

West Suburban Veterans' Services District – July 24th, 2017

Location: Wellesley Town Hall, Great Hall

Present: Kate Fitzpatrick, Blythe Robinson, and John Senchyshyn

Also present: Sarada Kalpee, and Sally Rose

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Business:

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Senchyshyn and seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick, the Board voted (3-0) to approve the minutes of the April 3rd, 2017 meeting.

3. Director's Update

Ms. Kalpee asked if there were any issues regarding her monthly outreach event reports. She said the introductory letters, sent to Veterans in all four towns, have been very successful; resulting in 10 new VA claims a month. The Korean Veterans have been honored to receive the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal. Mr. Senchyshyn mentioned a veteran who needed hearing aids and wanted someone to vouch for his having served in the military. A Wayland Veteran, who had worked with him on a ship, vouched for his service. Regarding future outreach events Ms. Kalpee mentioned that November was going to be war movie month. The days she is in each town a movie will be shown and light refreshments served. This is being done in coordination with each town's COA. Wellesley's community read will be the book *Civilianized* by Michael Anthony. A panel discussion will take place featuring veterans. Both the town and MA Bay Community College participate in this program. Ms. Kalpee said that MA Bay has 120 veterans. How this discussion is going to run is still being determined. In conjunction with Needham Parks and Recreation Department, WSVD will host its 2nd Annual Veterans' Fair on October 21st, the same day as the Spooky Walk. On November 8th Ms. Kalpee will be visiting the Tenacre Elementary School where students from grade 6 and below write letters to local Veterans, to be mailed on October 16th. On November 8th the school plans to invite the Veterans to visit. Mrs. Robinson mentioned that Ken Burns has created a new series on Vietnam.

Regarding office hours, the only change Ms. Kalpee plans to make is alternating between Needham and Wellesley on Mondays. Starting on July 31st she will be in Needham, followed by Wellesley when she returns from training on August 18th.

Discussion followed regarding the FY18 budget. At the April 3rd meeting the Board had decided to keep the proposed \$198,202 budget, even though personal services for FY18 would only comprise two staff members. The \$10,397.19 remaining from FY17 will be distributed, by population, to each town's CH115 accounts. Ms. Rose will invoice each community for their share of the \$198,202 operating budget.

Ms. Kalpee expressed interest in having a District Van in which to transport veterans to appointments. Mrs. Robinson said this is something that needs further discussion. The van would require a lift or ramp for wheelchair access. Perhaps the District could partner with the COA to provide transportation. Wayland Veterans have called and Ms. Kalpee has driven them to appointments in her personal car. Mrs. Robinson cautioned that providing transportation involves some liability. Ms. Kalpee commented that the CH115 recipients are down to 7. She said that she will be gone for military training from August 7-18. Mrs. Fitzpatrick mentioned that Norfolk County has a VSO who perhaps could help out when she is gone. Ms. Kalpee said she has been to some Norfolk County VSO quarterly meetings, but she doesn't foresee the Norfolk County VSO staffing office hours. Ms. Kalpee said she would disseminate a list of VSOs who are willing to answer questions while she is out.

Mrs. Rose commented that Purple Heart Day is Monday, August 7th. Needham, Wayland and Wellesley have all been designated Purple Heart Communities so the Purple Heart flag should be flown on August 7th. Mrs. VanderClock was not at the meeting. Last year she had expressed the desire to make Weston a Purple Heart community.

4. Old/New Business

The Board agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m. in Wellesley Town Hall's Great Hall.

At 4:50 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.