



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2018**



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
Total PAARNG Deployed: 538						

PAANG Current Deployments

Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	OIR	14
111 ATKW	IPR (HS)/Cyber (HS)/Various	36/26/12
171 ARW	OIR/Alert Status (HS)	21/37
Total PAANG Deployed		146

Total PANG Deployed 725

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2018 (to date) Wait Times



Clinics	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	2,019,408	1,927,179	96.8%	4.2
Mental Health	292,523	283,023	98.4%	2.8
Primary Care	456,074	448,030	98.2%	3.7
Specialty Care	784,425	719,501	94.6%	6.2

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care		Mental Health Care	
	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>
James E. Van Zandt VAMC (Altoona)	15	3	7	6
Abie Abraham HCC (Butler)	17	1	6	2
Coatesville VAMC	23	2	4	4
Erie VAMC	18	6	7	2
Lebanon VAMC	29	5	16	3
Crescenz VAMC (Philadelphia)	28	4	15	2
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	20 (Hz) 24 (UD)	4 (Hz) 7 (UD)	8 (Hz) 6 (UD)	4 (Hz) 2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	27	3	11	6
Wilmington VAMC	28	3	5	2

Data updated 8/6/18 with wait times for last 30 days.

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

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Provider Agreements	
October 2016	789
December 2017	1,617
February 2018	1,718
April 2018	1,743
July 2018	1,978

Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018 <i>(to date as of July 31)</i>	66,200

VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru April</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	90.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	83.9
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	86.1
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	87.8

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru April</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	87.6
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81.2
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.5	81.7	83.4
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.3	77.7	80.4

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Specialty Care Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru April</i>
"I got the service I needed" (Effectiveness)	84.2	84.8	84.8
"It was easy to get the service I needed" (Ease)	75.8	77.9	76.6
"I felt like a valued customer" (Emotion)	79.2	79.3	78.1
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" (Trust)	73.9	76.2	75.5

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

BUREAU OF VETERANS' HOMES



Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Date of Last Inspection - Status						
PA Department of Health	02/06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	01/26/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	12/15/17 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/02/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/11/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	09/15/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status
PA Department of Human Services	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	License Vacated on 11/27/2012	11/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	License Vacated on 01/16/2015
US Department of Veterans Affairs	04/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status

As of 31 AUG 18

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Update for Veterans' Homes

PSSH- The renovation and general repairs project is 45% completed with a scheduled completion date of 04/30/2019. All displaced residents have returned to the facility. Currently working off of the waiting list.

DVVH- The renovation and general repairs project is scheduled for construction kick-off on October 15, 2018. 41 residents from the PCU have been relocated to other Veterans' Homes and DVVH is in the process of terminating their PCU license, beds will be converted to skilled nursing.

Update for Veterans' Homes

PSSH- The renovation and general repairs project is 45% completed with a scheduled completion date of 04/30/2019. All displaced residents have returned to the facility. Currently working off of the waiting list.

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Update for Veterans' Homes

HVH- the construction project to demolish the administrative brick building is on track with a 183 day construction period.

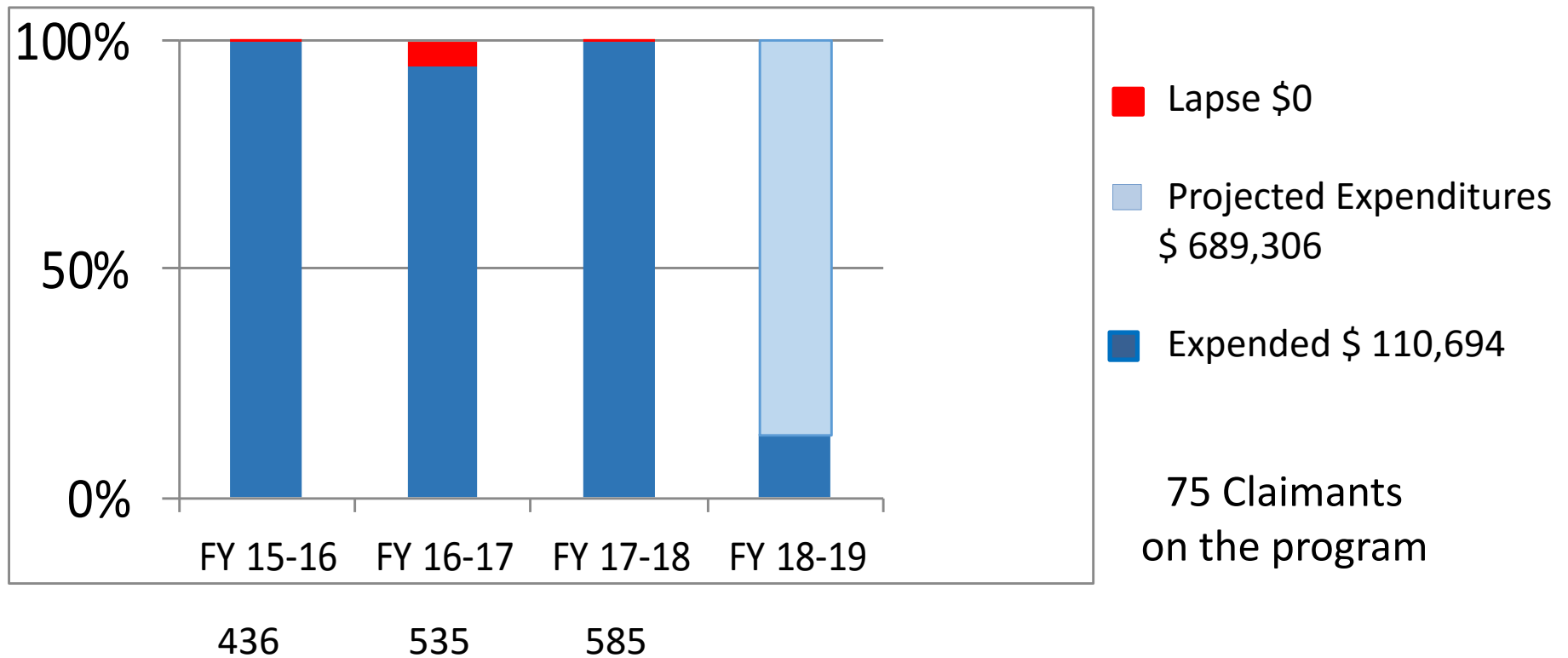
SEVC- construction of new maintenance building, project is 25% completed at this time. This will move the existing facilities closer to main building on campus.

SEVC is also executing a capital renovation and general repairs project which includes renovation of the lower floor of Coates Hall to establish an Adult Day Health Care Program, estimated to be completed FY20/21.

VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$800,000



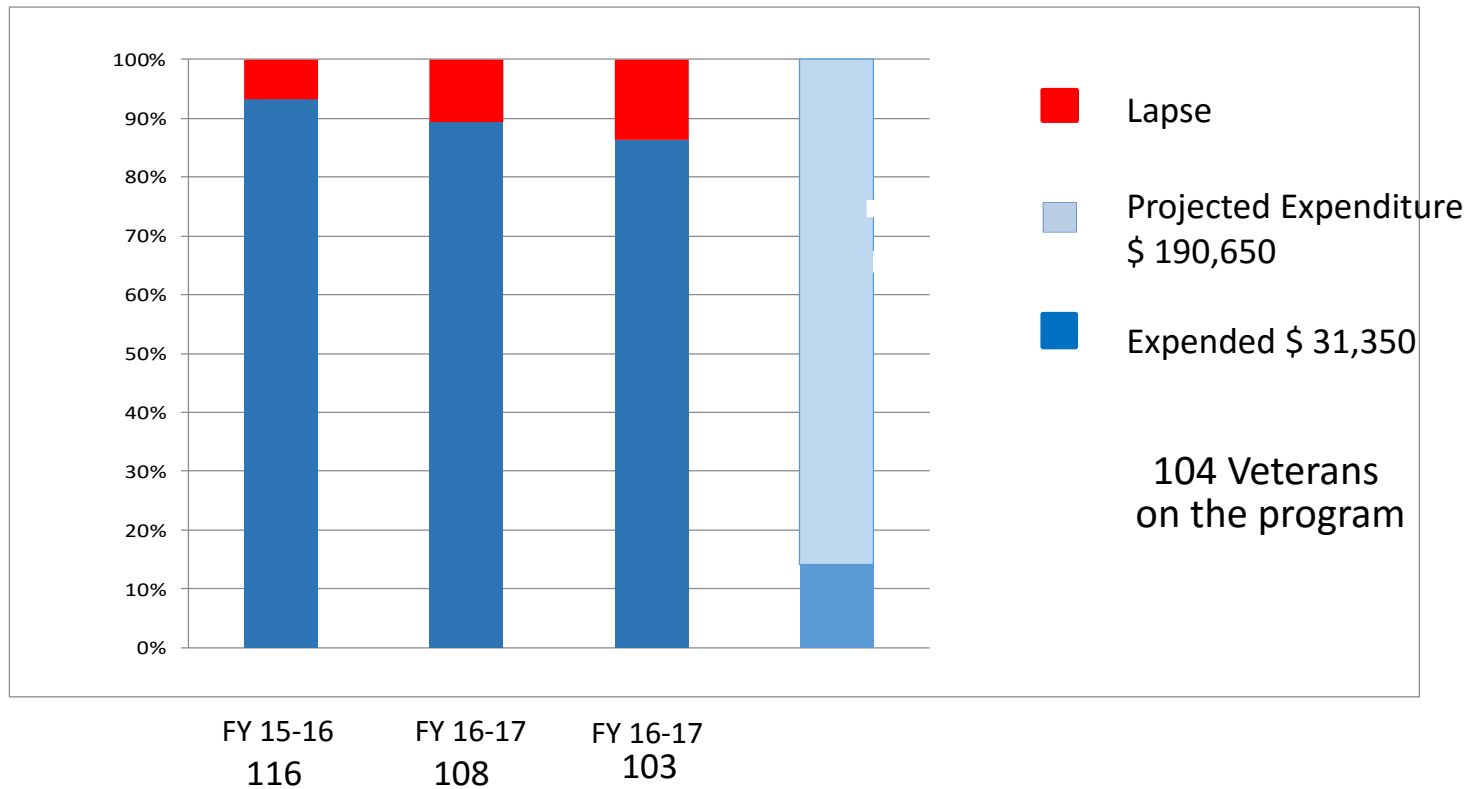
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BLIND VETERANS PENSION



