Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF October 12th, 2026

Commissioners		
Ric Ray	President	**Present**
Dave Hyatt	Vice President	**Present**
John McAllister	Secretary	**Present**
Jeff Hill	Member	**Present**
Richard Mason	Member	**Present**
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	**Present**
Wm. Piwtorak	Deputy Director	**Present**
Foxx Schneider	Social Services	**Present**
Speaking Guest(s)		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Ric Ray in 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Review minutes from the previous meeting.

Motion – 26-1012-01 to approve the minutes from 09-28-2026 as written

1st Mason **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion-26-1012-02 to move into executive session at 1731 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion- 26-1012-03 to return to public session at 1822 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion-26-1012-04 to waive the income limit as well as pay $3,823.06 for mortgage and $927.00 for HOA fees for surviving spouse REDACTED.

1st Hyatt **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

OLD BUSINESS:

VETFEST:
Vet Fest turned out to be a huge success, drawing 400 registered Veterans and their families. Following the event, leadership and the VSC board met to review its impact and discuss how to refine the event for future years. A central part of the conversation focused on defining the overall goal of Vet Fest and developing strategies to increase advertising to reach even more families. Given the event's strong potential for continued growth, Commissioner Hyatt suggested searching for larger venue spaces to accommodate expanding crowds.

TOY DRIVE:
This seasons Christmas toy drive is going well as the start of the donation is approaching November 2nd and ending December 14th, this event is being advertised on tv, as well as over the radio, flyers have continually been provided to organizations to best reach for the community of Delaware county to help veteran families in the community. Other organizations who are going to be assisting in the success of this mission include Bridgewater, Powell police with stuff a cruiser, Liberty Township with drive through the bay with Santa, and Mason Lodge's donation in the purchasing of gifts for Veteran families.

FOREVER GRATEFUL DINNER:
Discussion of the dinner was had now that all commissioners were present. The success was discussed with future discussions to follow in future meetings.

SUNBURY MONUMENT:
Currently on track now, working to be finalized by the Director of the office Brian Gallagher.

Motion 26-1012-05 to accept and approve the resolution???????

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

NEW BUISNESS:

VETERAN OF THE YEAR:
The VSC board discussed who would be this year's Veteran of the year, the board was provided with names which were submitted. The board discussed if the Veteran is inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame, then they should automatically be inducted into the one for Delaware County.

Motion 26-1012-06 to allow Veterans of Delaware County who are inducted into the State of Ohio Military Hall of Fame to automatically be inducted into the Delaware County Veteran of the year.

1st Hill **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion 26-1012-07 to nominate Kristy Bartman as this year's Veteran of the year.

1st Hyatt **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

FRIEND OF THE VETERAN NOMINATION:
Discussion on who would be nominated for friend of the Veteran was had, Deputy Director of the office mentioned Mary Carducci.

Motion 26-1012-08 to nominate Mary Carducci as this year's friend of the Veteran.

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

FUTURE EVENTS:
We have an exciting lineup of future events for 2027 that our office will either be leading or supporting. Our upcoming calendar includes the Summit in April, the Veteran Shoot in the summer, and Vet Fest in October. Additionally, we are working to secure a special Veterans Zoo Lights event for our veterans and their families. More discussions and details will follow soon.

Military Brackets:
The VSC spoke about the brackets and the military honor banners that are going to be put up on poles and displayed in areas of the county, this is being done to honor those who served and display remembrance in their honor.

Motion 26-1012-09 to approve up to $30,000.00 worth of brackets to assist with displaying the brackets for the remembrance of the veterans of Delaware County.

1st Hill **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

THE STRAND:

Discussion of renting out the Strand to show the commemoration video of "The Wall that Heals" on November 12th, 2026. It would be $1,000.00 to reserve one of the theatres shown and the Director of the office recommended allowing up to $1,500.00 for this event.

Motion 26-1012-10 to approve up to $1,500.00 to reserve a theatre at "The Stand" for the event on November 12th.

1st Hill **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

2026 CAR SHOW APPROVAL:

The office set up a tent for this past Saturday, October 10th, Brian and Rey were at the tent for a total of six hours, in those six hours they spoke to a lot of Veterans and provided tons of information about our office, and services the office provides. The cost of having the tent there was $1,000.00 and requires approval.

Motion 26-1012-09 to approve $1,000.00 for the car show set up.

1st Hyatt **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Wave Report: -the wavetop report was provided to the VSC

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

NEXT MEETING: October 26th, 2026, is the next meeting scheduled-1730 hrs. At 91 N. Sandusky Street (Veterans Services).

