



Alaska VA Healthcare System (463)
1201 N. Muldoon Road
Telephone Number: 907-257-4949 or Toll Free 1-800-353-7574
Fax Number: 907-257-6774
January 11, 2017
1pm - 2pm

VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Jeanne Fox, Chief, Voluntary Service

Invocation: Mrs. Blankenship

Pledge of Allegiance: Elexzanderia Carr

Review of Minutes: October 26, 2017 minutes were approved as written.

Staff present: Mr. Thomas Steinbrunner, Associate Director; Cynthia Joe, Chief of Staff; Jeanne Fox, Chief, Voluntary Service; Alfredo Stokes, Jr., Voluntary Service Specialist

Discussion:

Mr. Thomas Steinbrunner gave a brief overview of the Alaska VA staffing goals. Over the next year, the VA is looking to increase staff from 600 to 650. He also discussed the rate differences between Choice Program and the use of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and how there is a significant cost savings based on the Joint Venture with JBER. Mr. Steinbrunner announced that the Alaska VA received the official announcement of Anchorage hosting the National Veterans Golden Age Game in June 2019 and the need for volunteers will be enormous.

Dr. Cynthia Joe noted that there is a full-time optometrist at JBER, Andrew Adamich and Dr. Rebecca Musick is seeing patients at the VA clinic Tuesday through Thursday. The VA hired three new providers in Primary Care. She also stated that GI procedures have moved to JBER due to on-going VA facility repairs.

Events Schedule:

February 10, 2018 "Rip the Runway" Event canceled as of January 25th, 2018

February 11 – 17, 2018 National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

Wants/Needs:

Donations for GPF #4407 Emergent Needs

VAVS Committees:

None schedule for facility

Old Business:

Women Program Manager – Laura McKenzie

Provide updated letters for Representatives/Deputy Representative

Complete Annual Training (for all those that volunteer through the VA)

2018 National Events Schedule posted to VA Website

Partnership Programs are continuing throughout the community

NSDAR, Col John Mitchell Chapter (POC: Janet) on Nov. 8, 2017 (thank you)

American Legion Auxiliary, Peter Creek Unit 33 (POC: Marge) on Nov. 9, 2017 (thank you)

GPFs donations, please be sure to specify what GPF number that restricted donations are to be deposited into.

VA Open House – Nov. 1, 2017 was a huge success

Feeding Veterans – Nov. 14, 2017 feed more than 250 veterans to include Domiciliary.

Women Veterans Program/Celebration Nov. 9, 2017 (2p.m.- 6 p.m.) 104 in attendance.

Inpatient visitations at JBER hospital – still pending.

Partnership Program - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC signed on Jan 20, 2018 by Dr. Ballard

New Business:

Project Homeless Connect on Jan. 24, 2018 at Eagan Center from 10 am – 3 pm VA will have tables at this event.

Red Coat Ambassador Program is starting with two Volunteers selected from current volunteer staff, training is in-progress, 12 vest order (6 men and 6 women) through VCS.

Ruff Carpet Event on Feb. 10, 2018 Event “canceled as of Jan. 25, 2018”

National Salute to Veteran Patient Week is Feb. 11-17, 2018; organizations were encouraged to provide additional volunteers during this week.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival – Local Competition begins Jan. 1 – Feb 15, 2018

Received 23 volunteer applications/packages 1st Qtr. (Oct – Dec 2017) completed 6.

“Thank You” to the DAV for the donation received for the Holiday Tree and decorations purchases; replaced old tree being held together with duck-tape.

“Thank You” to VFW for the 25 Thanksgiving Meals and 50 Holiday Meals (boxed) that were distributed to Veterans and their Families.

Questions:

Members request that all flyers be resent for upcoming events. Voluntary Services will ensure all flyers are sent out in a timely manner.

Margaret Blankenship wanted to know about billing of Medicare vs. VA.

Mr. Steinbrunner stated that VA does not bill other Federal Agencies.

Pam Beale, asked “Does the VA offer any information/classes on turning 65 years old and Medicare?” The VA does not recommend Veterans cancel or decline coverage in Medicare. The VBA has an Elderly Veterans Outreach Coordinator who is a resource Veterans can use to discuss their unique situations. Additionally, the Social Security Administration and Center for Medicaid and Medicare may have additional resources Veterans may want to consult in order to address issues.

Rita Conley, wanted to know if the referrals are still taking over 30 days?
Dr. Joe stated that yes some continue to exceed 30 days and to contact ICS.

Gene Horner and Pam Beale added that the “Have Time to Honor a Vet” is a good way to honor our Veterans. (flyer will be sent out)

Federal Holidays:

Feb 19, 2018 – Presidents’ Day (VA Closed)
May 28, 2018 – Memorial Day (VA Closed)
July 4, 2018 – Independence Day (VA Closed)
September 3, 2018 – Labor Day (VA Closed)
October 8, 2018 - Columbus Day (VA Closed)
November 12, 2018 – Veterans Day (VA Closed)
November 22, 2018 – Thanksgiving (VA Closed)
December 25, 2018 – Christmas Day (VA Closed)

Upcoming Events:

