

The Department Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) sub. committee was held at 1:30 in the Cabinet room of the Holiday Inn Hotel, Muskegon, Mi. on Sept 23rd. 2016.

The meeting of the VAVS Committee was called to order by Chairman Gerald Dennis, the following people were present: Guests 13, Districts in attendance, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18. Committee members Gerald Dennis, Chairman, Grand Rapids Home, James Long, Ann Arbor Hospital, Henry Altman, Saginaw Hospital, Dan Osborne, Battle Creek Hospital. Absent was Ferrend Ethington from Iron Mountain Hospital, Frank Roche, from Detroit Hospital and James Feliciano from the Marquette, (Jacobetti Home)

It was moved by Jim Long and supported by Dan Osborne to elect Dan Osborne as Vice Chairman, motion carried. It was moved by Dan Osborne and supported by Jim Long to elect Jim Long as Secretary. carried

It was moved and supported, after reading the minutes of June 23, 2016 convention meeting to accept as read. Carried.

Reports were heard and written copies accepted on the Grand Rapids Home, Ann Arbor Hospital, the Saginaw Hospital, and James Feliciano sent in a written report that was read on the Jacobetti home, See copies attached.

Much discussion on the Construction going on at the existing Homes and Hospitals and Future changes that are proposed in the projected 6 phase plan.

We had Gary Easterling, VA&R Director and Don Howard, chairman of the VA&R Committee and most of their members in attendance. We plan on working closer together as we are a sub committee of the VA&R.

I handed out the VAVS/VHVS Committee, Rules of procedure to members present and will mail to members that was absent , asking for feedback if changes are needed.

Chairman Dennis request that we report back in with written reports on activies and improvements needed.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 2:38.

Respectfully summitted

Jim long, Secretary

Gerald Dennis, Chairman

Activities Program Fund. Donations cover a wide and diversified range of in-Home and community sponsored activities and recreation.

Music and Memory Program: Part of Activity Fund. Purchase music on i-tunes. Used as therapy to enhance member's lives.

Member Assistance Fund Donations to assist veterans in covering expenses in such critical areas as vision, dental and hearing care.

Equipment Fund. Monetary donations to cover items such as wheelchair cushions, leg rests, replacement straps, oxygen tank holders.

Blanket Warmer (1-E) Donations toward an additional warmer (Approx. \$3800)

Dolphin Bed®— for the treatment and prevention of pressure ulcers. This product provides pressure reduction adjustments every 11 seconds and is designed to disperse heat and keep the patient cool. (2) - \$18,000.00 each.

Eagles Pride Fund. The Eagles Pride End of Life program includes comfort items for the member during the dying process, special request items, end of life information for family, flag boxes given to the family as a memorial gift, and quarterly bereavement luncheons for family.

JEEP Fund (Jake's Environmental Enhancement Program). Monetary donations assist with purchasing pet food, maintenance of fish tanks, aviaries, veterinarian costs, purchase of plants for member rooms, and environmental improvements.

Beauty Shop/Barber Shop Fund. Monetary donations for Members' hair care (in-house beauty salon/haircuts)

Wood Shop Program. Needed supplies are always greatly appreciated, as is wood.

Donations for specific items. (See Ken)

Monetary Donations for Tek Pal Large Button TV Remotes.

Monetary donations for Therapeutic Slippers.

Monetary donations for Discrete Sound Amplifiers and Pocket Talker Program.

Monetary donations for special outings. (Local Restaurants, etc.)

Donations of magazine subscriptions (various interests and "large print" publications.)

Clothing Items – Diabetic Socks in various sizes. (White)
Shoes with Velcro closures. (Sizes 10 and up).
Size Medium Briefs

Please Note: Clothing should be new or gently used. Socks and underwear should be NEW only. We do not accept items in need of cleaning, repairs or dry cleanable items.

Miscellaneous

- AAA Batteries
- Fishing Lures
- Forever Stamps
- Nose Hair Trimmers (Battery Operated)
- Electric Pre-Shave
- Personal CD Players
- After shave
- Eyeglass cases
- Go-Between Brushes, Large Handle
(interdental brush for flossing), denture
brushes
- Shower Caps
- Personal Fans
- Marq-Tran bus tickets.

NOTE: UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WE HAVE AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF LAP ROBES, AND BOOKS. PLEASE HOLD ANY SUCH DONATIONS AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD REQUEST THAT MAGAZINES PLEASE BE CURRENT.

If you have any suggestions or questions as to possible needs for our Home, please call me any time to discuss. Thanks to all of you for your support and friendship to our Members.

Ken Arseneau
Volunteer Services Coordinator
(906) 226-3576 Extension 396

D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veteran's
425 Fisher Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Jim Feliciano
VAVS – 2016 Fall Report
D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans - Marquette, Michigan
September 1, 2016

This past summer we have had many outings for the veterans who live at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. Some of the highlights include fishing on Lake Unky, a pig roast at Post 114 Greenwood (the pig was shot by one of our veterans from the Home on another outing), a fish fry at Post 44, and a tractor show in Iron Mountain including a picnic that followed. Another event outside of the Home will include fishing on Lake Superior with the South Shore Fishing Association. One of the veteran's favorite spots we attended is the Up North Lodge for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner and we also enjoyed our yearly all day trip to the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba.

