

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2023**

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:09 a.m.

2. Chairman's Statement

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this meeting will be posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the website for the Borough of Bergenfield and the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. In case of an emergency, go to the nearest emergency exit where you are seated. Please turn off all cell phones.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent	Excused
Edgar Garcia, Member	X		
Thomas Lang, Member	X		
Rafael Marte, Council Liaison	X		
Richard Morf, Member	X		
Dina Moore, Member			X
Willie Moree Jr, Member	X		
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin			X
Alexandra Rodriguez, Member		X	
Fred Sahlberg, Member	X		
Wilfred Selby, Member		X	
Joseph Sokol, Member		X	
John Smith, Chairman	X		
Benjamin Whaley, Member		X	
Amos White, Member	X		
Warren Williams, Secretary	X		

4. Flag Salute

Pledge of Allegiance led by Committee Member Richard Morf

5. Invocation (Chaplin)

Invocation given by Committee Member Thomas Lang

6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)

No Additions/Deletion or Revisions

7. Approval of Minutes (December 2022)

Motion Offered by Committee Member Richard Morf and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang to approve the minutes for December 17, 2022, regular committee meeting minutes and publish the minutes on the committee's website. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

8. Treasury Report (December 2022)

Committee Member Warren Williams updated the committee with the monthly treasury report for the period of November 19, 2022 through December 17, 2022. The current balance of funds available is \$2,130.32. The committee received a donation of \$356.31 from the BP Gas Station Fundraiser which brings present balance of \$2,486.63. The committee gave \$200.00 donation to purchase 10 tickets for the USO Dance which lower the current balance of funds available \$2,286.63. No other expenses or billing transactions during this month's recording period. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Willie Moree and **Second** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of November 19, 2022 through December 21, 2022. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

9. Presentation/ Correspondence

A. Presentation: None

B. Correspondence: Committee has assisted with a total of 10 local veterans to file initial VA benefits claims with the help of the Bergen County Veterans Services Officer.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Ole School Style USO Dance (March 10, 2023)

Mrs. Venus Rice from VFW Auxiliary informs the committee on how the planning and preparing the March dance is processing. The Auxiliary asked for volunteers to help on giving the message out for the dance and to help with selling the tickets. The Committee Secretary Warren Williams already got the flyer made and contacted the USO Center at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY, to let the VFW Auxiliary borrow the USO Banner for dance. Mr. Williams will pick up the USO Banner by January 28th, 2023 or sooner. The committee requesting the Councilman Rafael Marte, to get the Borough Administrator to place the USO Dance information out to the residents by using the robot-call message system, the borough's webpage/Facebook and the digital information bulletin board.

B. Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation Ceremony.

Committee Member Warren Williams give the committee update information about the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin. This year 2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The VFW and The Veterans Committee are planning to have the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation for the Vietnam War Veterans of Bergenfield. This Commemoration Lapel Pin is for all United States veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at any time during the Vietnam War Era (November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975), regardless of location of service. Committee Member Warren Williams is request that Councilman Rafael Marte, to get the Borough Administrator to place the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin information out to the veterans of Bergenfield to register for this lapel pin. The date of the actual presentation ceremony in pending. There will be more updated information by the next committee meeting.

11. New Business

A. Pre-Planning for Events for 2023. Committee

Chairman John Smith and Committee Secretary Warren Williams informed the other committee members on why events that will be coming up for the 2023 and a draft copy of the event schedule.

12. Good of the Order

A. Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program (Approved)

The Bergenfield VFW Post been approved by the U.S. Department of Defense for the Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Program, an organizationally based, hometown centric initiative to assist our

great nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. The VFW Post, Veterans Committee and the governing body for Borough of Bergenfield are making plans to get the Vietnam Veterans of Bergenfield to register for the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Ceremony for spring 2023. The information and the registration form will be announced on the borough's website and the weekly robot-call messages to the residents of Bergenfield beginning on January 27, 2023. The date of the active pinning ceremony will be announced later.

B. USO Dance-Ole School 50s, 60s, 70s Style Fundraiser (March 10, 2023)

Committee Secretary Warren Williams informed the other committee members of an update about the USO Dance. Committee Secretary Warren Williams contacted the USO Center at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, NY and requested to borrow their large USO Banner and for street banner for the upcoming dance in March 2023. Committee Secretary Warren Williams will pick up the USO Banner by January 31, 2023 or sooner.

13. Verbal Communications

No discussion

14. Committee Comments

Mrs. Anna Lorenzo, a resident of Dumont and Mrs. Dianne Naughton, both attended this committee's meeting and requested assistance and guidance to file a VA benefit claim for Mrs. Lorenzo's late husband Richard Lorenzo. Committee Chairman John Smith, Council Liaison Councilman Rafael Marte, and Committee Member Warren Williams met with both Mrs. Lorenzo and Mrs. Naughton and gave some assistance on how and what must be done to file a VA Survivor Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claim. Committee Member Warren Williams is also the VFW Post Commander and the Post Service Officer who assisted Mrs. Lorenzo in getting her VA claim started and helping her by completing the required forms to file with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mrs. Lorenzo and Mrs. Naughton were very grateful for the outstanding assistance that Mr. John Smith, Councilman Rafael Marte, and Mr. Warren Williams of the Veterans Committee by helping Mrs. Anna Lorenzo's VA benefits claim. Committee Member Warren Williams will be following up on the status of Mrs. Lorenzo VA claim and offer her any additional assistance. The Veteran's Committee is here to assist all veterans and family members by getting assistance and guidance on how to file for veterans benefits and to inform veterans of new changes of veteran's benefits.

15. Adjournment

Motion Offered by Committee Member Edgar Garcia and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang to adjourn the meeting. The next schedule committee meeting will be on Saturday, February 18th, 2023, time-10:00AM, at the VFW Post. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. This meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren T. Williams
Sgt Major (Retired), USA
Committee Secretary