

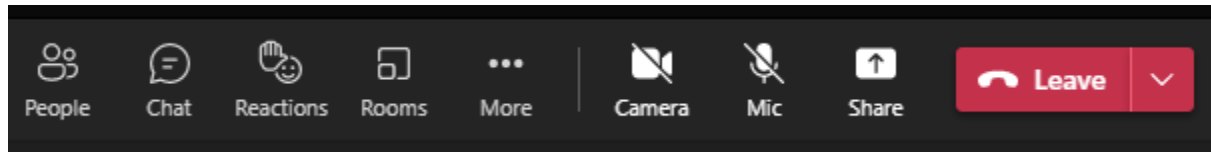
WELCOME

November 2, 2022

Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

Governor's Residence
Harrisburg

Chat function is used to submit comments or questions



*Please enter your **full name and agency** for attendance purposes



WELCOME GOVERNOR WOLF

INTRODUCTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

VETERANS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Kory Auch

Employee Engagement

They know each other:

“But at the end of the day, few benefits compare to the camaraderie that comes from working alongside those who understand the experience of having served one’s country.” **Forbes**

The company knows them:

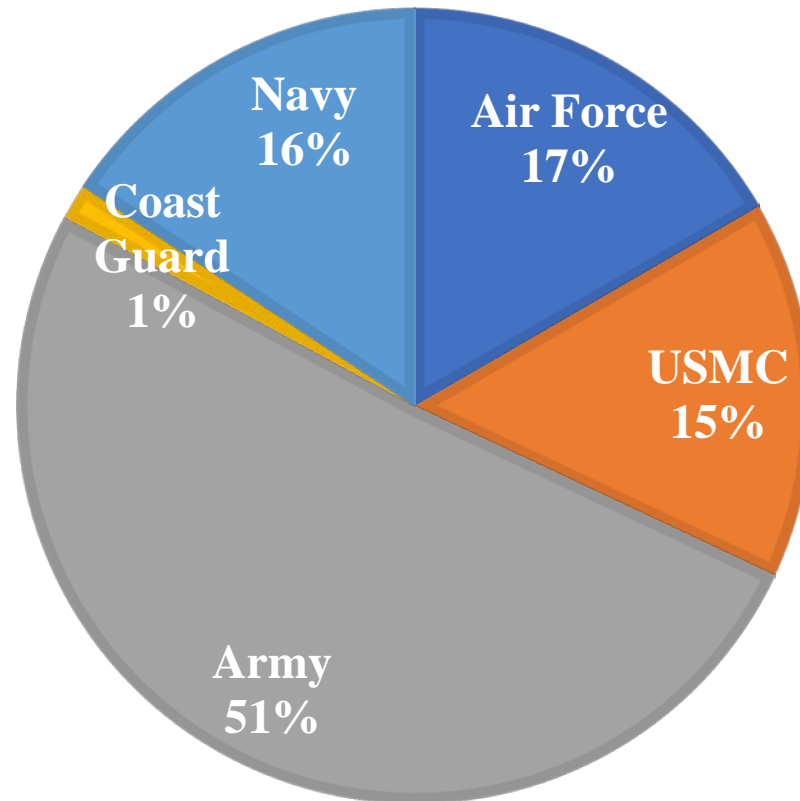
‘For those veterans whose veteran status is well known at work, this is largely a positive thing ... 60% say they are looked up to ... ’ **Pew Research Center**

Lines of Effort

- Data Accuracy: Voluntary Questions in Employee Self Service
- Annual Recognition Campaign
- Veterans in Public Service Rosters
- Veterans Day
- Service Birthdays / Armed Forces Day
- Agency Endeavors ... watching the seeds start to grow

- 14K+ current employees
- 70% have answered
- Still awaiting our first Space Force Vet

MILITARY BRANCH



Employees with Military Service Recognition Campaign



History:

2019 Campaign: 14000 employees

2020 Campaign: 1100 employees

2021 Campaign: 800 employees

2022 Campaign: 1200 (estimate)

AGING

Ms. Margo Coleman, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Increase awareness of services and supports for aging veterans and their families and caregivers among professionals within PA's Aging and Veteran Services networks. Safeguard Pennsylvania's Aging Veterans from Abuse, neglect, exploitation and self harm.

Updates

- 4 Guest Speakers
- 4 Resources
- 2 Committee Member Presentations
- 1 Advocacy Campaign (Increased by 4 entities in 2022)
- 5 Networking Connections

Challenges/Barriers

- Continuing to increase entities and organizations that will participate in the annual Pension Poaching Campaign to help blanket the state and safeguard our veterans and their families.
- Papa Pals: Insurance contracted carriers, work with Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicaid for referral process. Need to establish relationship with VA payor source.

HOMELESS

Mr. Brendan Auman, Co-Chair
Mr. Micah Snead, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Increase the number of veterans participating on the committee who are currently or were formerly experiencing homelessness
- Training/Information sharing on various programs to improve service delivery and available resources for homeless veterans
- Partner with Aging Committee to discuss potential solutions for aging veterans who experience housing instability and discuss ways to promote better communication with long-term care industry

Updates

- News: HUD [FMR Rates](#) and 2019-20 [AHAR Part 2](#)
- Resources: [Homelessness & Housing First](#)
- Recorded Event: NCHV Webinar [Serving LGBTQ+ Veterans](#)
- Resources: [Voter Toolkit](#)
- Event: [30th Annual CHALENG Summit](#) 11/9/22 @ PNC Field, Moosic, PA
- Resources: [Governor's Challenge Training Portal](#)
- November – Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) winddown
- Event: [Legal Issues Affecting Military Personnel](#) 12/7/22
- December – Landlords and SHARE

Challenges/Barriers

- Rent is too high, emergency rental assistance funds winding down
- Lack of shelter capacity, type, availability
- Need more collaboration with CoC's Coordinated Entry System
- Veterans with Lived Experience
- Interagency continuity, collaboration, and leadership

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Ms. Erica Nocho, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

Report on, and work to improve, any programs that promote whole health and trauma-informed care for veterans.

Continue to promote and share resources or information regarding suicide prevention and intervention.

Empowering behavior change and actions through increased knowledge about the needs of service members, veterans and families.

Updates

- Military Cultural Competency trainings for Mental Health /Behavioral Health providers in PA. Training is free and being offered by Psych Armor. 15 trainings will be available through December 2025.
- Educational Awareness Campaign focusing on educating healthcare workers.
- Pennsylvania Problem Gambling Prevention Workgroup works to disseminate information to prevention providers working with veterans.

Challenges/Barriers

- Getting information to rural area
- Correcting inaccurate information out in the field
- Constant turnover in staff makes educational campaigns an ongoing effort
- Promoting trainings and getting the information out to targeted populations

--SHORT BREAK--

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Crystal Houser, Chair

Goals of the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program

- Assist transitioning service members with obtaining teaching certification
- Provide individualized counseling to explore teaching options
- Address critical teacher shortage areas in K-12 schools that serve low-income families

Updates

- Reauthorized through the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act
- Over 7,000 veterans have received TTT information, graduated 35
- Approximately 25 veterans currently enrolling in certification programs
- Over 300 veterans have expressed interest in PA teaching certifications since Oct. 1, 2021
- Provided direct employment counseling to 20+ veterans interested in moving to PA who currently have certification in another state
- Working with Mercyhurst University to reach 9,500 veterans across the country regarding PA teaching opportunities

Challenges/Barriers

- Tuition funding for the TTT participants

PA Business One-Stop Shop

- One-Stop Shop to Start or Grow a Business
 1. business.pa.gov, 1-833-722-6778
 2. Dedicated Office Housed in DCED; Hours M-F 8 am – 4:30pm
 - Plan, register, operate, and grow

Updates

- >718,000 + Website Users
- 259,000+ Business Checklist Users
- 5,950 Self-Identified Veterans
- 1,891 Self-Identified Service-Disabled Veterans

Challenges/Barriers

- Interagency collaboration

Small Business Administration

- Boots to Business/Reboot entrepreneurial training for vets: <https://sbavets.force.com>
- Local 2-day workshops
 - B2B quarterly @ Carlisle Barracks (In-person)
 - Reboot (online)

Updates

- >170,000 grads since inception 2013 nationally
- FY21: 228 attendees in PA, uptick from 98 in FY20
- 88% of attendees reported increased confidence in starting a business after B2B

Challenges/Barriers

- Partnership with Penn State Dickinson Law, Free Legal Clinic offered with Carlisle class
- Community Navigators- St. Joseph's University, assisting with VOSB education
- Federal Contracting CVE transfer to SBA
- Surplus Property Program through GSA, Vets eligible to obtain equip. for businesses
- NVSBW 31 OCT-4 NOV

PA Military Finance Alliance

Provide noncommercial financial education to veterans and their families to prevent fraud and abuse as veterans are targets of scams

- PA is home to 4th largest veteran population
- 79% of PA veterans are aged 50+

Updates

- 13 in-person Making Sense of Finance events and 16 virtual events since 2014
 - Total of 1401 veterans participated

Challenges/Barriers

- Focus on rural communities
- In-person events
- Continue to focus on buy-in from leadership
- More veteran focused events
 - Identify opportunities to expand

Veterans in Agriculture

- Assist transitioning service members with finding meaningful careers in agriculture
- Provide support through resources and technical assistance in career determination, business planning and growth, and best management practices for farm viability and stewardship
- Address workforce challenges in ag, and create a supportive environment for service members

Updates

- PDA awarded two \$100,000 grants through the Ag Business Development Center – Troops to Tractors and Butler County Community Action
- PA Preferred website is now live – www.papreferred.com – and has a Homegrown by Heroes page
- Farm Bill and other PDA resources continue to be available to veterans

Challenges/Barriers

- Reaching service members and veterans with an appetite for agriculture
- Finding ways to provide the types of support needed – access to land, labor, equipment, and capital

WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. Elizabeth Cooper, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

SCIMuncy VSU

- Equip re-entrant women veterans with skills and connections to assist in successful re-entry.
- Fundraisers: General Population Toiletries: WWP-\$2,352
Pumpkin/Gourd Sale \$172-PA Vets Foundation
- First Staff and Inmate Veterans Day Celebration- November 9, 2022

PA Women Veterans Toolkit

- Initial meeting and authorization to start advertising to have the Women Veterans Alliance to generate a Pennsylvania magazine issue.

Updates

Progress within PA

- Alyson O’Neal & Keystone Elder Law: Sisters in Service
- Lisa Kaye, Chris Yarnell, and Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta: Women Veterans Group with the Monroe County Veterans Affairs
- Angela Eder: Penn Waver

Women Veteran Homelessness

- Mary Chitwood, Robin’s Home founder agreed to participate on committee

Reaching Older Women Veterans

- DMVA Veterans Homes shared information about the National Women Veterans Memorial and Veterans registry through their routine family update letters.

Women Veterans Tile

- DMVA website has added a Women Veterans tile.

Challenges/Barriers

- Reaching older women veterans.
- Getting women veterans to register with the DMVA, or the Federal VA to check benefit eligibility.
- Socializing information to women-veteran and veteran-focused businesses for advertisements helping to launch the Women Veterans Alliance - Pennsylvania magazine issue.

JUDICIARY

Mr. Michael Carrington, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Improve outreach efforts to veteran staff within the Department of Corrections (DOC) through collaboration with external agencies
- Identify veteran inmates within the DOC at classification to place them in veteran designated facilities (VDFs)
- Expand/enhance programming, workshops, and educational/employment opportunities within the veteran service units (VSUs)
- Increase the amount/availability of veteran-specific trainings and/or educational opportunities for employees/spouses/dependents
- Advocate for the creation/enhancement of veteran courts/tracks
- Educate those that represent veterans in the criminal justice system

Updates

- Spring Veteran Employee Symposium for the Department of Corrections will occur at SCI Dallas in 2023
- Veteran Employee Workgroup discussing community symposium for veterans in summer 2023
- New DOC veteran identification tool projected to go “live” November 30, 2022
- MOU remains pending between Dept. of Agriculture and Dept. of Corrections
- PA Bar Association Military and Veterans Affairs Committee presenting 3-part continuing Legal Education for Attorneys who help Vets on December 7, 2022
- 179 Vet Court graduations for 2021

Challenges/Barriers

- Homeless veterans/redefining “homeless” for the incarcerated veteran population
- Nursing home care for HTP veterans that have been paroled or are approaching their maximum date of sentence
- Specialized programming for those incarcerated with PTSD and/or TBI (and an adequate number of employees to deliver the program)
- Streamlined communications with contracted VA organizations tasked with compensation and pension exams of incarcerated veterans

VETERAN OF THE QUARTER

- Veteran of the United States Air Force and Air National Guard
- Serving the Department of Corrections for 26+ years
- Tireless advocate for enhanced services for all veterans within the agency, employees and reentrants alike
- Led agency efforts to create/fill six full-time veteran-specific positions within the DOC since 2021



Tammy Ferguson

Regional Deputy Secretary



GOOD OF THE ORDER

CLOSING COMMENTS

DMVA WEBSITE: www.dmva.pa.gov

Sign up for the Veterans Registry and DMVA Digest!

www.register.dmva.pa.gov

NEXT MEETING:

February 1 at 1:00PM

Location: NCTC Classroom, Bldg. 8-63, FTIG

***All 2023 GAC-VS quarterly meetings will take place
on the 1st Wednesday of the month**