



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

Call to Order: 1415

In Attendance:

Marsha Four, Chair	Sandy Miller, Vice Chair
Dr. Tom Berger	Connie Christensen
Billee Culin	Sara McVicker
Judy Ballentine	Leslie DeLong
Elaine Simmons	Jack Devine, Vice President
Dr. Ed Ryan	Ed Chow
Gregory Hamilton	Beverly Stewart
Carol Schetrompf	

Approval of April 2007 committee Minutes was done by internet vote.

FY 09 Budget Submission Considerations

- Over 70% of budget remains. Additional expenses are forth coming as defined in the committee budget submission to the Finance Committee.
- FY 09 Budget planning has begun. 2008 National VA Women Veterans Summit will be included.

Report of the Chair: Activities

- NPR interview
- AFSCME, Philadelphia Chapter of Coalition of Labor Union Women, Nov. presentation.
- Women Veteran October presentation at local PA Unitarian Church.
- Assisted with verbiage for VVA testimony
- Assisted with VVA letter to VA Secretary Nicholson
- Invited to be member of PA 7th District Veterans Committee (Representative Sestak)
- Working on planning committee for the 2008 National Women Veterans Summit
- Recent contact with Col. Denise Daly - DACOWITS and Dr. Patty Hayes, Acting Director, VA Women Veterans Strategic Healthcare Group. Women Veterans Health Care Handbook 1330.1 expires next year. Dr. Hayes is working on revisions.
- Ordered women veterans VVA banner for the 25th Anniversary Parade
- Prepared a "one page" document on women veterans for Government Affairs Dept.

Continued Business:

- **VA is developing a longitudinal study**
 - 2003 forward, male and female
 - Women's health to be part of study
- **2008 Women Veterans Summit: June**
 - Will include: Workshops, Health expo, Display area, Plenary Sessions
 - Monthly planning conference calls have been ongoing
- **10th Anniversary of WIMSA: November 1-3, 2007**
 - VVA Women Veterans Committee web page has info and links.
- **25th Anniversary of The Wall**
 - A VVA Women Veterans banner will be in parade for those not marching with other groups.

New Business:

- **Women Veterans Health Care Handbook 1330.1** expires next year. Dr. Hayes, Acting Director, VA Women Veterans Strategic Healthcare Group, is working on revisions. She is also waiting on report from VA study by Dr. Yano, which addresses primary care delivery and women veterans. Will have copies of 1330.1 at next committee meeting. Sara McVicker will assist with research of document and forward to Marsha.
- **Convention Resolutions**
 - Beginning process for new resolution considerations
 - Revision of current resolution regarding Women Veteran Program Managers
 - Disparity in WVPM's GS pay grade rating when compared to other "special" program managers. How does this relate to position turnover?
 - Care provided in women health clinics
 - Committee members will consolidate present data and gather information on women veteran health care; its services, utilization, and delivery models for use in development of recommendations for resolutions, legislation, or testimony.
- **Women's Policy Briefing: November 14, 2007**
 - Breakfast in Cannon House Office Building providing information on women veterans
 - We participated last year.
- **Leadership Conference**
 - Dr. Lisa Najavits, author of Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) training, *Seeking Safety*. Plan to partner with PTSD/SA Committee. Learning how to be safe and setting boundaries. Request must be received by Leadership Planning Committee NLT January 1, 2008.
Motion for the Women Veterans Committee to partner with PTSD/SA Committee and request a workshop at the Leadership Conference. Motion by Sara McVicker; second by Billee Culin
- **Web Site**
 - Continually adding information to the web site

Comments/Remarks:

Proposed guest speaker at a future meeting – Susan McCutcheon, Director, Family Services, Women's Mental Health and Military Sexual Trauma

Proposed Committee Membership:

Sandy Miller	Dr. Tom Berger	Connie Christensen
Billee Culin	Sara McVicker	Leslie Delong
Judy Ballentine	Beverly Stewart	Sandie Wilson
Carol Schetrompf	John Wallace	Elaine Simmons - AVVA