



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes

Friday, October 7, 2005

Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM

In attendance:

Marsha Four, Chair	Sandy Miller
Dr. Linda Schwartz	Sandra Spatz-Wiszneackas
Bil Lee Cul in	Al ta Mil ling
Dr. Tom Berger	Sandie Wil son
Bob Maras	John Wal lace
Dottie Barickman	Ken Hol ybee
Annie Pancrazio, AVVA Advisor	
Sharon Hodge, VVA Gov. Rel ations/Staff	
Susan Edgerton, VVA Gov. Rel ations	

Guest: Linda Bennett, Democratic Staff Director
House Veterans Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Heal th

Motion #05-10- to Accept minutes of April 2005 Committee Meeting as presented. Motion by Bil Lee Cul in ; Second: Tom Berger; Motion carries.

Discussion with Linda Bennett:

Military Sexual Trauma Among the Reserve Components of the Armed forces

A study was mandated of the VA by Publ ic Law 160-117 with a report back to the House Veterans Affairs Committee by 2001. Not having received it, Rep. Lane Evans requested the report and one (2 pages) was provided to Rep. Michael Michaud. This study, referred to by the VA as the "Street Study", was not approved by the VA in its entirety. It can be downl oaded as a compl ete report (150 pages) on the Women Veterans committee web page of the VVA web site. The study was compl eted in 2003 and sent to OMB but never made its way to the light. In today's worl d, with an ever increasing number of women serving, the VA, needs to be prepared to address this issue, not onl y in the money required to provide treatment but the staff required to del iver it.

National Vietnam Veterans Longitudinal Study

Research Triangl e Institute was awarded this study as sol e contractor. after two years VA asked it be hal ted due to a review and an Audit by the Inspector General Office. The report is quite tel ling in its assessment. However, it is important that this study be conducted to satisfy its intent as a longitudinal study. Likewise it is the onl y one to incl ude both women and minorities. To substitute "The Twin Study" in its stead is not onl y unacceptabl e, it woul d fail to ful fil l the Congressional requirement of Publ ic Law 106-419, Veterans Benefits and Heal th Care Improvement Act of 2000. This committee is working in conjunction with the Veterans Heal th Committee and the PTSD Committee in our approach to the compl etion of this study.

S 1182

We wil l watch the language of this bil l as it comes from the house side. A number of sections rel ate to women veterans. One in particul ar provides for 14 days post natal care to infants born to women veterans who have used the VA for pregnancy care.

HR 3837

Rep. Sl aughter's bil l Military Victims of Violence confidentiality Act of 2005

Budget:

70% of the budget remains.

Report of the Chair:

Follow-up discussion related to Convention 2005.

Breakfast: Thanks to AVVA and the Switzer's for table favors. Our keynote speaker Christine Hansen, Executive Director, The Miles Foundation, was able to meet with Rick Weidman of VVA Government Relations to discuss mutual endeavors.

Lynda Van Devanter Buckley Award: This award was presented posthumously to Rep. Tillie Fowler of FL.

Group picture of women veterans to be posted on the web page

Committee Liaisons: Will be established from a list of committee members attending other committee meetings.

An updated purpose and policy statement for the committee will be forwarded to the members of the committee.

New Business:

Trip to Walter Reed: Will plan on this for our January meeting

Web Site: Discussed information on the site and additions that will be coming. Please submit possible items to the Chair.

The Committee will be working with Government Affairs Committee in development of our national priorities and legislative agenda.

The Chair will compile a revised e-mail list of contact information of the state women veterans committee chairs from information provided by their respective state council presidents.

Leadership Conference: A number of ideas surfaced, however, under consideration is one discussed by Alta Milling that relates to an in depth understanding of women thru military and veteran history to be used as a recruiting resource.

As noted: The Membership Committee reports that Women Veterans number 922, up 64 members since last year a rise of 7%. This is a major milestone. The committee thanks all those at every level of the organization that have worked to increase enrollment of women in the Chapters.

Adjourned 1830

Respectfully Submitted

Marsha Four, Chair