At the Home, we have had an old car show and a fish fry in the back parking lot hosted by the American Legion and DAV from Munising. We had a carnival for the members and their families which was organized by the members of the VFC, and upcoming in October we will have a tailgate party along with a Halloween party. Then in December the Auxiliary will host the Christmas Gift Shop which is always outstanding.

Purchases for members of the Home include:

1 Electric Recliner	\$1299.99
11 Assorted Models for the Hobby Room	154.69
1 Dell Laptop Computer	249.99
2 Bingo Games	200.00
6 pairs of Shoes	
26 pairs of Assorted Diabetic Socks	283.81

Donations Received include:

S.A.L. Post 44	\$1,000.00
VFW State Auxiliary	200.00
Post 44	249.99

We are always striving to find new ways to keep our veterans occupied and entertained. We welcome your donations and thank you again for your continued support.

James Feliciano, VAWS

American Legion 2016 Fall Conference

VAVS Committee Meeting 9/23/2016

VAVS Committee meeting report for American Legion activities at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Hospital News

New Welcome Center remains under construction

Completion schedule for "early next year"

Veteran Town Hall conducted on site 9.8.16

Legion provided support by photographing the event (see VA Ann Arbor Facebook photos)

Specific Recognition Events at VA Ann Arbor Hospital

POW Recognition 9.17.16 ... Legion support (see Facebook photos)

Veterans Day scheduled for 11.11.16

Hospital Management agreed to keep VAVS Committee members

"up to date" regarding any efforts to privatize veterans health care (policy decisions are "outside the scope" of hospital management responsibility).

New initiatives include:

Caregiver Respite Program (volunteers to provide relief for caregivers)

Hire MI Vet

American Legion Support to VA Ann Arbor

Direct Purchased Donations from Michigan Department

Awaiting receipt of 2016-2017 Department funds to allow future donations

Legion Volunteer Support

Transportation Drivers

Visually Impaired Veterans Support Group

Interviews for Veterans History Project

Patient Visits

Bingo

Regularly Scheduled and occasional Legion Volunteers

Michigan Posts giving Monetary and In-Kind Donations

Assistance with POWMIA Program

Participation in "Veteran Experience Committee"

Participation in "No Veteran Dies Alone" Program

Legion Deputy Representative to Ann Arbor has resigned

Will need to find replacement

Targeted Needs for VA Ann Arbor

Motorized Scooters for cardiology patients

Adult Coloring Books

Snack Kits

Khaki Pants and Polo Shirts for the Mental Health Center

Sweat Pants and Shirts and Colored T Shirts for the CLC (extended care)

See attached "Current Needs" for additional details

Submitted by

James Long

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VA Ann Arbor Current Needs—September 2016

The new VA Ann Arbor Veteran Welcome Center is a renovation and 10,000 sq. ft. building addition to the main entrance of the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Designed to blend architectural and technology innovations with Veteran-centered care principals, both interior and exterior space will be transformed into a healing and inviting environment. We thank you for your interest in this project and supporting our vision to provide your VA of tomorrow in Ann Arbor, Michigan. GPF #4032 earmarked Veteran Welcome Center

The community living center (CLC) has requested sweat pants, sweat shirts, shorts (knee-length) and colored T-shirts for their residents. Sizes needed are L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X, and 5X. Items may be purchased and delivered to Voluntary Service or donations may be made to GPF 4241 earmarked Community Living Center Fund



Motorized scooter for Cardiology patients to use during their visit at the medical center.

Adult coloring books and colored pencils for inpatients on the AIMH Unit.



Our Acute Inpatient Mental Health Service (AIMH) is requesting clothing for their Veteran patients. Currently they are asking for Khaki Pants (waist sizes 30 to 40) and Solid colored Polo Shirts (sizes Medium to 3X). Items may be purchased and delivered to Voluntary Service or donations may be made to GPF 4003 earmarked Acute Inpatient Mental Health (AIMH).

Snack Kits:

items listed below are placed in a plastic bag (self-sealing) and given to Veterans in need:

- Roll of lifesavers (or other hard candy – non-melting)
- Rice Krispies bar (or granola bar, etc.)
- Plastic utensils (knife, fork, spoon with napkin)
- Ritz Snack Mix (Cheddar) (or other trail mix, etc.).
- Easy open can of fish steaks (or tuna, canned meat, etc.)



Requesting donations of various crafts for Veterans' enjoyment (i.e. models, leather crafts, paint by number, etc.)

Men's white t-shirts and boxers Sizes: Medium through 3XL are needed. Also: White Socks



Sterile Heart Pillows for Veterans who have undergone heart surgery GPF #4003



Thank you for your support and generosity.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase any of these items, please contact Voluntary Service at (734) 845-3467