

Present: Larry Jelinek Wayne "Max" Maxwell Thomas Audetat
George Love Charlotte Ann Jones
Absent: W. Tom Zilhaver
Guests: Raymond Taylor, Ken Craig, A. J. Schill, Jessie Lee Valth, Glen Scott

A. J. Schill presented a proposal to chair Operation Veteran Re-Connect with some additional changes. Suggestions included quarterly Public Forums, re-engage the veterans noting that there is disconnect between older WWII vets and the newer Global War on Terrorist vets, update technology in the office, and consider what is complicating the re-adjustment of veterans returning today. Items such as multiple deployments and missions complicate the needs of the current day veterans. Veterans being brought home with deeper wounds because of advancements in medical technology. There is no re-adjustment counseling given to modern day vets at the time of discharge.

Raymond Taylor confirmed the need for technical help in the Veteran Service Office in helping veterans file for benefits. Charlotte Jones mentioned the original goals of Vets 4 Vets was to have a library, computers and volunteers to help research for veteran's benefits.

Ken Craig mentioned the difficulties presented by the Privacy Acts and lack of contacting veterans who are "Off the Grid". Raymond Taylor stated that his work load is such that he is not able to give individuals the tech support needed to fill out claims. All volunteers would have to be vetted and have background checks before they could begin.

Motion made to have A.J. Schill head the Operation Veteran Program by Charlotte Jones. Motion failed without a second.

A.J. was asked to further develop the proposal and bring more detail to the next board meeting.

Jessie Lee Valth proposed an Outdoor Recreation Program for veterans. His idea was:

1. Establish a program under the umbrella of Vets4Vets 501 (c) 3. Jessie Valth would be implementing oversight of the program, providing meals, lodging, counseling, horseback riding, and fishing trips.
2. Estimated cost of 3 days and 2 nights with meals and lodging would be \$1,500 per person. The program would be open to all veterans and the marketing would be the responsibility of the program.

George Love stated the problem of no volunteers available. How do we get younger volunteers to take responsibilities. Max Maxwell asked if there were other programs such as this now in operation and what was their success rates.

Jessie Lee Valth was asked to bring more detail to the next board meeting on August 14.

Ken Craig stated it was time to get new T-shirts and hats. Veterans have requested T-shirts with pockets, perhaps something different such as mission statement on back or different colors.

Ken Craig volunteered to chair the information booth at the Archuleta County Fair. Max Maxwell and Thomas Audetat volunteered for times.

Larry Jelinek gave the Treasurer's Report (Copy Attached) and noted the volunteer hours that were reported. Larry stated that there were certainly more volunteer hours that were not included.

Charlotte Jones reported that all thank you letters were sent to those contributors from the Pine Cone Golf Tournament. Yard Sale report stated that \$2,009.96 was made with expenses of advertising in newspaper, dumping trash, and a meal. Proceeds were \$1,880. The consolidation of all storage units was a success. A-11 at Airport Self Storage will be our unit in the future. It is 10 x 30 with two doors! Very little is left for a yard sale in the fall. Policy and Procedures are needed for the Yard Sale Committee in the future. Ken Craig has volunteered to be chair of that committee.

Items that were stored in the unit for an individual have been moved to a separate unit and a contract has been made for 90 days at \$35.00 per month. **Ken Craig is providing a letter with the contract and key to that person as notice that Vets 4 Vets is not responsible for the items.**

All board members agreed that Kristie Baisdon and husband, Travis, were wonderful and are to receive special thanks for the hotdogs, hospitality and work provided.

Raymond Taylor explained the need to standardize counselor fees under the grants. Copy of that letter is attached. What cannot be paid through the Vet Center Combat Vets Contract is being paid by the Veterans Assistance Grant.

Larry Jelinek advised that the DAV van has up and running.

A veteran from Durango is filing for \$800 deposit and first month rent of \$275. Volunteers of America has gotten an apartment for him. Larry is to contact Misty for more details. **Individuals that request grant assistance must come in to the office and sign intake form and release of privacy form or have VOA to get privacy releases and intake forms signed and faxed to the office. Checks cannot be mailed without the individuals signatures on these two documents.**

Thanks to all who worked at the Yard Sale, especially Thomas Audetat who worked on his birthday!

Bob Girard donated 100 bales of meadow hay. Larry is to check on details.

Ken Craig stated wood is needed for our winter firewood supply. Oak was suggested to purchase for economic reasons.

Gas cards for \$25 and grocery cards for \$50 have been purchased and are available through the Grant.

"When you are INTERESTED in something, you will participate when it is convenient,
When you are COMMITTED you will take action, no excuses!!"

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Ann Jones, Secretary

Date approved _____