



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

Draft until accepted by full committee at January 2012 meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT: MARSHA FOUR, CHAIR
BEVERLY STEWART
PAT BESSIGANO
SARA MCVICKER
DR. TOM BERGER
LESLIE DELONG
NANCY SWITZER (PRES. AVVA)

SANDY MILLER, VICE CHAIR
DOTTIE BARICKMAN
JOHN WALLACE
PATTI DUMIN
JACQUI RECTOR
MAYNARD KADERLIK
SHARON HODGE

APRIL 2011, COMMITTEE MINUTES: APPROVED

REVIEW CONTACT LISTS OF MEMBERS

REPORT OF THE CHAIR:

- GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT GIVEN BY SANDY MILLER AND SARA MCVICKER. INCREASE IN SPEAKERS AT PLENARY SESSIONS WAS PROFITABLE. MANY OF THE VA WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAM MANAGERS WERE PRESENT. DID FEEL THE VA PRESENTATIONS WERE TOO RUSHED. VVA WAS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUMMIT. WHEN POSTED, YOU WILL FIND THE REPORT ON THE VA CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS WEB PAGE.
- WOMEN VETERAN MEMBERSHIP IS NOW 1031: HIGHEST TO DATE
- ON TARGET WITH BUDGETED EXPENSES.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE URGED TO SIGN ON TO CAPWIZ THROUGH VVA ACTION SIGHT UNDER GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ON THE VVA WEB SITE.
- LEGISLATION
 - S 658/HR1260 – SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS ACT
 - S931/HR1540 – NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
 - HR809 – WOMEN VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS
 - HR930 – AMEND TITLE 38 – IMPROVE PTSD COMPENSATION EVALUATION PROCEDURE
 - HR1928 – WOMEN'S FAIR & EQUAL RIGHT TO MILITARY SERVICE ACT
 - HR2074 – VETERANS SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION ACT

NEW BUSINESS:

- **NEW BUDGET:** CHAIR WILL SUBMIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVE WHEN IT COMES OUT. WILL DEVELOP A DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY13 IN THE COMING WEEKS AND EMAIL TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR REVIEW AND INPUT.
-

- **BPW LETTER OF SUPPORT:** BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF SUBMITTING A GRANT TO AARP AND ASKING FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM VVA. THE GRANT WILL PROVIDE CAREER TRANSITION WORKSHOPS AND ADDRESS FINANCIAL SECURITY NEEDS OF WOMEN REACHING RETIREMENT. PILOT PROGRAM WILL TARGET ALABAMA, GEORGIA AND DC. WITHOUT OBJECTION, A LETTER WILL BE DRAFTED AND FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT ROWAN FOR SIGNATURE. DR. BERGER WILL ALSO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE VETERANS HEALTH COUNCIL.
- **GUEST SPEAKER FOR JANUARY MEETING:** DR. PATRICIA HAYES, VA WOMEN VETERANS STRATEGIC HEALTH CARE GROUP WILL ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON UP DATES.
- **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:** THE CHAIR WILL INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE VA UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS, ALLISON HICKEY, AT THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. PERHAPS VALUABLE FOR A PLENARY SESSION.
- **NEW YORK CITY PARADE:** PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR THE NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE. THIS YEAR'S FOCUS IS ON VIETNAM VETERANS. THERE WILL BE SPECIFIC MARCHING FORMATIONS FOR WOMEN VETERANS. THE CHAIR WILL FORWARD NAMES OF WOMEN VETERANS TO THE NYC UNITED VETERANS WAR COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION.
- **SUICIDES:** SEVERAL QUESTIONS AROSE. WHAT IS THE GENDER, AGE AND RACE SPLIT? IS THERE INFORMATION ON SUICIDE BEING THE END RESULT OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA ASSAULTS? ACCORDING TO HEARINGS IN THE HOUSE, DOD SAYS IT'S GETTING BETTER. WHERE ARE THEY GETTING THEIR DATA AND WHAT DOES THAT DATA INDICATE?
- **MEDALS OF AMERICA:** THEY CONTINUE TO HAVE NO PRODUCTS FOR WOMEN VETERANS. WHEN VETERANS COLLECTIBLES WAS TURNED OVER TO THEM, THEY ASSURED US THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO CARRY WOMEN VETERAN ITEMS. TO DATE, THEY HAVE PROVIDED NOTHING. THEY HAVE ALSO INDICATED IN CONVERSATION THAT THERE IS NO MARKET FOR WOMEN VETERANS PRODUCTS AND THEY WILL NOT BE CARRYING ANYTHING SPECIFICALLY FOR WOMEN. THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE INFORMATION ON VENDORS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE WOMEN VETERAN ITEMS.

MEETING ADJOURNED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MARSHA FOUR, CHAIR