	1		99%	37
Secured	30	30	0		100%	14
Placing						3
TOTAL	130	129	1	1	99%	48
Non-Veteran Census Percent				1	4%	
<b>Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	156	139	17		89%	5
Secured	40	34	6		85%	0
Placing						5
TOTAL	196	173	23	27	88%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				25	11%	
<b>Holidaysburg Veterans' Home, Holidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	231	202	29		87%	3
Secured	26	23	3		88%	0
Personal Care	101	66	35		65%	0
Domiciliary	66	51	15		77%	0
Placing						3
TOTAL	424	342	82	74	81%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				78	12%	
<b>Pennsylvania Soldiers' &amp; Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	59	59	0		100%	5
Secured	32	32	0		100%	9
Personal Care	80	52	28		65%	1
Domiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
Placing						2
TOTAL	191	163	28	26	85%	13
Non-Veteran Census Percent				27	15%	
<b>Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	208	198	10		95%	49
Secured	30	30	0		100%	0
Personal Care	54	53	1		98%	7
Placing						7
TOTAL	292	281	11	13	96%	49
Non-Veteran Census Percent				12	13%	
<b>Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	196	189	7		96%	4
Secured	40	32	8		80%	0
Placing						4
TOTAL	236	221	15	12	94%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				14	15%	
<b>Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes</b>						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	950	886	64		93%	103
Secured	198	181	17		91%	23
Personal Care	235	171	64		73%	8
Domiciliary	86	71	15		83%	0
Placing						24
TOTALS	1,469	1,309	160	143	89%	110
Non-Veteran Census Percent				152	12%	

**Non-Veteran Census Number**

DVVH	4	4%
GMVC	18	11%
HVH	38	12%
PSSH	23	15%
SEVC	36	13%
SWVC	32	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>12%</b>