



In Service to America

# *Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.*

## **Women Veterans Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER: 2:15PM

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 07, COMMITTEE MINUTES: ACCEPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.

IN ATTENDANCE:      MARSHA FOUR, CHAIR                      SANDY MILLER, VICE CHAIR  
                                 DR. TOM BERGER                                      SANDIE WILSON  
                                 CONNIE CHRISTENSEN                                      BILLEE CULIN  
                                 BOB MARAS    JUDY BALLENTINE  
                                 JOHN WALLACE

GUESTS:      KEN HOLYBEE                      SUSAN EDGERTON, VVA STAFF  
                                 MARIAN ALVIAR                      DR. ED RYAN  
                                 JOHN MARGOWSKI                      JACK DEVINE, VVA, VP

PRESENTER: DR. PATRICIA HAYES, ACTING CHIEF CONSULTANT, WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP

REVIEW CONTACT LISTS OF MEMBERS

PRESENTATION:

- o DR. PATRICIA HAYES, ACTING CHIEF CONSULTANT, WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP
- o VIETNAM ERA WOMEN ARE THE SMALLEST GROUP OF WOMEN RECEIVING CARE
- o MISSING ISSUES RELATIVE TO THAT GROUP
- o PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MAMMOGRAMS AND GYN
  - o MAKING SURE THE TESTS ARE AVAILABLE
- o ASKED FOR CONCERNS THE COMMITTEE MIGHT HAVE
  - o APPROPRIATE TREATMENT FOR WOMEN FOR NON SEXUAL PTSD
  - o VET CENTER CAPACITY TO HANDLE COMBAT RELATED PTSD IN WOMEN
  - o OVERLAYING SUBSTANCE ABUSE
  - o NO WOMEN PROGRAMS FOR DUAL DIAGNOSIS TREATMENT
  - o BRINGING TOGETHER OF GROUP OF NEW ERA VETERANS AS A FOCUS GROUP TO ADDRESS WHAT THEY FEEL THEY NEED OR WANT
  - o OLDER WOMEN VETERANS HAVE HIGHER RATES OF PTSD
- o CHANGES TO WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM MANAGER (WVPM) POSITION (VHA HANDBOOK 1330.02, MARCH 28, 2007)
  - o DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
    - NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL WVPM AND THE SUPERVISOR
    - TAILORED TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES
- o WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM HEALTH SERVICES HANDBOOK (VHA HANDBOOK 1330.01) IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REWRITTEN

- 4<sup>TH</sup> INPATIENT PTSD UNIT SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED
- 17% CURRENT SERVING IN IRAQ ARE WOMEN
- BY 2010 10% OF THOSE USING THE VA WILL BE WOMEN
- 37% OF THE WOMEN CURRENTLY BEING DISCHARGED ARE USING THE VA

#### FY 08 BUDGET SUBMISSION/PROPOSED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

- SUBMITTED \$5,825
- APPROVED \$5,485

#### REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- WORKED WITH PTSD SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE ON A NEW RESOLUTION THAT VVA SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE VA HAS BOTH THE ABILITY AND THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE GENDER-SPECIFIC IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT CARE AND TREATMENT FOR COMBAT-RELATED PTSD, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO WOMEN VETERANS AND THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN THIS POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC IN LIGHT OF THE EXPANDED ROLE OF WOMEN OF TODAY'S MILITARY.
- WORKED WITH HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
- WORKED WITH VA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS ON ISSUES FOR SUBMISSION IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORT
- DID A RADIO INTERVIEW WITH GARY LILLIE OF MICHIGAN
- WORKING ON SOME FUNDING FOR REDESIGN AND PRINTING OF WOMEN'S BROCHURE
- WORKED WITH PRESIDENT ROWAN ON A CERTIFICATE AND LETTER OF RECOGNITION FOR A NYC VETERAN

#### CONTINUED BUSINESS:

- CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS
  - RESOLUTIONS REMAIN THE SAME AND WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD
- SPEAKER FOR CONVENTION BREAKFAST
  - TAMMY DUCKWORTH, DIRECTOR OF THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- WEB SITE
  - FORWARD ANY ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MARSHA AND SHE WILL HAVE THEM PUT ON THE WEB SITE.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WIMSA
  - NOVEMBER 1 – 3, 2007
    - NOVEMBER 1 - GALA DINNER
    - NOVEMBER 2 – REUNION
    - NOVEMBER 3 – ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY
      - DEDICATION OF THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF VIETNAM WOMEN VETERANS
      - LOOKING AT VVA AS A SPONSOR FOR THE DISPLAY
- 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL
  - NOVEMBER 10 – PARADE
    - OPTION OF MARCHING WITH CHAPTERS, STATE COUNCILS OR BEHIND THE WOMEN VETERANS BANNER

- NEED TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE TENTS ON THE MALL
- 2008 WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT
  - MARSHA IS ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
  - SUBCOMMITTEES IN PLACE
  - NO DETERMINATION OF HOTEL AS OF YET
  - PLENARY SESSIONS
  - BREAK OUT SESSIONS
  - EXHIBITS
  - HEALTH EXPO
  - JUNE 20 –22, 2008 IN WASHINGTON
  - VSO CONTRIBUTIONS

COMMENTS/REMARKS:

- WILL BE HAVING AN INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERING OF WOMEN VETERANS DURING THE CONVENTION