

VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (VAAHS) (506/135)  
2215 Fuller Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

---

Phone: (734) 845-3467  
Ginny L. Creasman, Pharm.D., FACHE  
Medical Center Director

FAX: (734) 845-3107  
Beverly Conatser  
Chief, Voluntary Service

---

**VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Quarterly Scheduled Meeting

Convened: 2:00 p.m.

February 25, 2019

Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

I. MEETING OPENING:

Beverly Conatser, Chief of Voluntary Service chaired the meeting, welcomed everyone, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Conatser welcomed and introduced the Director, Ginny L. Creasman, Pharm. D., FACHE to the committee.

Ms. Conatser informed the committee about the duties, roles and time commitment of the VAVS Executive Committee and introduced the new/current members:

Mark Lindke, Washtenaw County Council of Veterans - Chair  
Nick Luxon, Military Order of the Purple Heart - Co Chair  
Mariann Hamann, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Treasurer/Secretary  
Joyce Luxon, Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary  
Russ Bayliss, Sons of the American Legion  
Carol Johnson, American Gold Star Mothers  
Tim Driscoll, 40 et 8

Ms. Conatser gave special thanks to Ms. Pat Krzesowik and Mr. Jim Long for their participation and efforts with the committee.

Monetary donations were presented as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>GPF</u>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$ 500	4241/4008
American Gold Star Mothers	\$ 150	4003 Warrior 2 Soulmate
Military Order of the Purple Heart Ladies Aux.	\$ 750	4003/4022 Welcome Center refreshments

2.

Minutes of the VAVS Committee Meeting held February 25, 2019

Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$ 750	4011
Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$ 500	4004
Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$ 576	VA Canteen – Bingo Computer
American Legion	\$ 250	4003 Welcome Center refreshments
Sons of the American Legion	\$ 300	4235
VA Ann Arbor Employee Assoc.	\$2,500	4200

III. ATTENDANCE:

STAFF

Beverly Conatser	Chief, Voluntary Service
Ginny L. Creasman, Pharm. D., FACHE	Medical Center Director
Stephen Sparr	Voluntary Service Specialist
Jenny Smallbone	Voluntary Service Specialist
Jayson Bower	Voluntary Service Specialist
Christy Winslow	Voluntary Service Assistant
Tyson Gatermann	Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Erica Montessoro	IT Specialist (CAC)
Dr. Kim	

GUESTS

Deborah Cleavinger	Blinded Veterans Association
Stew Israel	Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks
James Van Horn	Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks
Bob Stevenson	Polish Legion of American Veterans

IV. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Director, Ginny Creasman provided the management report to the committee.

- a. Dr. Creasman shared a PowerPoint presentation that included workload statistics, recent activities at the medical center, as well as construction updates.
- b. Veterans Experience: Dr. Creasman stated her goal is to give excellent customer service. Our trust agreement for Ann Arbor is 89.2%, higher than the VISN and the national average figures. These figures are broken down by population with younger and women Veterans having lower figures. A team has been assembled to find the scope of the problem and work to raise their trust with VA. Dr. Creasman also shared our wait times for appointments. We are doing very well for current enrolled Veterans but are working to get new enrollees into the system quicker.
- c. Construction: VAAHS is currently undergoing a total renovation of the main entrance

3.

Minutes of the VAVS Committee Meeting held February 25, 2019

to the facility to provide a state of the art Veteran Welcome Center with completion being in May 2019. Also, we have a new clinical addition being built on the west side of the building. This new project will have space for Voluntary Service and EMS in the basement, Outpatient Pharmacy on the first floor and Orthopedics on the second floor. In addition, a new parking structure is currently being built with an expected additional 300+ parking spots. This will provide ample parking for Veterans, volunteers, visitors and all staff.