Veteran Town Hall Fairbanks – February 1, 2018
Fairbanks National Guard Armory 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Veteran Town Hall Juneau – February 27, 2018
Juneau Army National Guard Armory 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Veteran Town Hall Kenai – February 15, 2018
Kenai Visitor & Cultural Center 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic – Registration – Aug. 1 – Nov 20, 2017
Snowmass, CO – Apr 1 – 7, 2018
National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Registration – Jan 1 – Apr 15, 2018
Orlando, FL – Jul 30 – Aug 4, 2018
Ruff Carpet Event – February 10, 2018; Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dena’ina Civic Center and Convention Center Event canceled as of 01/25/2018
National Veterans Golden Age Games – Registration – Apr – 2 – May 2, 2018
Albuquerque, NM – Aug 3 – 8, 2018
National Disabled Veterans Tee Tournament – Registration – Dec 1, 2017 – Apr 1, 2018
Iowa City, IA - Sep 10 – 14, 2018
National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic – Registration – Nov 1 – Apr 1, 2018
San Diego, CA – Sep 16 – 21, 2018
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival – Local Competition begins Jan 1, 2018
National Level Submission end Mar 23, 2018
Des Moines, IA - Oct 29 -Nov 4, 2018

Certifications:

AMVETS required for Deputy Representative

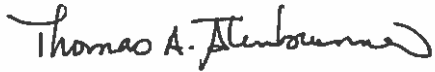
Annual Joint Reviews:

January - AMVETS
February – Military Order of the Cootie

March – American Ex-POWs, Knights of Columbus The Salvation Army, United Voluntary Service

Adjournment/Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 2, 2018 (1 p.m. to 2 p.m.) in the Alaska VA Outpatient Clinic (Room 2D101/103/105).



THOMAS A. STEINBRUNNER, FACHE
Associate Director
Chair, VAVS Committee



JEANNE M. FOX, MAM
Chief, Voluntary Service
Deputy Chairperson, VAVS Committee

VAVS Committee
Fiscal Year 2018 Cumulative Attendance Listing
Alaska VA Healthcare System

Organization	Title	Appointment Expiration	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	FY to Date Organizational Representation Percentage
Alaska Disabled Veteran Sports Program							
William Campbell		Dec 31, 2019	P	P			100%
Meredith Townsend		Dec 31, 2019	A	A			0%
American Legion							
Chris Vrabel	R	IND	P	P			100%
Ed Wesley	D	IND	A	A			0%
American Legion Auxiliary							
Marge Blankenship	R	IND	P	P			100%
Darlene Sheldon	D	IND	P	A			50%
Marjorie Noble	D	IND	A	A			0%
Laurie Scott	D	IND	A	A			0%
Susan Caswell, Honorary	R	IND	P	P			100%
AMVETS							
Terri Good	R	July 31, 2018	P	P			100%
Stacy Catania	D	Resigned Oct 3, 16	A	A			0%
AMVETS Auxiliary							
Nancy Mattson	R	IND	P	A			50%
Rosella Young	D	IND	A	A			0%
Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks							
Laura Sherman	R	IND	P	A			50%
Joel Hembach	D	IND	P	A			50%
Cutter Tam Pagusa (FNB)	R	IND	A	A			0%
Elizabeth "Betty" Robillard	D	IND	A	A			0%
Rickey R. Mourek (Kenai)	R	IND	A	A			0%
Paul J. Whitney	D	IND	A	A			0%
Kathi A. Johns (Wasilla)	R	IND	A	A			0%
Bugles Across America							
Gene Horner	R	Aug 31, 2019	P	P			100%

Disabled American Veterans						
Pamela Beale	R	Dec 31, 2018	P	P		100%
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary						
VACANT			A	A		
Forty and Eight						
Merle Meisinger	R	IND	A	A		0%
National Society Daughters of American Revolution						
Janet C. Starkey	R	August 31, 2019	A	A		0%
Carolyn J. Engstrom	D	August 31, 2019	A	A		0%
Gail G. Cederberg		*Not Certified	A	A		0%
Knights of Columbus						
John Lopetrone	R	IND	P	A		50%
Gerald Rapp	D	IND	A	A		0%
American Red Cross						
Rita Conley	D	IND	P	P		100%
Lions Club Int.						
VACANT						
The Salvation Army						
Major Barbara Schneider	R	IND	A	A		0%
Major Pamela Markham	D	IND	A	A		0%
United Voluntary Service						
VACANT						
Veterans of Foreign Wars						
Joseph Simms	R	IND	A	A		0%
David Lenelin	D	IND	A	A		0%
Herman Schmidt	D	IND	A	A		0%

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary						
Barbara Melnick	R	IND	P	P		100%
Dawn Bundick	D	IND	A	A		0%
Betty Keao	D	IND	A	A		0%
Francisca Guilford	D	IND	P	A		50%
Gerldine Kottre	D	IND	A	A		0%
Tina Stoddard	D	IND	A	P		50%
Combat Vets Motorcycle Association						
VACANT	R		A	A		0%
George Jarrett	D	*Not Certified	A	A		0%
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc.						
Tim Kavanaugh		*Not Certified	A	A		0%

Symbols: R Representative, D Deputy Representative, P Present, A Absent, * Not Certified
E Excused, IND Indefinite

The name of the member organization will be removed from the Cumulative Attendance Record when the organization has not been represented at three (3) consecutive meetings of the medical center VAVS Advisory Committee by a certified representative or deputy representative(s). The name of the organization will be reinstated on the Cumulative Attendance Record on the certification to the Medical Center Director of the name of the new representative(s) or written assurance of regular attendance and effective participation of the prior appointees by the nationally authorized Certifying Officials.