

Holly Area Veterans' Resource Center (HAVRC)

Meeting Minutes –May 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

In attendance: Joe Mishler, Art Ingraham, Joe Riker (Veteran Caseworker and Outreach for Congressman Mike Bishop), Ina Golden, Ray Pfenning, and Pam Krantz. Mike Mishler joined us later.

Agenda: Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Fundraiser, Outreach, Statistics from Oakland County Service Officers, Survivor Outreach Luncheon, Upcoming Events, Proposed Classes/Meetings

Minutes – accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report – reviewed and accepted without correction.

Fundraiser – We are partnering with McDonald's of Holly May 16, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a fund raiser; 15% of all sales and 100% of all cookie sales will be donated to HAVRC. McDonalds will make the flyers to advertise the event and we can hand out our brochures inside and outside the restaurant. We will order more brochures from Ferguson Printing. Pam and Ina volunteered to work at the event.

Outreach

1. Holly Village Council Meeting – Joe Mishler and Ina Golden gave a presentation on the survey, history, need, availability of Service Officers from Oakland County, and examples of people helped at the April 25, 2017 meeting; brochures were given to the audience as well as Council members.
2. We were able to procure a ribbon rack and ribbons/medals for a Veteran's family – many years ago the ribbons/medals had been stolen and attempts to obtain replacements were unsuccessful. The now deceased Veteran had kept a detailed notebook of his military memoirs and now, with his earned ribbons/medals, the complete information will confer a thorough historical record for his descendents. Joe Mishler explained to the daughter the meanings of the ribbons/medals that were awarded to her Army Veteran Father for which she was extremely grateful.

Statistics from Oakland County Service Officers – Received May 2, 2017. Projected annual Veterans' benefits awarded by the VA from Oakland County Service Officers' presence at the Holly Area Veterans' Resource Center - \$170,273.49. Financial community impact (based on Oakland County's 5.2 multiplier) is **\$885,422.14**. We estimate this figure to rise as the Oakland County Service Officers have doubled their presence in Holly (first *and second* Tuesdays of the month) and additional Veterans and their families visit the center. Also, more Veterans are aware of presumptive illnesses from Agent Orange and the possibility of receiving benefits from their military service in Viet Nam. Phone calls from Veterans have doubled since we began the Center 14 months ago – they average 10-12 per week. Oakland County is now advertising

HAVRC dates/times on their web page. The monetary awards to the disabled Veterans have improved the quality of their lives, as several Veterans have remarked to us. Uncosted benefits in the form of a friendly and safe place for Veterans to congregate, talk, and receive information have been observed and mentioned as well.

Survivor Outreach Luncheon– Together with Mark Downing, VA Survivor Outreach and retired Air Force member, we are planning a picnic luncheon. Invitees will be widows and widowers who have lost their Veteran spouses. Date is sometime in July or August.

Upcoming Events:

1. July 29, 2017 - Chaplain Jennifer Smith and the V.F.W. will hold a service at the Veterans National Cemetery in Holly to honor female Veterans.
2. We are planning a Veterans' Resource Fair. Vendors will include 15-20 groups who help Veterans – there will be no charge for a table. The event will be open to Veterans and their families. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we will hold it this September.
3. We will ask to be on the Holly Area School Board agenda to give a presentation similar to the ones given to local governments at their scheduled meetings.

Proposed Classes/Meetings at HAVRC – suggestions are CPR/AED, First Aid, local government information, VA benefits, organize a card party, stories on military life, WWI centennial – historical perspective, and others

Next meeting Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ina J. Golden, Secretary