

West Suburban Veterans' Services District – October 30th, 2017

Location: Wellesley Town Hall, Great Hall

Present: Chris Coleman, Blythe Robinson, and Donna VanderClock

Also present: Kate Fitzpatrick, 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. Coleman and seconded by Ms. Robinson, the Board voted (3-0) to approve the minutes of the July 24th, 2017 meeting.

3. Director's Update

Ms. Kalpee talked about the Veterans' panels that were held at the Wellesley Library at 7:00 p.m. on October 12th, an all-male panel, and on October 19th an all-female panel. Both events had 15 people in attendance. At Tenacre Country Day School on November 8th Wellesley Veterans will visit the school where 6th graders will play songs and a guest speaker will talk about his service and answer the student's questions. Letters of thanks were sent to Wellesley Veterans informing them of this program. The District mailed 535 letters to Wellesley Veterans informing them of the Veterans' panels and the November movies, *The Guardian and USS Indianapolis*. In Wayland 301 letters were sent to Veterans introducing them to the Veterans' Office and informing them of upcoming movies: *The Guardian, USS Indianapolis, Unbroken, and Hacksaw Ridge*. In Weston on November 15th at St Demetrious Church, where 25 Veterans go for a service, Ms. Kalpee will conduct a pinning ceremony. Mr. Coleman asked for explanation of what a pinning ceremony entailed. Ms. Kalpee said that she pins an American Flag, or branch pin on the recipients and thank them for their service. 174 introductory letters were sent to Weston Veterans with the November movie schedule: *The Guardian, USS Indianapolis, Unbroken, and Hacksaw Ridge*. In Needham 607 letters were sent out with the movie schedule: *The Guardian, USS Indianapolis, and Unbroken*. Refreshments will be served during all movie showings. Ms. Kalpee confirmed that it was ok to purchase refreshments to be paid for by the District.

In Needham on October 21st, the same day as the Spooky Walk, Needham Parks and Recreation Department and WSVD hosted the 2nd Annual Veterans' Fair. Ms. Kalpee said that 5 VA claims and 2 health care claims were completed on the spot. On November 9th students at St. Joseph's School will have an assembly where the guest speaker James Wise, an Iraq Veteran and Needham police officer, and former St. Joseph's student will answer student's questions. As in the past a pinning ceremony will take place on November 10th at the Avery Manor Nursing Home. Because all events happen simultaneously Ms. Kalpee is not sure where she'll be for Veterans Day Observances on November 11th. She will let the Board know her plans. She'll pick one town to attend ceremonies. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she was in Needham last year.

The Board wishes to level fund the FY19 budget. Ms. Kalpee said that the District needs to prepare for her military deployment. She is in her 3rd year of in country service, and as part of the civil affairs unit, will probably be deployed in FY19. It is possible that during the summer of 2018 she would be required to attend 6 weeks of language training at Fort Bragg, and 15 weeks in CA. Her recommendation is to hire an individual to work part time so that she can train him or her and then they can work full time when she is out for training and deployment. Ms. Kalpee said that only two VSOs are still enlisted in MA. Ms. Kalpee said she will talk with Francisco Urena to see if he has suggestions of who might be interested in a part-time and then full-time VSO position. According to Ms. Kalpee the Valor Act is now taxable so not many people are interested in this program.

Ms. Rose asked the Board to check with their Treasurer/Collector regarding receipt of MA reimbursement for the 1st quarter of FY17. Wellesley received their wire on 10/4/17. It is the responsibility of each town to track their state reimbursement, which is summarized on the 3rd page of the Chapter 115 Expenditures given out at each Board Meeting.

4. Old/New Business

The Board agreed that the next meeting, in honor of Mr. Senchyshyn's retirement, will be held on Monday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. in the Selectman's Meeting Room of Wayland's Town Building.

At 4:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.