



Veterans' Referral Initiative Network

08/23/18 – 0900

UWAC Conference Room

Attendance – Todd Bale, United Way; Morgan Parker, United Way; Mary Muehlenfeld, YWCA and West Central Illinois Continuum of Care; Glenn Swick, Tri-State Warriors, Luke Bealor, Dot Foods; Kelly Hogan, Veteran Affairs; Kevin Hughes, Illinois Dept Veteran Affairs; Barry Cheyne, American Red Cross; Richard Elsenpeter, Mid-America Military Salute;

I. Updates, Announcements & Introduction of any new attendees:

Luke Bealor is new to the group.

Quincy Senior High School boys' soccer team would like to make the Tri-State Warrior Outreach the recipient of their fundraising efforts at a home game in October. Glenn, Barry and Mary volunteered to work at the event to promote the organization.

September 8 at 8:00 a.m. Mid-America Military Salute will hold an event at the Adams County Fairgrounds that will build a tiny home to be awarded to a veteran in need of housing. Applications are being considered and the announcement will be at 4:00 that day. Mark Lawrence from 2 x 4's for Hope is coordinating the construction with 24-28 financial sponsors and nine labor groups that will build the home on the fair grounds site. The home will be moved by the local Army National Guard to its permanent location at 1029 N. 6th.

Tri State Warrior Outreach is holding a Run/Walk to raise funds for outreach efforts on October 28, 9:00 a.m. at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy.

The 49th Honor Flight mission will take place August 25 departing from Hannibal. September 29 will be the 50th Honor Flight mission.

II. Survey Feedback –

Homeless Veterans Surveys were distributed to agencies most likely to encounter homeless veterans. Surveys returned to date are 27. The surveys will be reviewed for data. Todd Bale suggested doing the survey again in January rather than once a year and committee agreed.

III. Heroes in the Heartland Feedback – Glenn

Heroes at Heartland provided a recreational day for area veterans at Heartland Lodge in Pike County on August 11. \$4,000 was raised for the Tri State Warrior Outreach program and approximately 250 veterans and their family members attended.

DOT Charitable Opportunity Glenn is applying for grant for Outreach assistance.

IV. Additional Members to Invite

V. Community Building Council Info – Do you want to appoint a VRI rep with that group?

Todd suggested Mary Muehlenfeld from VRI group to serve on the CBC council and she accepted.

VI. Picking up the VSO/VAC discussion for Adams County

In December 2015 a group presented to the Adams County Board to form a Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC). Despite apparent support it went to the county's finance committee and never came to fruition. The sentiment appeared to be that volunteer and non-profit efforts were adequately addressing unmet needs of veterans in Adams County. The ask was for \$100,000 to fund a full-time coordinator who by statute must be a veteran, an employee of the county, and receive benefits of other county employees.

Next steps to revive this effort is to develop a budget and narrative that includes list of current VACs in Illinois. It was suggested a presentation from the VAC in Sangamon County would be beneficial. It was also suggested to include Troy Culbertson, Administrator of Illinois Veterans Home in the planning. It was suggested seeking assistance from the director on the state level of Illinois Dept of Veteran Affairs.

Adjourned – 1000