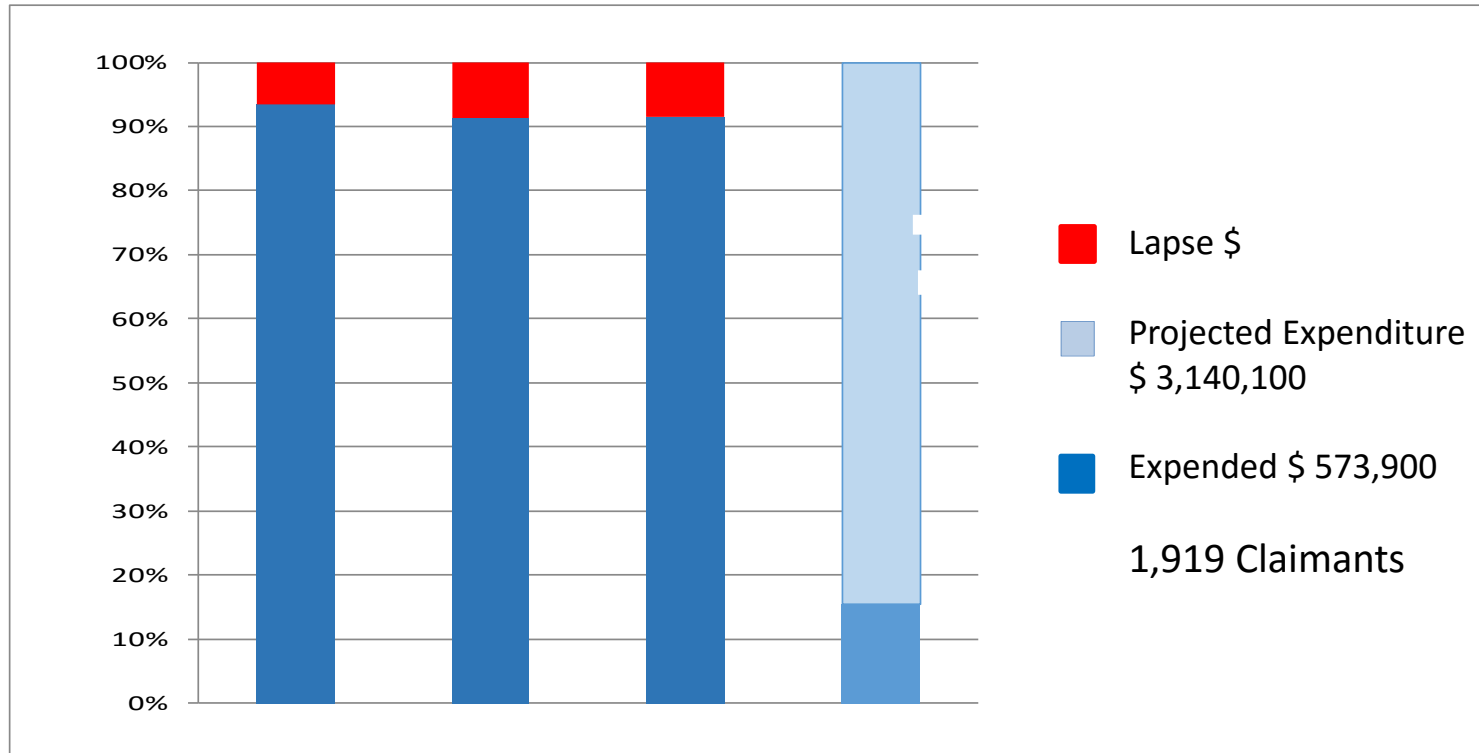
\$222,000



AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



\$3,714,000



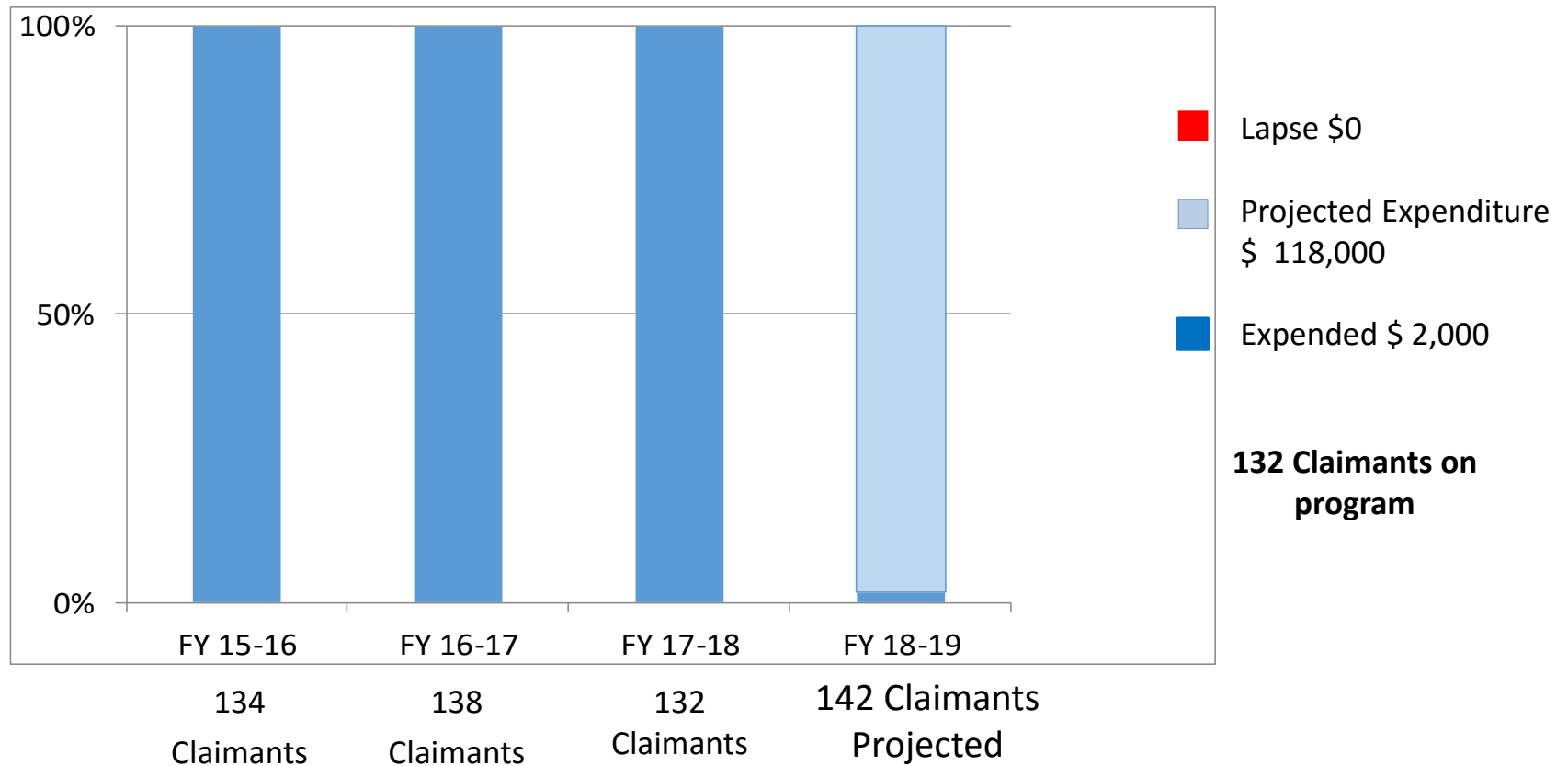
FY 15-16 FY 16-17 FY 17-18 FY 18-19
1,811 1,842 1,908