- d. NAC Female Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Creasman shared with the committee that Mariann Hamann was selected as the National Advisory Committee female volunteer of the year. Mariann is the first ever VA Ann Arbor female volunteer to be selected for this very prestigious award.
- e. Fisher House: Dr. Creasman reported that the VAAHS will soon be breaking ground for the first Fisher House in the State of Michigan. The Fisher House will be located on the campus of the medical center near the current contractor parking area. The estimated completion date will be spring 2020.
- f. Events: Dr. Creasman reported on outreach events that the VAAHS has supported.
- g. Questions from Audience: Several volunteers shared their concerns for the Veteran population entering the new Welcome Center and there being no handrails for stability. In addition, the concern for Veterans not being able to get on the golf cart at entrance was discussed. Dr. Creasman tasked Ms. Conatser to gather their concerns and work with management to propose solutions.

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the VAVS Committee meeting of November 5, 2018 were approved.

VI. CERTIFICATIONS AND RECERTIFICATION:

The following certifications and re-certification were received since the last meeting:

CERTIFICATIONS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Expiration</b>
Paul Jingoian	Deputy Representative	Vietnam Veterans of Amer.	Indef.
Don Miller	Deputy Representative	American Legion	Indef.
Beth Gonzales	Representative	Disabled Amer. Veterans	12/31/2020
Karl Gabrys	Representative	AMVETS	7/31/2020

4.

Minutes of the VAVS Committee Meeting held February 25, 2019

RE-CERTIFICATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Florencio Lopez	Deputy Representative	Disabled American Veterans	12/31/2020

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

- a. Tyson Gatermann, Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC), provided an overview of suicide prevention. Our electronic record system can track high risk Veterans for suicide. When a Veteran is entered with this flag they receive: at least 4 weekly face-to-face mental health appointments within the first 30 days, at least monthly mental health appointments after first 30 days, monitoring of Veteran's care with 90-day review of High Risk Status, telephone follow up for missed appointments, safety planning, limited medication supply, and ensure close care coordination including with over 300 SPC's nationally for geographic transitions of care of high risk Veterans.
- b. Mr. Gatermann also shared some training that is conducted with staff, community members/partners, VSO's and volunteers. The ongoing Cultivating Hope in Caring Communities working with faith-based organizations program has successfully been completed in 11 counties in Ohio/Michigan and additional training sessions are already scheduled (March 5, 2019).

VIII. VAVS COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURY REPORT:

Mariann Hamann provided the treasurer's report.

The balance in the VAVS General Post Fund (4004) as of the last meeting was \$6,630.83. One donation was received from M.O.P.H. on November 1, 2018 for \$500. There was one expenditure: items for Veterans Day program \$155.95. The ending balance is \$6,974.88. The Committee approved the report.

IX. ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS:

<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
The Salvation Army	American Legion American Red Cross B. P. O. Elks Disabled American Veterans Veterans of Foreign Wars	Blinded Veterans Association Vietnam Veterans of America

X. VOLUNTEER REPORT:

5.

Minutes of the VAVS Committee Meeting held February 25, 2019

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY 19 statistics for Voluntary service are: 710 volunteers actively logging hours, monetary donations of \$40,366, in-kind donations valuing \$212,635, 16,697 volunteer hours, 38 volunteers recruited, \$664,409 total impact. Our in-kind donations are \$39,265 higher than this time last fiscal year, other statistics are remaining close to the same.
- b. Ms. Conatser shared our Caregiver Respite Program is growing and very successful. Ms. Smallbone is doing a terrific job in recruitment and training new volunteers. The program now has 36 Veterans and 26 trained volunteers. Some volunteers visit multiple Veterans. Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Toledo, Adrian, Southfield, South Rockwood, Westland, Taylor, Manitou Beach, New Boston, Howell, Riverview and Romulus.

