



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

ATTENDANCE:

MARSHA FOUR, CHAIR
SANDY MILLER, VICE CHAIR
SARA MCVICKER
LESLIE DELONG
PATTY DUMIN
MIKE KALICHAK, GUEST

DR. TOM HALL
DR. TOM BERGER
BEVERLY STEWART
DOTTIE BARICKMAN
SANDIE WILSON
SHARON HODGE, STAFF

ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL 2010, COMMITTEE MINUTES

GUEST SPEAKER:

**ANU BHAGWATI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SERVICE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK (SWAN)**

SWAN, BEGAN AS A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR NEW WOMEN VETERANS, HAS BROADENED ITS FIRST INTEREST IN TRAUMA AND HEALING TO ADVOCACY AND POLICY FOR WOMEN VETERANS FROM ALL ERAS. ISSUES FOR SWAN INCLUDE; "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY; ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS; EDUCATION ABOUT WOMEN IN COMBAT; DISCRIMINATION; AND MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA. SWAN IS PLANNING A MST CONFERENCE. TOM HALL DISCUSSED THOUGHTS OF OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS CONFERENCE. WILL CONTINUE DIALOG IN THIS REGARD.

GUEST SPEAKER:

**BARBARA PITMAN, BENEFITS SPECIALIST
DC OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

MS. PITMAN DISCUSSED THE UP-COMING EVENT AT TRINITY COLLEGE IN DC: WOMEN VETERANS ROCK... "PUTTING THE FACE OF WOMEN ON VETERANS DAY". HELD 1-3PM ON VETERANS DAY, SHE HOPES IT WILL BE AN ANNUAL EVENT.

COMMITTEE BUDGET REVIEW: ON TARGET FOR EXPENSES

REPORT OF THE CHAIR:

- PARTICIPATED IN 2 VA DOCUMENTARY
- CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS
- HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS
- VA WOMEN VETERAN'S FORUM
- BPWF WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT
- PROVIDED INPUT ON VVA TESTIMONY
- 2011 VA WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT, PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

- CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS REVIEWED. WILL UP-DATE LANGUAGE.
- RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SITE VISITS CONTINUES TO BE COMPILED
- WEB SITE RECOGNITION CORNER: CONTINUE TO REQUEST STORIES

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSIDERATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES WHICH ARE DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY NOVEMBER 15TH.