

## COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. on October 26, 2023, By Ron Albert, Chairperson.

Bruce Dwyer presented the invocation.

Bill Whisenant led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Honors.

Guest speaker –

77<sup>th</sup> Army Band - () –

Informing that they assist in recruiting at all ends of the Military spectrum from when Soldiers join the military to when they are buried. They're just missing the group in between which is the Veterans that are still alive. They've done over 140 missions with final honors in funerals. Please get with them for more details.

They have two upcoming performances; both are free to the public; doors will open 30 minutes prior to start time:

Veteran's Day Concert - 12 November 2023 @ 2pm @ McMahon Auditorium

Holiday Concert - 06 December 2023 @ 7pm @ McMahon Auditorium

Steps under Stars & Stripes; Walk to Honor Veterans – Joslyn Woods (580) 512-7868

Ellipsis nonprofit is doing a 24hr walk around the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Home Pond starting on 10 November and concluding on 11 November 2023. There will be a ceremony at the conclusion of the 24hr walk. Individuals & businesses have signed up to carry the American Flag around the pond in one hour increments. If interested or needing more information please contact Joslyn Woods. See attached flyer labeled "Steps under Stars & Stripes"

We have a quorum.

The agenda was approved by MOAA (Bill Whisenant) & Cooties Pup Tent 16 (Tracy Crawford).

Minutes were handed out & stood as printed.

Treasurer's report was given & approved, pending audit, by AUSA (Tor Littau) & VVA (Gary Secor).

### Service Organization:

Oklahoma Veterans Center Lawton/Fort Sill & Claims – Pamela Burks & Jennifer

How many veterans are in the home? Not sure, roughly 170 residents.

Poker Table – residents love to play poker, they have one poker table that has seen its days but looking to purchase another one due to its popularity. (handed out poker table) Seeking donation from CCVC &/or other Veteran organizations to assist in purchasing it.

Christmas Angel Tree – will be setting it up starting week of 12 November 2023, will be taking it down on 17 November 2023. Numbers will be on the tree instead of names this year. Once a number is picked, bring to Jennifer(rec center director) to get a wish list for that specific Veteran. Every Veteran deserves to get their wish list filled.

VOC Rehab – New POC coming - Not present.

VA - Outpatient Clinic – David Rollins

## COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL MINUTES

Renovation is still going on, patience is greatly appreciated during the next 3 weeks. The pharmacy line might be a little longer but after its done, be worth it. Going to improve the flow of the clinic.

Pushing for more services in the clinic like Dermatology, Optometry, & another PACT Team.

### Lawton Red River Vet Center – Tyrone Holder

Been out of the area doing outreach in Tulsa, OKC, etc but back for a little bit then will be heading out again next month for the PACT Act.

Outreach counseling – when starting? Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Home looking/needng this kind of counseling for multiple reasons. Last director wouldn't support since Veterans have a hard time leaving the home for their appts. Will get with each other to work something out.

Cameron University Resource Fair – 06 & 07 November 2023.

Mobile Vet Center is in the area, please get with him for more information.

### Fort Sill National Cemetery – Bruce Abernathy

Expansion has been awarded. Expansion will be on the way.

Flag placement – 08 November 2023 @ 0900 @ Ft. Sill National Cemetery.

Flag retrieval – 13 November 2023 @ 0900 @ Ft. Sill National Cemetery.

Gravesite flags – AVS donated 500 flags & they are able to purchase them but starting to lose more than getting in so might have to ask for donations in the future.

Unclaimed Veterans – how do we find out &/or get notified about them? Mr. Matt Priest has an email distro he sends them out on, if you're not on it, please get with him (Bruce) & Mr. Priest to get on it.

### Oklahoma Veterans Council – Tor Littau

September meeting minutes haven't been sent out via email yet. Chairperson Ron Albert wasn't able to attend the meeting due to other engagements.