- Lapse \$
 - Projected Expenditure \$ 3,140,100
 - Expended \$ 573,900
- 1,919 Claimants

EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY

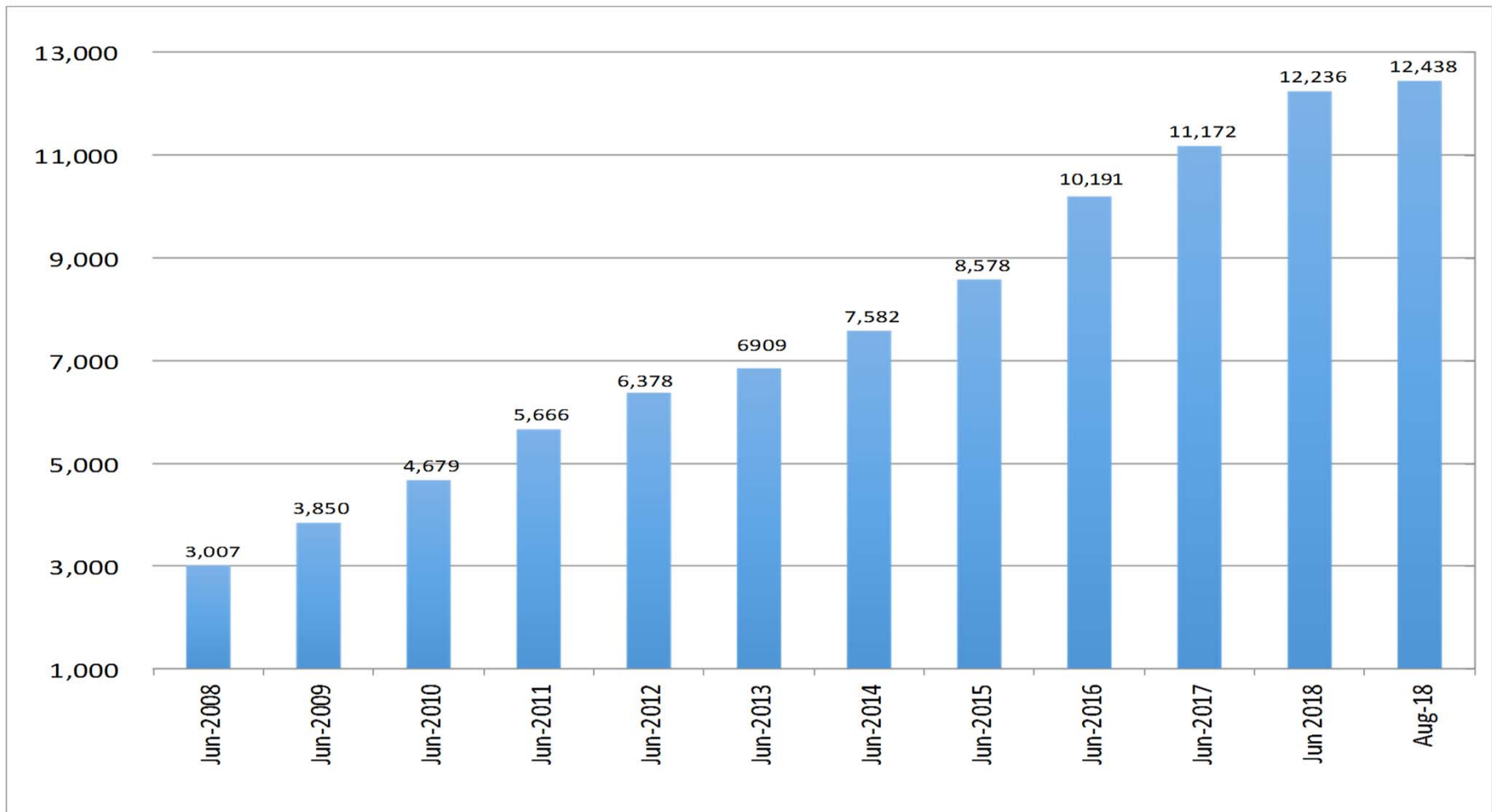


\$120,000



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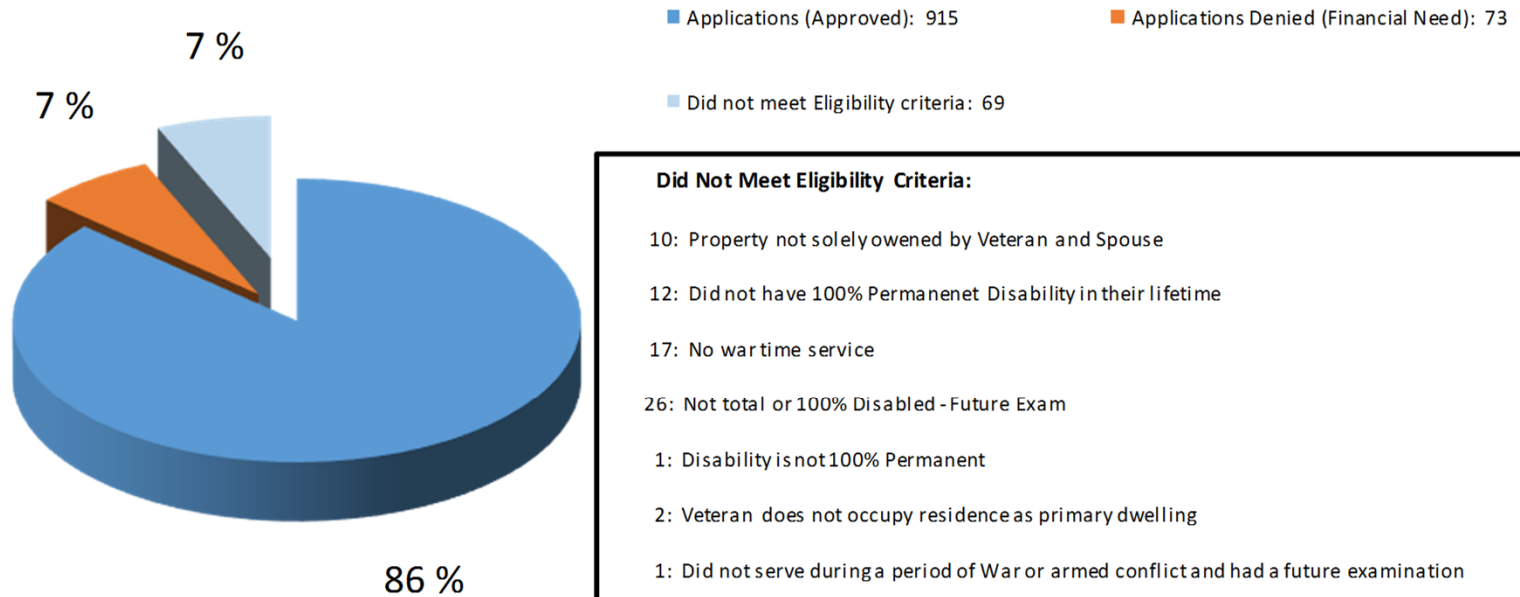
DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 15 Aug 2018

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DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM



- Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria:**
- 10: Property not solely owned by Veteran and Spouse
 - 12: Did not have 100% Permanent Disability in their lifetime
 - 17: No war time service
 - 26: Not total or 100% Disabled - Future Exam
 - 1: Disability is not 100% Permanent
 - 2: Veteran does not occupy residence as primary dwelling
 - 1: Did not serve during a period of War or armed conflict and had a future examination
-
- 69 Applications Ineligible by Reason Code

