



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial
October 19, 2016

Minutes

Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia,
Brian Leen, Chris Timm, and Mike Scramski
SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

Those Excused:

Steve Overman, Pat Gaston, Jonathan Strawn,
and Martin Ethridgehill

Guests:

LeRoy M. Candelaria – Torrance County; Board of County Commissioners
Alan Martinez - Deputy Cabinet Secretary at NM Dept of Veteran Services
Bob Wooley – Chairman NM Veterans Affairs Committee; New Mexico House of Representatives

I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:03 am

II. Review and Accept of Minutes from September 21, 2016

- The motion to accept the September minutes was approved.
- No changes or corrections

III. Presentation

Alan Martinez and Bob Wooley were introduced to the group.

- Bob Wooley informed the group of a meeting in Santa Fe on November 1 & 2 that would be reviewing bills to see which ones the Veterans Affairs would like to endorse.
- It was announced that February 18 is the deadline to introduce a new bill however, if a bill waits that long, it is difficult to get the bill through. It is better to introduce a new bill much sooner.
- Panhandling was brought up and Bob Wooley informed the group that there are approximately 5 million jobs that go unfilled each year, because there aren't enough qualified applicants. Those panhandling fall under this unqualified category.
- Alan Martinez announced that the NM Department of Veteran Services was tracking a few pieces of Legislations. One being the Combat Scholarship Program. This program will pay for all tuition and books for qualified applicants, but it will be a limited program. The application process begins in July and is shut down in September. To be eligible for this program, applicants have to have exhausted their GI bill.
 - The NM Department of Veteran Services is looking at the caps and ways to work this bill.
- Amendments to existing Veteran's Act, they are looking to clean up the language and are reviewing the budget to protect it.
 - This Act provides partial funding to the VFW, Purple Hearts, DAV, and others at \$25 thousand each organization. Without the protection of the Act they may lose the funding.
- It was stated that New Mexico has come so far in fighting for our Veterans to let setbacks bring us back down.

IV. Public Comments

- No public comments were made.

V. Unfinished Business

- Roger informed the group there are no new updates on the coins.
- Roger updated the group that the hiring process has no new changes. Albuquerque is still at a 10-12% rate.
- The group was reminded that there are still open positions on the Board. There are four spaces open.

- Roger updated the Board that the Veteran Wall's being installed at Senior Centers is complete. Starting in 2017 the walls will be re-visited to add any Veterans who were not placed on the first round.
 - The criterion is they must be a veteran and a member of that Senior Center; being on the wall is voluntary.
- Upcoming Events
 - October 29 was the Navajo Code Talkers Monument dedication ceremony.
 - Veteran's Day is November 11 and will have a ceremony at the NMVM.
- This meeting was Ken O'Keefe's final board meeting as his term is up. He was honored by Roger Newall by being coined and the entire Board stood and honored him, thanking him for his service.

VI. New Business

- Chris Timm announced that he would contact Debbie O'Malley regarding the Little Houses movement. Once he makes contact he would inform Roger if this is worth pursuing as a presentation.
- November 9 a committee meets, state wide, with representatives from Las Cruces, Hobbs, Albuquerque, Gallup and Taos, to advise the councilors and report to the Governor on Veteran's issues in the state. This is their quarterly meeting.

VII. Setting of Future Meetings – November 16 at 9:00 am we will meet at the NM Veterans' Memorial. The group will depart the NMVM at 9:10am and will go on Base for a presentation. Please do not be late.

VIII. Adjourn – 10:18 am.

DRAFT