Motion 26-1012-06 to adjourn the meeting at 1930 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

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Commissioners		
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Dave Hyatt	Vice President	**Present**
John McAllister	Secretary	**Present**
Jeff Hill	Member	**Present**
Richard Mason	Member	**Present**
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	**Present**
Wm. Piwtorak	Deputy Director	**Present**
Foxx Schneider	Social Services	**Present**
Speaking Guest(s)		
Dan Towslee	Guest	**Present**
Fabia Taylor	Cemetery Coordinator	**Present**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Ric Ray in 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Review minutes from the previous meeting.

Motion – 26-1026-01 to approve the minutes from 10-12-2026 as written

1st Mason **2nd McAllister** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion-26-1026-02 to move into executive session at 1824 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Motion- 26-1026-03 to return to public session at 1855 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

Special Guest: Dan Towslee and Fabia Taylor

Mr. Towslee attended the VSC meeting to present "Living Legacy," a program he created. He provided a summary of the concept and shared the inspiration behind developing both the application and its accompanying device. Designed to identify graves and document the individuals buried within active and inactive cemeteries, the system features a specialized capability discussed by Mr. Towslee and Fabia Taylor: using archived records to identify veterans. They concluded by highlighting the significant benefits of adopting and utilizing the system moving forward. Future meetings and discussions to follow.

OLD BUSINESS:

VETFEST:

After recent success at VETFEST, continued positive feedback has been received. Kim Gilley received official document from the VA sending praise to our organization on the outcome of the event. Planning and preparation to follow to ensure next year's event is a greater success.

TOY DRIVE:

All is going as planned with the Toy Drive as Rey has been managing the group assigned to the task. Radio commercials and Tv commercials are live, and being aired. Future events around the community to help our toy drive is an event at Bridgewater November 29th from 9am-1pm. Stuff a cruiser happening on December 5th with Powell Police at Village Green Park, in Powell. As well on December 12th at Liberty Township Fire Department filling the bay with donations to best help Veteran families this Christmas. Discussion was had on where these donations were being stored.

NEW BUISNESS:

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Motion-26-1012-04 to increase the amount of quarterly assistance for the offices gift card program. This assistance is for Veterans who are below the 150% of the national poverty limit. This would assist Veterans in need from receiving $400.00 every quarter, to $500.00 every quarter in gift cards to help with food, gas, and essential needs.

1st McAllister **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

LIFETIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Financial Assistance Officer addressed the board regarding the topic of lifetime assistance. Currently, under existing office policy stipulations and requirements, veterans are eligible for a maximum of $15,000 in available funds. Board members discussed potentially raising this maximum limit, considering the various operational and financial factors involved. To inform this decision, the Veteran Service Commission

board recommended that the Director and Deputy Director research lifetime limits in other counties to see how their programs operate.

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE:
The management spoke to the board on continuing to assist Veteran families with a $25.00 assistance card to help with preparing for the holidays. This amount is based on members of the family.

FUNERAL DISCUSSION:
The Delaware County Prosecutors Office is coming to speak with management, as well as the board in two weeks to discuss all legal things. This meeting is to ensure all operations of the office are approved and following our office's county legal guidance. All funding for funerals stops immediately effective now, future updates to follow.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Wave Report: -the wavetop report was provided to the VSC

GOOD FOR THE ORDER:

VETERANS PARADE
Sunday, November 1st is the Delaware County Veterans Parade, over 1,700 people have registered to participate in the parade.

BREAKFAST
November 11th at 0830 is Veterans Day Breakfast. This year it will be Marine Corps themed, as the goal is to honor and represent on branch every year with colors, themes of said branch.

MONUMENT UPDATE
Monument unveiling will be on November 11th at 11:30. This monument unveiling will be at the entrance to Oak Grove Cemetery in Delaware off Sandusky Street.

STRAND THEATRE:
On November 12th at 6pm the strand theatre will be showing the commemoration of the "Wall That Heals" that took place in Delaware county. With Veterans in the community as well as organizations assisting with the wall, we want to ensure that their assistance is not taken lightly. If interested, get in contact with a representative from the Delaware County Veteran Service office for more information.

Motion 26-1026-05 to approve up to $2,500 for concessions for Veterans.
1st McAllister **2nd Hill** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**

NEXT MEETING: November 9th, 2026, is the next meeting scheduled-1730 hrs. At 91 N. Sandusky Street (Veterans Services).

Motion 26-1012-06 to adjourn the meeting at 2000 hrs.

1st McAllister **2nd Mason** **5-0 Vote** **PASS**