*824 Applications Received since 16 May 2018

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



Total Applications: 12,610

Payments Sent: 9,659

Total Payments: \$ 4,083,987.50

Average Payment: \$422.82

Average Processing Time: 6.52 days

As of 15 Aug 2018

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MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 15 AUG 2018

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 125,973.80
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,717,408.49
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,843,382.29
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 843,355.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 1,000,026.43

As of 15 Aug 2018

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PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2017)	\$362,594.75
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$1,596
Interest	\$716.16
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$2,312.16
Expenses	(\$587.12)
Ending Balance	\$364,319.79

As of 31 Jul 2018

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ODAGVA / ACT 66 SUMMARY



FY 18 - 19	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
0	\$0.00

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

As of 20 August 18

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OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	7				7
Mobile Outreach Van Events	7				7
Veteran Interactions	90				90
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	26				26
Legislator Attended Events	3				3

Upcoming Events – September

- **Legislative Events** – Rep. Deasy’s Senior Health Expo, Rep. Masser’s Senior Expo, Rep. Mako Senior Expo, Rep. Braneky Veteran Outreach, Rep. Kaufer Veteran Expo, Rep. Brewster and Davis Senior Expo, Rep. Keller Senior Expo, Sen. Stefano Senior Expo
- **Events** – PA Bowhunter’s Festival, Still Serving USA 5K run/walk, McKean County Resource Fair, Sunbury Mental Health Event, Wayne/Pike County Suicide Walk, Gettysburg Fire Dept. Open House, Juniata County Fair
- **Legislators Attending Events** – Senators Brown, Scavello and Disanto, Representatives Harris, Keller and Rapp

As of 20 August 18

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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	\$600.00	\$660.00	44	\$45,390.00	3,026
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$437.00	\$437.00	19	\$23,782.00	1,034
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	5	\$2,580.00	172
Checkoff & Donations	\$27,948.50	\$69,180.50	\$194,613.50		\$7,779,067.43	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00		\$4,035.00	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,290.14	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,219.86		\$70,815.14	
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	\$0.00		\$800,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$650,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$505,609.06	
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	\$19,200.00	\$39,175.00	\$110,694.00		2,926,072.32	
Working Balance	\$8,763.50	\$31,102.50	\$89,361.36		\$2,331,725.66	4,232

As of 20 August 18

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By-Law Committee



Members:

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

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Gary Stopya (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	DAV
Ms. Constance Snavelly	MAL
Mr. James Vollrath	TAL
Mr. John Pliska	AMVETS
Mr. Chuck Jackson/Mr. Bob Hill	MOPH
Mr. Chip Gilliland	DMVA

RETX Committee



Members:

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

Legislative Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. James Vollrath (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	TAL
Mr. Bob Hill	MOPH
Mr. Sanford Silver	JWV
Mr. William Wright	CWV
Mr. Thomas Bremer	IAWV
Mr. Gilbert Durand	DMVA

Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission Bylaws

Version 1.2

9 May 2018

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ARTICLE I. Name and definitions

Section 1 – Name

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

Section 2 – Definitions

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

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

“TAG”- The Adjutant General

“Certify” – Attest to meeting a standard

“Chairman”- State Veterans' Commission Chairman.

“Vice Chairman”- State Veterans Commission Vice Chairman

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

“Commission”- State Veterans' Commission.

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

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

‘Advise’- ‘to give a recommendation’

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

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

Article II. Purpose, Powers and Duties, and Scope

Section 1 – Purpose

The purpose mission of this Commission shall be to “advise The Adjutant General and the Department on all matters pertaining to the status, welfare, benefits, employment and support of Veterans’ programs in this Commonwealth and shall perform other functions as are provided by law”.

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

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

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

Section 3 – Scope.

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

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

Section 1 – Membership (Voting)

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

Section 2 – Members at Large

- (1) ‘Members at Large shall serve a term of four years and until a successor has been appointed’
- (2) All vacancies (and projected vacancies) shall be posted on the Department website. Applications will be accepted by the Departments Legislative Liaison.
- (3) A review panel shall be appointed by the Adjutant General whose purpose is to review applications, interview applicants as deemed appropriate and to provide an un-binding rank order recommendation to TAG.
- (4) Four Members at Large may be appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Adjutant General. The Governor has the option of making a direct appointment from a name that is not contained on TAG list.
- (5) Each Member at Large is allotted 1 vote

Section 3- Non- Voting Members

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

Section 4– Chairperson

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

Section 3- Executive Secretary

- (1) The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall serve as the Executive Secretary to the Commission with specific duties to the State Veterans Commission:
 - a. Post SVC meeting notices (dates, times, location, etc)
 - b. Ensure safety and accuracy of all SVC records
 - c. Prepares, in conjunction with Chairman, the SVC meeting agenda.
 - d. Review and post SVC minutes
 - e. Assume responsibility of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, Chair elect and vice Chair.
 - f. Prepares program/ package relating to new member orientation.
 - g. Organizes Special meetings
 - h. Organizes 'out of cycle' votes/ polling.
 - i. Process correspondence for the SVC
 - j. Process travel claims related expenses for eligible members

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

Section 1 – Terms of Members

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

Section 2 – Reappointment

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

Section 3 – Vacancies

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

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

- (1) A member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall forfeit his or her seat unless the chairperson, upon written request from the member, finds that the member should be excused from a meeting.
- (2) A member shall forfeit his or her seat if he or she no longer represents the interests of the membership class for which he or she was appointed. Specifically, a member meeting this threshold

shall no longer be employed or associated with the interests of the respective qualification for which he or she was appointed.

Section 5 – Resignations

- (1) Any member desiring to resign from the commission shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the chairperson.
- (2) Any resignation must be accepted by the Chairman of the SVC prior to the resignation having an effective date.

Section 6 – Expenses

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

Section 7- Protocol

All Members, voting and non-voting, serve on the Commission in an advisory capacity only. As such:

- (1) SVC Members, when visiting Legislators in the name of the SVC, will be representing TAG, not the individual service organizations. Visits in the name of the SVC shall meet the following standards:
 - a. Coordinate such visits with the Department Legislative Affairs Office.
 - b. Pre-Coordinate briefings, papers, testimony etc. with the Department Legislative Affairs Office.
 - c. Represent TAG official viewpoints on issues etc.

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

Section 1 – Meetings

- (1) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman or The Adjutant General. Generally, the Commission will meet at least 6 times per year.
- (2) Meetings shall be held at such times and places as scheduled by the Department and in conjunction and cooperation with the Chairman.
- (3) Meetings will not be cancelled unless for emergent reasons (i.e. natural or man-made disaster or emergency)
- (4) Scheduled meetings will be held even if there is not a quorum of SVC members in attendance
- (5) The chairman may request through the Department, special meetings of the commission, provided notice is sent to members at least 14 calendar days in advance.
- (6) The meeting agenda shall be developed by the Department/ Chairman and shall be comprised of the following:
 - (a) Call to Order
 - (b) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
 - (c) Commission Introductions
 - (d) Introduction of Others present
 - (e) Presentations (8 minute time limit)
 - (e) Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - (f) Oath of Office (if needed)
 - (g) TAG Update

- (h) DAG-VA Update (brief by exception)
- (i) Department Legislative Update (brief by exception)
- (k) Department General Counsel Update (brief by exception)
- (l) VISN 4 Update
- (m) Questions regarding and Approval of Department Reports
 - (1) These reports will be sent to Membership approx. 1 week prior to the scheduled Commission meeting. Department staff will not brief the reports but will be available to answer any questions about the reports. Acceptance of the reports will require a vote by the Commission.
- (n) Submission of Committee Reports
 - (1) Pensions and Relief/ Grave Marking/ State Military Cemetery (brief by exception)
 - (2) Legislation (brief by exception)
 - (3) Veterans Emergency Assistance (brief by exception)
 - (4) Educational Gratuity (brief by exception)
 - (5) Real Estate Tax Exemption (brief by exception)
 - (6) Act 66 (brief by exception)
 - (7) New Committees (brief by exception)
- (o) Old Business
- (p) New Business
 - (1) Membership is expected to highlight emergent issues affecting Veterans
- (q) Good of Order Announcements
- (r) Adjourn

Section 2 – Quorum

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

Section 3 – Voting

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

Section 4 – Amendment of Bylaws

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

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

Section 1 – Establishment

The Commission shall establish committees which may research and study the following areas:

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

Section 2 – Composition

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

Section 3 – Duties

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

- (1) To study and report on the topics assigned by the Commission.
- (2) To facilitate the creation of the reports and, with the permission of the Commission, invite individuals to assist in preparation of reports for the Commission.
- (3) To approve reports and recommendations for submission to the Commission. Only members appointed to each committee may participate in approving reports and recommendations to the Commission.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit The Adjutant General from establishing additional committees or ad hoc work groups to assist the Commission or committees.

