



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes

Friday, April 21, 2006

Meeting called to order at 2:20 PM

In attendance:

Marsha Four, Chair	Sandy Miller, Vice Chair
Dr. Tom Berger	Bob Maras
Connie Christensen	Linda Schwartz
Alta Milling	Dottie Barickman
Billee Culin	Sandie Wilson
John Wallace	Annie Pancrazio, AVVA Liaison
Sharon Hodge, VVA Staff Liaison	

Guest: Linda Petty, Officer in Charge, VBA Seamless Transition
Walter Reed Army Hospital
Jack Devine, VVA National Vice President
Nancy Nix
Tom Devlin
John Margowski

Motion #06-02: to Accept minutes of January 2006 Committee Meeting as presented. Motion by Bob Maras; Second: Tom Berger; Motion carries.

Presentation of Linda Petty

Benefits Counselors and VA Social Workers at Walter Reed and Bethesda
Claims submitted in time frame appropriate to the individual.
VA benefits available to them upon discharge.
Retention on active duty is option for all .
Contact local Regional Offices when returning home for convalescent leave.
VocRehab on site for immediate eval.
Average age of amputee: 18-24; 80% of casualties are E-3s & E-4s
Increase in double and triple amputees. Vet Center referrals; \$11,000 automobile grants
Under VocRehab, blinded veterans are offered guide dog services and training.
Housing modifications and adaptive housing grants available
“Learning Lunches” provided on a regular basis
Education on what to do before leaving military hospital & what to expect from local VA.
Goal to make sure all soldiers feel they are getting treated equally
Traumatic SGLI – \$25,000 - \$100,000 based on injury. Financial counseling for SGLI.

Budget:

Was submitted and approved with minimal alterations.

Report of the Chair:

To be a workshop presenter at the Annual National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in June.
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans working on recommendations for submission to the Secretary.

New born care legislation – no new or recent movement.

Please visit our web page. Send information for considered inclusion on the web page to Chair

Possible presentation on VBA Women Veteran Coordinator Program at October meeting.

Old Business:

Leadership Conference:

Alta Millings project on History on Women in the Military. Discussion ensued concerning the need to re-address a possible workshop inclusion at Leadership Conference. **Motion to reconsider our seminar for the Leadership Conference. Motion by Billee Culin; second by Tom Berger.**

Passed without objection.

Discussion:

Tom Berger stated study being done by Kansas State University student on relationships involving traumatic experiences.

Financial effect of lost income on the military families who suffer from the outcome of domestic violence when charges are filed and individual is found guilty. Consideration needs to be made for emergency funds to sustain their remaining family members.

NAACP convention in DC.

Sharon Hodge attended a briefing on Domestic Violence and Sexual Trauma. Sharon provided the committee with a handout on the bill (HR3837)

John Wallace, President, Maine State Council, during a program his state council held, related that the ME State Council paid membership dues for 14 Women Veterans to join American Women Veterans organization.

Honoring Women's History Month, Women of Distinction, book sponsored by NY State Senate. Ned Foote, NY State Council President will try to obtain copies for the committee. Tom Berger indicated that Missouri has a similar book and will try to get copies. Linda Schwartz also indicated Connecticut did the same thing.

Chair on behalf of Committee will get a small bookcase for the Harbison Room at the National Office to be used as the repository of Committee and Women Veterans information that has been accumulated in the past.

Adjourned 4:10PM
Respectfully Submitted
Marsha Four, Chair