XI. VAVS NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSIONS:

- a. Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019: The Committee voted not to hold a formal program, but to instead purchase a token gift of appreciation (patriotic baseball hats) from GPF 4004 that will be distributed to inpatients at 2:00 p.m. on Memorial Day. Volunteers are needed to pass out the baseball hats. If interested, please contact Voluntary Service.
- b. Flag Day, Friday, June 14, 2019: The Committee voted not to hold a formal program, but to instead purchase and distribute individual service flags and US flags along with flag bases to inpatients on Wednesday, June 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Costs to be taken from GPF 4004.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. National Salute to Veterans, Feb. 10-16, 2019: We had many visitors to the medical center to include: congressional, athletic teams, singers, corporate partners, Veteran Service Organizations and community. All inpatients enjoyed a steak lunch on February 14, 2019 sponsored by Voluntary Service. Ms. Conatser thanked Jayson Bower for coordinating all activities for National Salute Week at Ann Arbor and Voluntary Service for their support.
- b. Ms. Conatser announced her retirement to the committee. A retirement party will be held in the Auditorium on May 22, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- c. Mr. Lyle Tindall, Representative for the United Auto Workers passed away on December 27, 2018.
- d. Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet for Ann Arbor will be held April 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The event will once again be at the Holiday Inn North on Plymouth Rd. A separate recognition luncheon will be held for TOPC volunteers.
- e. Mr. Stephen Sparr recently passed the examination to become a Certified Administrator

6.

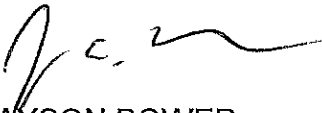
Minutes of the VAVS Committee Meeting held February 25, 2019

of Voluntary Service.

- f. Mr. Bower was selected as the Employee of the Month for December 2018.
- g. Donations requested for: Grand Opening of the Welcome Center (main entrance) for refreshments and Warrior 2 Soulmate training (couples/partner relationship enrichment).

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The next VAVS Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.



JAYSON BOWER  
Recorder



BEVERLY CONATSER  
Deputy Chairperson



KEVIN D. SWALLOW, MPA  
Chairperson

VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING

February 25, 2019

Attendance Summary FY 2019

**VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48105**

CUMULATIVE ATTENDANCE RECORD

GINNY L. CREASMAN, Pharm.D., FACHE  
Director

BEVERLY CONATSER  
Chief, Voluntary Service

Telephone No: 734-845-3467

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Appointment/ Termination</u>	<u>R/D</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS</u></b>							
CAROL JOHNSON	IND	R	P	P			50%
EVELYN BURGESS	IND	D	P	P			
<b><u>AMERICAN LEGION</u></b>							
JAMES LONG	IND	R	P	P			50%
DON MILLER	IND	D	*	P			
<b><u>AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY</u></b>							
KRYSTAL HALL	IND	R	P	P			50%
ETHEL PUTALA	IND	D	P	P			
VI GRZYBOWSKI	IND	A	-	-			
<b><u>AMERICAN RED CROSS</u></b>							
MAGDALENA CONNER	IND	D	P	P			50%
PATRICK THRASHER	IND	R	-	-			
JESSICA WHEELER	IND	D	-	-			
<b><u>AMVETS</u></b>							
KARL GABRYS	7/31/2020	R	P	-			25%
<b><u>AMVETS AUXILIARY</u></b>							
PAT KRZESOWIK	IND	R	P	P			50%
<b><u>BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS</u></b>							
KAREN VAN HORN	IND	R	P	P			50%
ROBERT COUSINO	IND	D	P	P			