Section 4 – Rules

- (1) Committees shall meet at the discretion of the committee chairperson.
- (2) Committee meetings shall be held at such times and places as the committee chairperson shall decide.
- (3) A Committee shall be comprised of at least 3 voting Commission Members and any additional personnel who, based on interest and or required expertise, are approved by the Committee Chairperson and the Chairman of the State Veterans Commission. All members of a committee are considered voting members.
- (4) Participation at any meeting may be accomplished by means of teleconference or a similar communication device or platform. Chairpersons are encouraged to leverage virtual communication technology to reduce reimbursable expenses.

Article VII Awards, Recognition

Section 1- Terms of Awards

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

Section 2- Recognition

- (1) Certificate of Recognition. All SVC Members (voting/ non-voting) shall receive a certificate of recognition from the Department after the successful conclusion of their current term.
- (2) Certificate of Appreciation. SVC Members (voting/ non-voting) and non SVC Personnel may receive a certificate of Appreciation from the Department, upon recommendation of the SVC Chairman, where special recognition is required
- (3) Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal (PAMSM)
 - a. *Purpose.* The Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, the Pennsylvania Guard, or the Armed Forces of the United States or their reserve components, or any civilian who has provided meritorious service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
 - b. *Criteria.* The individual must have demonstrated meritorious service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, while holding a position of great responsibility.
 - c. *Submission Requirements.*
 - (1) DA Form 638, narrative and citation for Army, or PaANG IMT 9 for Air, which clearly describes the service/achievement for which the individual is being recognized.
 - (2) Recommendations must be forwarded to TAGPA, ATTN: G1-MPM-CB (Awards) or TAGPA/ANG (State Awards Monitor).
 - d. *Approval Authority.* The Governor of Pennsylvania.
 - e. *Wear.* The PAMSM will be worn before the KFM and after the PAGM.
 - f. *Subsequent Awards.* Subsequent awards of the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal will be recognized by an Oak Leaf Cluster on the ribbon.
- (4) Pennsylvania Commendation Medal (PACOM)
 - a. *Purpose.* The Pennsylvania Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other foreign or domestic military component of the Armed Forces, or any civilian who has provided commendable service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

b. Criteria. The individual must have demonstrated commendable service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

c. Submission Requirements.

(1) DA Form 638, narrative and citation for Army, or PaANG IMT 9 for Air, which clearly

describes the service/achievement for which the individual is being recognized.

(2) Comprehensive information which clearly describes the achievements for which the award

is being recommended.

(3) Recommendations must be forwarded to TAGPA, ATTN: G1-MPM-CB (Awards) or TAGPA/ANG (State Awards Monitor).

d. Approval Authority. The Adjutant General.

e. Wear. The Pennsylvania Commendation Medal will be worn before the RRM and after the OVC.

f. Subsequent Awards. Subsequent awards of the Pennsylvania Commendation Medal will be recognized by an Oak Leaf Cluster on the ribbon.

(5) Pennsylvania Military Funeral Honors Program Service Ribbon (MFHPSR)

a. Purpose. The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program Service Ribbon is awarded to Soldiers, Airmen and/or veterans who have participated in two hundred (200) funerals and are recommended by the Area Coordinator, Branch Coordinator or State Coordinator.

b. Criteria. Members of the Military Funeral Honors Program or prior-service veterans may be recommended for the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program for outstanding performance and professionalism while providing military funeral honors, in

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conjunction with a PA National Guard honor team, in support of veterans, active duty members, and Families. This award is retroactive to 7 August 2007.

c. Submission Requirements.

(1) Memorandum through appropriate chain of command that justifies the service and/or achievements for which the individual is being recognized. Soldiers, Airmen and/or participating veterans must be recommended by the Area coordinator, Branch Coordinator or State Coordinator. For VSO's, memorandum from group president stating individual is in good standing with group, VFW, American Legion, Marine Corp League, etc. Memorandum must contain individual's last name, first name, rank, SSN, Unit, Unit address, and date completed qualifying action. See Appendix I for sample memorandum.

(2) Recommendations must be forwarded to TAGPA ATTN: G1-MPM-CB (Awards) for processing or TAGPA/ANG (State Awards Monitor).

(3) Military Funeral Honors will supply issue of medals and ribbons. Replacement awards will be issued upon written request.

d. Approval Authority. The Adjutant General.

e. Wear. The Pennsylvania Military Funeral Honors Program Service Ribbon will be worn before the PSR and after the RRM.

f. Subsequent Awards. Subsequent awards of the Pennsylvania Military Funeral Honors Program Service Ribbon will be annotated by an Oak Leaf Cluster. The sixth award will be annotated with a silver oak leaf cluster. Therefore, if an individual has performed 800 military funeral honors, they will have a ribbon and three bronze oak leaf clusters. Military members can achieve a maximum of six awards for 1200 funerals. Civilian members are not authorized subsequent awards.

Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Available Beds Monthly Status Report
from July 1 to 31, 2018

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	100	100	0		100%	43
Secured	30	30	0		100%	12
TOTAL	130	130	0	3	100%	55
Non-Veteran Census Percent				2	4%	
Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	156	128	28		82%	0
Secured	40	36	4		90%	0
TOTAL	196	164	32	14	84%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				23	11%	
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	231	215	16		93%	0
Secured	26	23	3		88%	0
Personal Care	101	65	36		64%	0
Domiciliary	66	48	18		73%	0
TOTAL	424	351	73	74	83%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				74	12%	
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	51	51	0		100%	22
Secured	32	32	0		100%	14
Personal Care	80	50	30		63%	0
Domiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
TOTAL	183	153	30	21	84%	36
Non-Veteran Census Percent				26	12%	
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant		Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	208	204	4		98%	59
Secured	30	30	0		100%	1
Personal Care	54	51	3		94%	12
TOTAL	292	285	7	16	98%	72
Non-Veteran Census Percent				12	13%	
Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	196	195	1		99%	0
Secured	40	37	3		93%	0
TOTAL	236	232	4	11	98%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				8	14%	
Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	942	893	49		95%	124
Secured	198	188	10		95%	27
Personal Care	235	166	69		71%	12
Domiciliary	86	68	18		79%	0
TOTALS	1,461	1,315	146	129	90%	163
Non-Veteran Census Percent				138	12%	

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVH	5	4%
GMVC	17	11%
HVH	40	12%
PSSH	18	12%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	32	14%
Total	147	12%

RETX- Exempt list(New)

mvfigsqlprod
8/15/2018
rep_VADC_RETX_Exempt_List_New

Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
12438	12169	249	20	89

Summary of Activity from 05/15/2018 to 08/15/2018

Apps Created : 824	
New	517
Review:	307
Apps Approved : 915	
New	539
Review	376
Apps Denied Fin:	73
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	69
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	54
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibility Changed):	170

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	10
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.	17
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.	26
The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs has determined that you did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict and you have a future exam, therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	1
You do not occupy the property for which you have claimed exemption as your principal dwelling.	2
Your disability has not been declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	1

DAUPHIN

915

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Summary of Activity from 5/15/2018 to 8/15/2018

APPS APPROVED	915
NEW	539
REVIEW	376

APPS DENIED	
Financial Need	73
Ineligible	69
No Response	54
Change of Eligibility	170

