

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Project Name	Florida Women Veteran's Advisory Council (FWVAC)		
Date of Meeting	July 21, 2023	Time:	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Vanessa Thomas	Location	West Palm VA

1. Meeting Objectives

Last Meeting Minutes Review – Dee Quaranta
 Nomination of Secretary – Dee Quaranta
 Travel Voucher Training – Vanessa Thomas
 Regional Advisors' Updates
 Committee Reports: Updates
 1. Nursing Homes
 2. Communications/Outreach
 3. Homelessness
 4. Legislative (held for after lunch)
 Lunch Break
 Legislative Needs Discussion
 Best Practices

2. Attendees

Council Members: Chair: Dee Quaranta, Co-Chair, Vanessa Thomas, Betsy Nolan, Kathy Contreras, Alnita Whitt, Lynn Geiser, Susan Aungst, Dottie Deerwester, Lisa "BB" Browne Banic, Stella Toker (conference call), Lisa Dean (conference call), Lorraine Holland, (conference call) Natilie

3. Agenda, Notes, Discussion, and Actions

Topic	Discussion
Opening and last meetings' minutes	The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dee Quaranta at 10:00 with the prayer by and the pledge of allegiance. The members in the group introduced themselves.
Secretary Vacancy	Asked for volunteers to be secretary of the council
Committee Reports (Updates): Nursing Homes,	Nursing Homes Betsy Nolan stated that the committee was designing a survey that will be distributed to the Nursing Home Administrator to see how and what help we can provide to attract more women Veterans to utilize State

<p>Communications, Homelessness</p>	<p>Nursing Homes. Currently 54 Women Veterans live in State nursing home throughout the state veteran homes in Florida. He continued to state that there are still open beds, and the nursing homes will accommodate female veterans.</p> <p>The Committee also toured the local state Nursing home with great success.</p> <p>Kay Watson, Co-Chair, Betsy Nolan, Co-Chair, Kathy Contras, Kelly Dobson, Alicia Renner.</p> <hr/> <p>Outreach Committee Jo Jo Devine was not present and Sharlene was the spokes person for the committee. These three subcommittees' were approved to be included with Communications at the 4/21 meeting, but this meeting the council suggested that public policy have a separate committee. This committee will be chaired by Stella Tokar.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Website - Vanessa Thomas stated that FDVA is still working on the Women Veterans website and has asked Steve Murray to contact Quest to help design and what the cost would be. 2. Communications/ Outreach - <p>Homelessness(old Business) Chair Dee stated the Regional Advisors need to identify shelters and transitional homes for Women Veterans in their area. Women with children is an issue. Dee suggested the Regional Advisors to call 211 in their area or United Way to get resources.</p> <p>Try getting a SSVF grant to help Veterans with Supportive Services in your area.</p> <p>New Business: Susan Aungst presented a spreadsheet of how she vetted the homeless facilities. Council wanted more information and will provide an overview at the next meeting.</p> <p>Public Policy Stella presented the minutes from their first committee meeting. Discussed how we need to be ready for legislative issues for Women Veterans. Discussed how do we write or present our concerns of women veterans VSO in Florida. Not enough women veterans providing claims</p>
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<p>Regional Advisors Update and Resource Database for Women Veterans</p>	<p>assistance per capita. Want to make sure that we provide information that target Women Veterans to these positions without discrimination.</p> <p>Vanessa Thomas will bring it up during the next Florida Veterans Council.</p> <hr/> <p>RESOURCE DATABASE FOR WOMEN VETERANS</p> <p>Susan Aungst presented the resource database from Tri County Women Veterans. The outreach committee will continue to create the data base with the help of Terri Friend. Requested regions to continue working on their database and email to Vanessa Thomas so she can forward to Terri Friend and Susan Aungst.</p>
<p>Rural Areas</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>Dee stated again that the Regional Advisors need to identify their rural areas and have events in those areas. Having a Veteran resource event in those areas is vital because those veterans have a hard time getting access to care and other resources, especially women veterans. Dee stated it is important for Regional Advisors to know where their rural areas are in their region. By the next meeting have a rough idea how many women veterans are in your region. Try to have them divided up by county.</p> <p>Locate non-profits that can assist you and don't forget to write them down as a resource.</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>Council requested a report of Women Population by counties.</p>
<p>Best Practices</p>	<p>Vanessa stated to look in your regions and find where they are having women veterans' events and attend.</p>

4. Other information

Vanessa Thomas will be attending:
 Hope Florida – 9/5/2023
 NASWVC Conference on 9/9-9/15.

Concerned Veterans of America wants to do a workshop teaching women how to speak to their legislators.

5. Next Meeting

TBD – Panhandle area