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Appointment/ Termination</b>	<b>R/D</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION</u></b>							
CHARLES CLEAVINGER	IND	R	P	P			50%
<b><u>CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS</u></b>							
DOUGLAS SCAVIO	IND	R	P	P			50%
KENNETH TOMCZAK	IND	D	P	P			
<b><u>CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AUXILIARY</u></b>							
RENEE RYGALSKI	IND	R	-	-			0%
<b><u>DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</u></b>							
KATHY PRESECAN	8/31/2019	R	P	-			50%
SUE ELLEN NORTHEY-ANDREWS	8/31/2019	D	P	P			
<b><u>DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS</u></b>							
FLORENCIO LOPEZ	12/31/2020	D	-	-			25%
BETH GONZALES	12/31/2020	R	*	P			
<b><u>DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY</u></b>							
ANNA LOCKWOOD	12/31/2019	R	-	-			0%
<b><u>FORTY ET EIGHT</u></b>							
TIMOTHY DRISCOLL	IND	R	P	P			50%
<b><u>JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.</u></b>							
MITCHELL RYCUS	IND	D	-	-			0%
ALAN KIMMEL	IND	R	-	-			
<b><u>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE</u></b>							
NORMAN JEWELL	IND	R	-	-			0%
ROBERT STEWART	IND	D	-	-			
<b><u>MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY</u></b>							
GERRI TUOHY	IND	R	P	-			25%



<b>Organization</b>	<b>Appointment/ Termination</b>	<b>R/D</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION</u></b>							
RONALD KING	IND	R	-	-			50%
DAVID MELTON	IND	D	P	P			
<b><u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE</u></b>							
ERIC BELL	IND	R	P	-			50%
RUSSELL MAKOWSKI	IND	D	P	P			
<b><u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY</u></b>							
ROSE HAMILTON	IND	R	-	-			25%
DEBORAH GAINES	IND	D	P	-			
<b><u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART</u></b>							
NICHOLAS LUXON	IND	R	-	P			25%
<b><u>MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART AUX</u></b>							
JOYCE LUXON	IND	R	P	P			50%
<b><u>NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</u></b>							
JAMES PETRES	IND	R	P	P			50%
<b><u>POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS</u></b>							
WALTER OWIESNY	IND	R	-	-			25%
GEORGE KENNEDY	IND	D	-	P			
<b><u>POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS LADIES AUXILIARY</u></b>							
DOLORES LYBIK	IND	R	-	-			0%
JANET TCHORZ	IND	D	-	-			
<b><u>ROLLING THUNDER, INC.</u></b>							
THOMAS GOMEZ	IND	R	-	P			25%
<b><u>SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION</u></b>							
PHILIP McCASKEY	6/24/2019	R	-	-			50%
RUSSELL BAYLISS	1/26/2020	D	P	P			
JOHN HELMINSKI	6/24/2019	D	P	P			
<b><u>THE SALVATION ARMY</u></b>							
MAJOR MARY ANN WOOD	IND	R	P	P			50%
MARLA CONKIN	IND	D	-	-			

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Appointment/ Termination</b>	<b>R/D</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>UAW REGION 1A VETERANS COUNCIL</u></b>							
PETE SEMSEDINI	IND	D	-	-			50%
DON NEUMANN	IND	D	P	P			
CURT STEENBEKE	IND	D	-	-			
<b><u>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS</u></b>							
ROSS MEDOS	IND	R	-	P			25%
<b><u>VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY</u></b>							
MARIANN HAMANN	IND	R	P	P			50%
SANDRA MEDOS	IND	D	-	P			
<b><u>VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA</u></b>							
JOHN KINZINGER	IND	R	-	-			25%
DALE LUEBKE	IND	D	-	-			
PAUL JINGOZIAN	IND	D	*	P			
<b><u>WASHTENAW COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERANS</u></b>							
MARK LINDKE	IND	R	-	P			25%

**SYMBOLS:**

P = Present

D = Deputy Representative

- = Absent

A = Associate Representative

E = Excused

H = Honorary Representative

\* = No Certified Rep. or Dep. Appointed

AD = Associate Deputy Representative

R = Representative

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY: The following is quoted from the VHA Handbook 1620.1, February 12, 2010, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROCEDURES, Chapter 9.b.(6) Termination of Membership. Organizations will be removed from the VAVS Committee when none of the certified members is in attendance at three consecutive meetings. Membership can be renewed with a letter of certification to the facility Director indicating the attendance requirement will be met. Representatives-at-large and the nonaffiliated Representative will be removed from the membership listing when they miss three consecutive meetings.