HH Over Income	202
NEW	139
REVIEW	63

22%
26%
17%

APPS CREATED	824
TOTAL ADJUDICATED	1281

1000 (7)	CALL TO ORDER Invocation Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Ed Burris Vice-Chair Sam Petrovich
1007 (5)	OATH OF OFFICE Misters: Zamosky, Ziltz, Stopyra, Hanzes, Vollrath, Elliot	Brig Gen Regan
1012 (5)	AWARDS/RECOGNITION Misters: Desrosiers, Hanke, Fuhrman, Kennedy, Foresman, Kelley, Powell	Chairman Ed Burris Brig Gen Regan
1017 (2)	Approval of the June 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes	REQUIRES A VOTE
1019 (10)	DMVA Military Update	Brig Gen Regan
1029 (5)	VISN 4 Update	Dr. Michael Adelman
	OLD BUSINESS	
1034 (10)	Bylaws Discussion	Chairman Ed Burris
1044 (3)	DMVA, Chief Counsel	Ms. Elizabeth Pettis
1047 (3)	DMVA, Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs	Mr. Gilbert Durand
1050 (3)	DMVA, Bureau of Veterans Homes	Mr. Andrew Ruscavage
1053 (3)	DMVA, Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO)	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1056 (5)	Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA) DMVA, Division of Services & Programs	REQUIRES A VOTE Mr. Brian Natali
1101 (2)	DMVA, Division of Outreach & Reintegration	Mr. Chip Gilliland
1103 (5)	SVC Bylaw Committee	Mr. Samuel Petrovich
1108 (5)	SVC Act 66 Committee	Mr. Gary Stopyra
1113 (5)	SVC RETX Committee	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
1118 (5)	SVC Legislative Committee	Mr. James Vollrath
1123 (5)	SVC Pensions/Relief/Grave Marking/Military Cemetery Committee	Mr. John Brenner
	NEW BUSINESS	
1128 (4)	December 7 date discussion	Chairman Burris
1132 (10)	Guest Speaker – Easterseals	Mr. Matthew Ernst
	Service Organization Updates:	
1142 (3)	Veterans of Foreign Wars	Mr. Thomas Hanzes
1145 (3)	Catholic War Veterans	Mr. William Wright
1148 (3)	Jewish War Veterans	Mr. Sanford Silver
1151 (3)	American Veterans	Mr. Jeffrey Elliot
1154 (3)	Good of the Order/Announcement	
1157 (3)	Discussion Topics for next meeting	Chairman Ed Burris
	Next Meeting: Friday, October 12, 2018 @ 10:00am Arrowheads Community Club, Annville	
1200	ADJOURNMENT RETIRING OF COLORS	Chairman Ed Burris Vice-Chair Sam Petrovich



Providing equal opportunities for individuals to live, learn, work, and play in their communities.

Serving Our Military Families

- **About Easterseals**
- **Camp Benefits**
- **Activities**
- **Caring Staff**
- **Where We Camp**

Contact Us

Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization. For more information, or to learn how to get involved, contact us today.

- **Enroll In Camp**
- **Volunteer With Us**
- **Make a Donation**



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Therapeutic Recreation Specialist - Camps
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Virginia Anderson

Director of Therapeutic Recreation
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Military Family Programs

Camps for children of currently serving and veteran service members.



www.eastersealswcpenna.org

Easterseals is You. Me. All of us.

About Us

Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania, a 501(c)3 organization, provides exceptional programs and services, in 47 Pennsylvania counties, to ensure that people with disabilities or other special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.



Camp Benefits

We honor our military families and recognize their challenges and special needs. Pennsylvania is home of second largest Army National Guard in the country, with over 20,000 members. Military service members and their families from any branch experience frequent relocations, deployments, and social and educational challenges.

Our camp programs offer peace of mind to families and service members, and a chance for much-needed respite with quality lodging, meals, and engaging activities in scenic locations and diverse activities for all ages (with or without disabilities).

Activities

We love to keep our campers active throughout the whole day. We offer a variety of activities that will appeal to everyone. Activities may include:

- Organized Games
- Arts and Crafts
- Climbing Wall
- Zip Line
- Trails
- Archery
- Campfire & S'mores
- Pool & Gym
- & more

Caring Staff

We are committed to creating a safe and enjoyable environment for campers and staff our camps at a minimum 1:5 counselor to camper ratio.

PROJECT BEACON (5-17 years)old

*FREE co-ed overnight camp for children 5-17 of currently serving and veteran military service members **of any branch.***

2018 CAMP DATES

Dates:
Spring - April 6-April 8
Fall - October 19-October 21
Location: Camp Victory
(Millville, PA - Columbia County)

Cost—FREE

PA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CAMP KIDET (5-17 years)

FREE co-ed overnight camp for children 5-17 of currently serving and veteran military service members of the PA Army National Guard.

2018 CAMP DATES

Dates: June 21-24
Location: Camp Hebron
(Halifax, PA - Dauphin County)

Cost—FREE

Where We Camp

Camp Victory in Millville, PA (Columbia Co.) is a fully accessible 120 acre camp with a pond, zip line, climbing wall, pool, archery, nature center and tree house.

Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA (Dauphin Co.) is a 340 acre camp with trails, lake, pool, climbing wall, ropes course, archery, horses and more.

Camp Krislund in Madisonburg, PA (Centre Co.) is an 800 acre camp with ropes course, climbing wall, pool, gym, zip line, archery, laser tag and more.

Contact us for Pittsburgh camp information.

PA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SUMMER CAMP (7-17 years)

FREE co-ed overnight camp for children 7-17 of currently serving and veteran military service members of the PA Army National Guard.

2018 CAMP DATES

Dates: July 15-20
Location: Camp Krislund
(Madisonburg, PA - Centre Co.)

Cost—FREE

My children have a chance to let their hair down and be with fellow peers who "get" what it's like when Mom or Dad is gone for months on end to serve one's county.

-Alexis, Army spouse and parent

State Veterans Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2018

09:58 AM to 12 ;13 PM

Hollisdayburg Veterans' Home

Duncansville, PA 16635

Call to Order **Chairman Edgar Burris**

The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 09:58 AM by Chairman Edgar Burris.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Commission Introductions

Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli	The Adjutant General
Chairman Edgar Burris	Chairman, State Veterans' Commission
Maj Gen (Ret) Eric Weller	Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs
Mr. John Pliska	Executive Director, AMVETS
Mr. Paul Shipley	Designee, AMVETS
Mr. Thomas Hanzes	Designee, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Edward Hanke	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Samueluel Petrovich	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans/SVC Vice Chairman
Mr. Neil Appleby	President, Blinded Veterans Association
Mr. Henry Desrosiers	President, County Directors for Veterans Affairs Association
Mr. Harold Cooney	President, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Thomas Haberkorn	Commander, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mr. Chris Fidler	Representative, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. William Kelley	Representative, Korean War Veterans
Mr. Robert Hill	Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Kit Watson	Adjutant, American Legion
Mr. Paul Kennedy	Commander, American Legion
Ms. Constance Snavely	Member at Large
Mr. James Powell	Designee, Marine Corps League
Mr. John Cyprian	Member at Large
Mr. John Brenner	Member at Large

Others Present

David Cowgill	VISN 4
Dennis Hare	American Legion
Ray Lentz	American Legion
Philip Lightner	Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
Robert Cudworth	Military Officers Association of America
James Vollrath	American Legion
Matt Zamosky	PACDVA
Kory Auch	OA

Nancy Burris	
Jodi Zucco	Office of Attorney General
Harry Buchanan	Command Sergeant Major - PANG
Dale Bevans	CW5 PANG
Joan Nissley	DMVA-Public Affairs
Elizabeth Pettis	DMVA-CCO
Rick Hamp	DMVA-OVA
Dr. Darryl Jackson	DMVA-BVH
Gene Mizdail	DMVA-BVH
Joel Mutschler	DMVA-PPL
Brian Natali	DMVA-OVA
Chip Gilliland	DMVA-OVA
Janette Krolczyk	DMVA-OVA
Greg Holler	DMVA-OVA
<p>-Chairman Burris introduced Hollisdayburg Veterans' Home Commandant Deborah Nesbella. -Commandant Nesbella welcomed all SVC members and guests to the Home. She informed everyone that at the end of the meeting there would be a short tour available.</p>	
Oath of Office	Major General Anthony Carrelli
<p>General Carrelli administered the Oath of Office to the following newly appointed Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Hill, MOPH 	
Approval of the April 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes	
Motion: Mr. Paul Shipley made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.	
Second: Mr. Edward Hanke seconded the motion.	
<p>-Chairman Burris asked if there was any discussion on the April 6 minutes. -Mr. John Cyprian made a request to amend the April 6 minutes to read that Mr. Paul Kennedy seconded the motion to approve February 2 minutes, not Mr. Kit Watson. -Chairman Burris said all those in favor of approving the minutes as corrected.</p>	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
Military Update	Major General Anthony Carrelli
<p>-General Carrelli noted the Hollisdayburg area has a proud tradition of honoring their Veterans such as the Gold Star family that established the Spec. Chad Edmundson Memorial Foundation. -General Carrelli complimented the extraordinary job HVH is doing, and in particular, under the leadership of Commandant Deborah Nesbella; HVH is the largest of the Veterans homes with many buildings which require a complicated logistical strategy to make everything work along with a dedicated, hardworking staff. He noted that in the near future the face of the Hollisdayburg Home will change with the demolition of an old building and the construction of a new one. -General Carrelli reported the PANG currently has 850 troops mobilized worldwide. The Apache Company will be returning from deployment in the next three weeks and the MP Company will depart in September 2018. -General Carrelli reported the PANG had an extremely busy past couple of weeks due to Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and the Vietnam Wall of Faces resulting in 80 different parades, numerous Veterans' events commonwealth-wide and he thanked all the volunteer organizations that helped to make those events a success. He hoped the momentum of the volunteers to help Veterans will continue into the future. -General Carrelli expressed his gratitude for the good work being done with the women's veteran survey. -General Carrelli reported he had no further information on the budget and didn't know what the final numbers might be; however, he noted the budget is supposed to be on time this year.</p>	
VISN 4	Mr. David Cowgill

-Mr. Cowgill reported he had a few updates to his read-ahead. He noted that every read-ahead will contain information on access, wait time, trust and community care.