### Reports:

State Legislation – Tor Littau – nothing at this time

Federal Legislation – Tor Littau – nothing at this time

Calendar –went over the calendar. See attached labeled “calendar”

Last meeting of the Year 2023; please send next 90 day events from your organization so we can post it on our CCVC Facebook page Next meeting is 25 January 2024 @ 6:30pm.

Have some upcoming events:

28 Oct – Pet Resources Fundraiser from 12-4pm @ VFW Post 5263

29 Oct – Cooties Pup Tent 16 Potato Fundraiser

02 Nov – Cameron University flag placement @ 1pm; meeting at gazebo

04 Nov – Veteran's Day Parade in Ponca City

06 Nov – OVC meeting @ St. Luke UMC, OKC

06 & 07 Nov – Cameron Resource Fair

08 Nov – Ft. Sill National Cemetery Flag placement @ 0900

09 Nov – Lawton New Light United Methodist Church luncheon @ 1030; please RSVP; Guest speaker South Korean Dignitary.

## COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL MINUTES

Lawton Ft. Sill Poker Table – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice (Susan Secor) motion to spend no more than \$468.69 on the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Center poker table; Cooties Pup Tent 16 (Tracy Crawford) 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

Discussion: found the exact table online for cheaper price than on hand out;  
What about the other two items on the hand out? Jennifer stated they are not necessary.

Wreaths Across America – Treasurer (Mary Fountain) motion to spend no more than \$510 for 10 wreaths totaling \$170 for each organization AVS, VFW 5263 & SOMW to place on Veterans Graves at their cemetery choosing; VVA (Gary Secor) 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

Angel Tree – Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Center – Cooties Pup Tent 16 (Tracy Crawford) motion to spend no more than \$1,700 to be set aside as a reserve for the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Center Angel Tree; MOPH (Bruce Dwyer) 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed

Discussion: There are roughly 170 residents in the home; gift amount maximum is \$100 totaling \$1,700. Every Veteran deserves to have their wish list met; nothing fancy like electronics; more like clothing.

Would like each Veteran organization to donate \$100 towards the angel tree to accomplish this task. This allows every organization to discuss if they'd like to donate or not. If not, the CCVC will flip the bill.

Angel Tree will be up starting 12 November & taken down on 17 November.

If so, each organization can either go up to the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veteran's Home to pick a number themselves & purchase those wish list items or let the CCVC do it for them. If you decide to have the CCVC do it for you, please give the money to the CCVC Treasurer Mary Fountain or inform us that your organization will pay us back. We respectfully ask you to inform us of your intentions: 1) Donating - Yes or no; 2) Picking up numbers yourself – Yes (2a) or no (2b); 2b) giving money to Treasurer or paying back @ next meeting if not before.

A poster will be made & placed @ the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Center informing them of all the organizations who are supporting them in the Angel Tree.

### Good of the Order:

Cooties popcorn sale – 5 days long; 50% of the proceeds going back to the Veterans.

State Executive meeting – 28 October 2023 @ 0800 @ Apache Casino; meeting starts @ 0900; buffet is \$10/person; hosted by DAV. Legislators will be there to include some senators.

Golden Corral Fundraiser – 10-13 November 2023 hosted by DAV; their biggest state fundraiser.

Marine Corp Birthday – 10 November 2023 – having a little something for the Marine Corps Veterans @ the Lawton/Ft. Sill Veteran Home. Ray won't be there this year, going to pay his respects to a long time awaited comrade in Texas.

Ponca City Veteran's Day Parade – 04 November 2023 – been nationally recognized this year, huge parade; free luncheon in the park; fly overs, etc.

Care Providers Banquet Recognized – 31 Care providers in the community were recognized at the Ft. Sill Lawton STEMS. STEMS is trying to tie into the community with the children & the technology.



## COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL MINUTES

- 11 Nov – CCVC Veteran's Day & Wall of Honor Ceremony @ 11am @ Elmer Thomas Park
- 11 Nov – Cameron University Veteran's Day Observance & Purple Heart Ceremony @ 1pm
- 12 Nov – Veteran's Concert @ 2pm @ McMahon Auditorium hosted by 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band
- 13 Nov – Ft. Sill National Cemetery Flag retrieval @ 0900
- 13 Nov – Military Appreciation @ Golden Corral (All day)
- 16 Nov – CCVC Legislation Breakfast @ 0800 @ VFW 5263
- 03 Dec – Honor Tea @ 2pm @ VFW Post 5263
- 04 Dec – OVC meeting @ St. Luke UMC, OKC
- 06 Dec – Ambucs Breakfast from 6am – 8pm; \$10/ticket advance; \$12/ticket @ door.
- 16 Dec – Wreaths Across America laying ceremony @ 11am @ Ft. Sill National Cemetery & Ft. Sill Post Cemetery
- 25 Jan 2024 – CCVC 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year; Organization 2024-2025 Membership dues go to Treasurer Mary Fountain

Wall of Honor Ceremony – Chairperson Susan Secor – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice (580) 512-1246

Nominations for 11 November Wall of Honor judging will happen tomorrow, 27 October 2023.

Committee comprises of Pat Powell, Bill Whisenant, Gary Secor, & Tracy Crawford.

Two nominees were submitted.

Fundraiser (Mary Fountain) – think of a fundraiser for next year.

PAO (Bekah Fountain) -

Posted the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band Performances, VFW Post 5263 Flag retirement ceremony; CCVC

Legislation breakfast & shared the Cameron Resource fair on the CCVC Facebook page.

If you have anything - that needs to be posted on CCVC's social media, please send it to Bekah

Fountain @ [ccvcpao@gmail.com](mailto:ccvcpao@gmail.com). It's free advertisement.

### Unfinished Business:

CCVC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – has every organization's logo/emblem. Going well.

Honor Tea – 03 December 2023 @ 2pm @ VFW Post 5263

Committee is out due to Conventions; will get with them when they get back.

Karaoke & Music already coordinated.

Serving finger foods & chips

Think about a gift to give them once the social is over; suggested a carnation instead of a trinket, etc.

MOAA (Bill Whisenant) motion to spend no more than \$500 for food & gift for the Honor Tea; AVS (Pat Powell) 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed.

Legislation Breakfast – 16 November 2023 @ 0830

Great plains catering; \$12 / person; CCVC membership organization

president/chairperson/commander eats for free. Everyone else pays.

How much is this costing the whole CCVC organization? Not sure, will know more next week.

### New Business:

## COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL MINUTES

Casualty Assistance – family moved to Ft. Sill, husband passed; looking for assistance; going to get with DAV.

Pray for peace of the world, the innocent & soldiers. Keep veterans who might be triggered from this ongoing conflict; talk to them; get them help if needed.

### **Oklahoma Veteran's Registry –**

Per Oklahoma SB 415 – all veterans regardless of percentage must register at website:

<https://registry.odva.ok.gov/registration>

100% disabled veterans & widows of 100% disabled veterans must re-register at above website & submit paperwork to get new documentation for Oklahoma 100% disabled Veteran benefits.

If you haven't received your Sales Tax exemption card after mailing it & it's been past two weeks, physically go to the Oklahoma Tax Commission (300 N Broadway Ave, OKC, OK 73102-6403) office or call them at 405-521-3160, option 6, to see where it's at.

Having trouble registering or don't have access? It's alright. The following are places you can go to who will help you get registered:

- VFW Post 5263 – 103 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawton, OK (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 0930-3pm) must call to ensure he's there.

Closing Prayer by Bruce Dwyer

Rendering of Honors Bill W.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The New Year 2024-2025 is upon us.

All organizations must resubmit their CCVC Membership Applications, please see Sheri Kellner, Secretary. Must have these for Wall of Honor nominations.