Veteran Advisory Board Minutes, May 11, 2022

In Attendance:

• Ken Slininger, AL Post 183, Chair
• Gary Bracht, At-Large, Vice Chair
• Eileen Boylston, WorkSource, Secretary
• Tom Moncrief, AL Post 28
• Jim Brakebill, AL Post 157
• Ken Weston, AL Post 209
• Phil Anderson, VFW Post 24
• Joanna Gallegos, At-Large
• Trevor Rollins, CVMA 11-2

Absent: John Nordine, At-Large

Grant County Representative:
• Jerry Gingrich, Deputy Clerk 2

Guests:
• Lea Zikmund
• Ray Boylston
• Barbara Vasquez
• Tony Garcia
• Brittany Lutz

1. Approval of Previous Minutes VAB - approved

2. Veterans Court Discussion Tom Mathis – Did not show; discussed briefly that the biggest challenge will be the mentorship aspect.

3. StoryCorps Presentation Lea Zikmund – Explained what they are about, are in our area for the month of July to compile stories from individuals in Grant County; stories are archived in Washington DC, individuals are provided a copy of their story. They can elect to not have their story archived.

4. County Update: Jerry
   • 2022 Budget Update - reviewed budget, burials still the biggest expense.
   • VSO Update – VAB Conducted an informal interview with Tony Garcia after the regular public meeting closed.

5. Reports: Stand Down – Formed the Stand Down Committee: Ken, Gary, Trevor, and Eileen. Will have first meeting in June, date TBD. Handed out Stand Down flyers to the VAB to start putting out in the communities. Noted also that we should provide the flyer to the various Chambers.

6. Updates:
• AL Post 28: They do a Game Night on Wednesdays – 6pm-8pm, a different game every week. Also do steak night. Continue to assist veterans in the community filing claims, connecting to health coverage, and obtaining DD214s.
• AL Post 157: They did a rodeo and parade. Continue to do blood drives and assist with the food bank. Work with the Boy Scouts. Have a potential site for the Veteran Memorial.
• AL Post 183: Discussed Memorial Day Services. Planning a cookout for veterans in July, will confirm later. Phil mentioned one they did at the Lavender Farm, said it was an excellent location; and he could get a hold of his Auxiliary to help.
• AL Post 209: Noted that the Commander needed to be changed to Jim Beck. Open Tues, Wed & Fri, 2pm to 7pm; open Sat 1pm to 7pm; Sun is open for breakfast, 9am to 11am, close at 3pm. Have a steak night the first Friday each month. May 20th will be having Halibut (Fish & Chips). Sun is open for breakfast, 9am to 11am, close at 3pm. Noted on Memorial Day weekend at the Springfest, Junior ROTC and 209 will lead the parade.
• VFW Post 24: Noted that they have new officers. That the Auxiliary are helping the Ukrainians that have relocated here recently. They are also working on the Garden Box Project with the High School Advisor.
• CVMA 11-2: Provided a handout of what they have been doing and what they are planning. (Will email this to everyone Monday, I need to scan it and am working from home today.)
• Worksource: Reminded all about the Big Bend Job Fair occurring on May 12th, provided handout of the employers attending. Let VAB know about the Job and Resource Fair at Pybus Market in June.
• At-Large Update Joanna, Gary – nothing at this time.

7. Old Business:

• County Veterans Memorial. Noted the Fairgrounds would be a good location.
• Veterans Court. Speaker did not show up, but very briefly noted that we can look at combing with the drug court the county is already putting together. Phil noted that we don’t have a recent count of how many veterans we have in Grant County.

8. New Business / Good of the Order/Announcements:

• Jerry asked that he be notified if anyone on the roster is incorrect.
• Jerry asked that donations for the Stand Down be stored at the posts, and he can arrange to pick up.

9. Next regularly scheduled board meeting:

• Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 – 4:00 pm - Grant County Courthouse