-Mr. Cowgill briefed on a VISN4 report conducted by the RAND Corp regarding the comparison of care between VA facilities and non-VA facilities. The reporters utilized facilities that possessed similar characteristics. The report produced an analysis of inpatient and outpatient performance. VA facilities significantly outperformed non-VA facilities, commercial and Medicaid organizations, in 21 of 26 measures.

-Mr. Cowgill noted VA patients who possess a premium account on MyHealthVet can now download, access and share their medical records and images: X-Ray, MRI, Mammograms, etc.

-Mr. Cowgill briefed on a significant benefit to providing health care to Veterans in rural and remote regions of the US by utilizing Telehealth and Virtual Technology which a new federal law now allows VA medical staff to administer.

-Mr. Cowgill reported on Congressional approval of the VA Mission Act which accomplishes five main objectives: 1. Consolidates VA community care programs, 2. Funds existing Veterans choice programs, 3. Creates new flexibility for VA's in managing their infrastructure portfolios. 4. Expands the caregivers program for all era-eligible Veterans, 5. Strengthens VA's workforce; for example: allows for flexibility in positions like cardiology.

-Mr. Cowgill briefed on leadership updates: Dr. Roop is the new Chief of Staff at the Lebanon VAMC, Mr. Petrozzi is the interim director at the VA Butler Healthcare and Mr. Coughenour was appointed associate director at the James E. Van Zandt VAMC in Altoona.

-Several issues were raised: Mr. Kennedy was concerned with the security of the procedure of using a Veterans full name and SSN on the intake bracelet at the Pittsburgh VAMC's radiology department and proper disposal thereof. Mr. Kennedy also raised the issue of Veterans not being able to have their records transferred from private medical contractors to the MyHealthVet database. Mr. John Cyprian reported Veterans who consult with a private medical contractor are complaining the private medical contractor isn't getting paid. Mr. Robert Cudworth reported the level of core health care at the Wilkes-Barre VAMC had diminished. Mr. Cowgill will consult with Dr. Adelman regarding all the issues and report back at the next meeting.

-Mr. Neil Appleby requested information regarding the monthly teleconference Dr. Adelman conducts be more widespread. Mr. Cowgill reported the teleconference had significantly increased in participation. Mr. Cowgill will get more information for Mr. Appleby.

-General Weller stated that he and Mr. Samuel Petrovich are working on an information paper regarding the transport of Veterans.

-Mr. Petrovich said he was delayed in the process due to other commitments but has a list in the making and spoke to several hospitals. He said he now has a volunteer driver for York county.

-General Weller said he would like to have a clear and concise information paper with the ultimate goal of forcing a standardization on all facilities.

-General Weller noted with the advent of Telehealth and more participating medical staff the burden of providing transportation for some of the Veterans to VAMCs will lessen resulting in savings.

OLD BUSINESS

DMVA Chief Counsel **Ms. Elizabeth Pettis**

-Ms. Pettis offered to assist with any questions, but none were asked at that time.

DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs **Mr. Joel Mutschler**

-Mr. Mutschler stated the PPL update was sent to the members in the read-ahead packet.

-Mr. Mutschler reported there will be two legislative committee meetings next week in the house. He said HB2274 isn't of much interest to DMVA and HB1878 concerns employment discrimination of out-of-state PANG and reserve components providing protection for certain health benefits. He said SB978 concerns adding a one or two-star general to the Military Community Enhancement Commission.

DMVA Special Assistant/PIRO Update **Mr. Rick Hamp**

-Mr. Hamp said all materials were in the read-ahead. Mr. Hamp did note the Governor's Advisory Council was doing very good work overall.

DMVA Bureau of Veterans' Homes	Dr. Darryl Jackson
<p>-Dr. Darryl Jackson reported all buildings are now fully licensed. In Philadelphia, some logistical maneuvering was done with long-term care so as to free up some needed beds.</p> <p>-Mr. Gene Mizdail advised Homes Week was coming up and everyone should view the website where the events calendar is posted.</p> <p>-General Weller complimented the service organizations and others for their volunteer work at all the Veterans Homes' for their time and personal costs.</p>	
DMVA Services & Programs	Mr. Brian Natali
<p>-Mr. Natali stated that all program materials were provided as part of the read-ahead and asked for any questions.</p> <p>-Mr. Cyprian inquired as to why the paralyzed pension fund was down due to deaths. Mr. Natali explained the June payment of \$250,000.00 was not included. Mr. Cyprian noted the Education Gratuity Fund was depleted. Mr. Natali stated the fund had received an extra \$5000.00 to cover an increase in eligible dependents.</p>	
Approval of Programs Reports	
Motion: Mr. John Cyprian made a motion to approve the programs reports.	
Second: Mr. John Pliska seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
DMVA Outreach & Reintegration	Mr. Chip Gilliland
<p>-Mr. Gilliland stated that O & R information was provided as part of the read-ahead.</p> <p>-Mr. Gilliland reported on the increased interest for the Korean War book which will be addressed by ordering 1600 to 1700 books for distribution. He informed anyone that would like one to see him after the meeting.</p> <p>-Chairman Burris asked if the county directors would have access to getting the books; Mr. Gilliland said yes.</p> <p>-Chairman Burris stated that before they move onto the committee reports he wanted to thank all of the committee members for their devotion and the good work they do.</p>	
SVC Bylaw Committee	Mr. Samuel Petrovich
<p>-Mr. Petrovich briefed that his committee had finished the Bylaws and thanked Mr. Hamp and all committee members.</p> <p>-Mr. Petrovich noted the section in red regards the members-at-large.</p> <p>-Mr. Petrovich said the draft copy of the Bylaws will be sent to SVC members for their review prior to the September meeting for discussion and vote.</p> <p>-Chairman Burris noted that once everyone had received a copy for review and comment, the September meeting will represent the second reading and a vote will be taken.</p>	
SVC Act 66 Committee	Mr. Ed Hanke
<p>-Mr. Hanke stated this will be his final report and thanked all the committee members.</p> <p>-As his final brief, Mr. Hanke made several recommendations: the committee members should stay in place due to working actively year to year, all organizations that benefit from Act 66 should familiarize themselves with the Act, and the committee should set clear objectives and goals early in the new period.</p> <p>-Mr. Hanke stated the committee had established a full-blown performance metric for what service officers do. He noted the data regarding Veterans who received assistance and compensation was accurate. He noted that using the accounting system Vetraspec provided an accurate and justified report on the funding to the VSOs.</p>	
SVC RETX Committee	Mr. Henry Desrosiers
<p>-Mr. Henry Desrosiers gave an overview of the RETX survey conducted by CCAP.</p> <p>-Mr. Desrosiers said 45 of the 67 counties participated. The target agencies were county, municipal and school taxing authorities and the questions on the survey were all included in the handouts.</p> <p>-Mr. Desrosiers reported the survey revealed the lack of uniformity in application, compliance and clarity. He said those issues must be addressed to bring fairness and equality across all counties for Veterans. Mr. Desrosiers volunteered to remain on the committee to assist that process.</p> <p>-Mr. Robert Hill said he applied and it was effortless with the exception of the local school board. Mr. Desrosiers said school boards can be difficult and problematic. Mr. Hill then related a story about a fellow</p>	

Veteran in his community. Mr. Hill reported when the Veteran's request for tax relief was raised at the local school board meeting, it was openly discussed including the fact the Veteran had a disability. Mr. Hill said a local newspaper reporter was present and all of the Veterans information and request was published. The Veteran was then confronted by his neighbor as to why he didn't have to pay school taxes which created serious distress for the Veteran.

-Chairman Burris asked Chief Counsel Pettis to opine on the legality of what the school board did. Chief Counsel Pettis said school districts are separate entities throughout the state, are numerous, and meetings of school boards are open to the public. However, any medical/health information should not be released by the school board.

-Mr. Petrovich stated the school board solicitor should have prevented the release of the Veteran's medical/health information.

-General Carrelli stated the school board issue of releasing medical/health information needed to be addressed in a concise and measured manner targeting all the school districts statewide through the legislature and Governor's Office. General Carrelli suggested Joel Mutschler and Gilbert Durand begin working on it forthwith.

-General Weller added the PPL and OVA needed to develop a uniform marketing plan to address this issue and implement immediately.

SVC Legislative Committee

Mr. Paul Kennedy

-Mr. Paul Kennedy reported his committee usually "piggybacks" off of the PWVC legislative efforts and believed the committee should continue to do so in the future.

-Mr. Kennedy raised an issue that had been discussed recently at a PWVC meeting which involved Veterans in retirement homes located in western PA who were being scammed by attorneys. Mr. Kennedy described the scheme as follows: Allegedly, lawyers are making contact with Veterans that are living in retirement homes/assisted living and approaching the Veterans about their benefits. The lawyers then solicit the Veterans regarding the benefits and offer to fill out the forms on their behalf. These lawyers are allegedly charging for the filing of the paperwork but not submitting it or, in other cases, taking the benefit as their fee.

-Mr. Cyprian reported the PWVC had spearheaded a scammer's alert regarding a similar situation which the PWVC posted on their website. Mr. Cyprian said the lawyers were billing for the filing fee for benefits and not submitting paperwork and/or charging over 10% of the benefit recovered as a fee; which was illegal.

-Ms. Jody Zucco from the PA OAG stated she had several open investigations of similar complaints and requested the information at the conclusion of the meeting for her to follow up on.

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

Mr. John Brenner

-Mr. John Brenner referenced back to the April meeting where a motion was made to have letters sent in support of HB304 and HB980. Although the letters were sent out, he believe it was discouraging because there wasn't a response. Mr. Brenner asked if Chairman Burris had received any information regarding the letters. Chairman Burris said he had not.

-Mr. Mutschler said legislators usually do not respond back to letters of support/non-support but do take into account what was said.

-General Weller stated Mr. Mutschler will follow up and circle back with information regarding the letters/bills.

-Mr. Cyprian raised an issue regarding who is responsible for the creation and approval of designs for headstones, footstones, grave markings and flag holders. He viewed many different designs for the different eras and suggested the issue needed uniformity.

-Mr. Natali reported as indicated in Title 51 the SVC is in charge of researching and approving the designs and referred to the Persian Gulf design. Mr. Natali said he didn't know how the OEF or OIF were approved. The SVC didn't approve it and noted Title 51 does not get into detailed specificities pertaining to design issues.

-Mr. Cyprian stated he believed the issue needed to be addressed and suggested it be listed for discussion at the next SVC meeting.

SB 1037 Discussion

- Chairman Burris announced that he had no new information concerning SB 1037 since discussed at the previous meeting. Chairman Burris suggested a vote should be conducted.
- Mr. Kory Auch reported the Senate State Government Committee held a meeting a few months ago on SB 1037 and subsequently met with CCAP. CCAP was in support of the bill.
- Mr. Hill stated all SVC members should go home and immediately call their state Senators and House Representatives and tell them to “Kill the Bill.” Mr. Hill feared that any meddling with the civil service commission structure would cause long-term complications resulting in unknown consequences with the testing procedure.
- Mr. Hill then made a dual motion to either vote or table the bill.
- Chairman Burris pointed out the bill had been discussed at the last meeting and tabled.

Motion: Mr. Hill made a motion to table the bill.

Second: Mr. Haberkorn seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

- A discussion ensued regarding the status of SB 1037 being tabled again after having discussed it at the previous meeting. It was pointed out that SB 1037 is now tabled and not open for discussion.
- General Weller pointed out for the sake of clarity whether or not Mr. Hill had wanted to table the bill or hold a vote of non-support and if the members wanted to keep the bill in an open-ended status until a later date. Mr. Hill said that his intention was to have a vote taken for non-support.
- Again a general discussion arose by members on whether or not the tabled bill can be reconsidered.
- Mr. James Powell stated that a tabled motion can be raised; however, it must be done before the end of the meeting.
- Chairman Burris asked if there was a motion to reconsider the tabled bill.

Motion: Mr. Paul Kennedy made the motion to reconsider tabled SB 1037.

Second: Mr. Paul Shipley seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

-Chairman Burris announced SB 1037 was back up for discussion.

Motion: Mr. Hill motioned to not support SB 1037.

Second: There was no second.

The motion died and SB 1037 remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

-Nothing was raised.

Hall of Fame Nomination

- Mr. Cyprian inquired if Medal of Honor winners are automatically received into the PA Hall of Fame.
- Mr. Natali said they are.
- Mr. Appleby said he noticed that two of the listed Medal of Honor recipients had the same last name and wondered if they were related.
- General Weller said that will be looked into.

Motion: Mr. John Cyprian made the motion to induct all 37 Medal of Honor recipients into the Hall of Fame.

Second: Mr. John Brenner seconded the motion.

The body agreed, motion carried.

SERVICE ORGANIZATAION UPDATES

Service Update – Disabled American Veterans

Mr. Edward Hanke

- Mr. Edward Hanke presented four pages of policy and goals that were from the National Office, including some newspaper articles of accomplishments. He will send them to all the members.
- Mr. Hanke then stated the DAV will address the issues of the depleting membership and members-at-large.

Service Update – Catholic War Vets

Mr. William Wright

-Mr. William Wright was not in attendance.

Service Update – Vietnam Veterans of America	Mr. Thomas Haberkorn
<p>-Mr. Haberkorn expressed his continued support of Act 66 and the PWVC’s efforts to secure the funding.</p> <p>-Mr. Haberkorn wants to increase outreaches to incarcerated Veterans to make them aware of their benefits, strengthen efforts to identify homeless Veterans and provide assistance in support of the local chapters’ efforts.</p> <p>-Mr. Haberkorn expressed a need to speed up the civil service procedure so Veterans can more quickly secure a job.</p>	
Service Update – Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America	Mr. Chris Fidler
<p>-Mr. Fidler reported he handed out a newsletter for membership’s consumption.</p> <p>-Mr. Fidler then provided a brief historical overview of how the Paralyzed Veterans of America came into existence and the subsequent formation of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America.</p> <p>-Mr. Fidler noted the strong advocacy of his organization in the area of spinal cord research to bring a better quality of life to Veterans, along with remaining strong advocates for civil rights for Veterans and all paralyzed people.</p>	
Good Of The Order/Announcements	
<p>-Mr. Appleby asked Mr. Mutschler if there had been a decision made on who would be the next Senate member in charge of the VAEP. Mr. Mutschler said he didn’t know.</p> <p>-Mr. Brenner addressed the present and foreseeable future regarding the aging and diminishing membership of all the service organizations. Mr. Brenner believed one of the problems with recruiting younger Veterans was the smoking policy in most of the chapters.</p> <p>-Mr. Brenner discussed how the VFW had brought other service organizations together in an attempt to form a general agreed-upon resolution to address the smoking issue, which would include E-cigarettes.</p> <p>-Chairman Burris had introductions done for new replacement members: Mr. Matthew Zamosky (County Directors-President), Mr. Robert Ziltz, Jr. (MCL-Commandant) and Mr. Thomas Hanzas (VFW-Commander).</p> <p>-General Weller noted he would like to hold an orientation for new members so as to ensure they get off and running in the proper way.</p> <p>-General Weller reported it was true that younger Veterans aren’t joining their local service organizations; however, he said there are a lot of younger Veterans doing great work through different 501 c3’s. Service organizations will have to find a way to draw these Veterans into their sphere.</p> <p>-General Weller encouraged members to speak to the admissions officer after the meeting to gain information on the admissions process. He mentioned that a potential resident could be admitted to a home with an open bed and then be transported to their home of choice as soon as a space became available.</p> <p>- Ms. Constance Snively provided a detailed and informative overview of the Women Veterans survey that had been conducted. Ms. Snively noted the number of participants, their age, category, and responses to the questionnaire.</p> <p>-Ms. Snively announced the upcoming Women Veterans Town Hall being held at the U. S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle on June 30.</p>	
For Next Meeting	
<p>-Chairman Burris announced the slides and read-ahead will be available on the SVC website before the upcoming meetings going forward.</p> <p>-Chairman Burris reported the signed Boalsburg resolution is available to view.</p> <p>-General Weller reported on a little confusion among the PA Senate Appropriations Committee regarding an internal or external comprehensive health care study for PA. DMVA was able to clarify for them, and it will be an external group doing the study.</p>	
Next Meeting	
<p>Friday, Sept. 7th, 2018 Southeastern Veterans Center 1 Veterans Drive Spring City, PA 19475</p>	
Adjournment	

Chairman Burris adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM.

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT