



# AURORA VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Minutes

June 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Council Members

Jose Cervantes; Ansar Kazmi; Josh Pfeuffer (Chair); Guillermo Trujillo (COA); Patricia DeVore; Scott Maxson; Rick Lawrence; Curtis Wilson; Dave Tellner; Mike Carrasco and Pete Rodriguez.

**Call to Order** (Pro-temp Chair) Mr. Tellner; called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** Completed

**Moment of Silence** Completed

**Roll Call** **Present:** Mr. Jose Cervantes; Ms. Patricia DeVore; Mr. Guillermo Trujillo; Mr. Rick Lawrence; Mr. Dave Tellner; Mr. Mike Carrasco; Mr. Pete Rodriguez; Mr. Ansar Kazmi; Mr. Scott Maxson.

**Absent:** Mr. Josh Pfeuffer (Chair) and Mr. Curtis Wilson

**Mission Statement** Completed by membership.

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** The May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes were distributed to the membership in advance. A motion was made by Mr. Carrasco and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to accept the May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. A vote from the floor was taken and unanimously passed to accept the May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented with no corrections.

**Public Comment** USAR Veteran, Mr. Gerald (Gerry) Paulsen gave a presentation surrounding his involvement with the U.S. Army Military and Veteran Resource Group and what services they offer. Mr. Gerald Paulsen also gave a presentation regarding the nonprofit organization he founded, "Operation Horses and Heroes" and what services & upcoming events they offer to Veterans and their families.

The Hollywood Casino Team, Serena Bennett, Jennifer Ozoa, Chris Williams and Lauren Pangelinan presented the AVAC Membership with a donation check for \$657.00 which were raised from their "Giving Back" fundraising event for AVAC in April 2023.

**Treasurer's Report** The current May 2023 Treasurer's Report totals were presented to the membership by Treasurer Mr. Tellner.

**Scholarship Fund**

**Council Fund**

**Memorial Bricks Fund**

**Assistance Fund**

**Committee Report**

**Scholarship Fund** No new requests received in May 2023.

**AVAC Web / Social Media** Mr. Cervantes continues to do an excellent job of posting numerous pictures, covering other local VSO organizations events, etc. to help raise public awareness about these various events too on our AVAC Face Book page.

**Memorial Bricks** Mr. Cervantes informed the membership the Citizens Police Academy previously purchased 1 x Memorial Brick in March 2023 but they haven't heard anything since. Therefore both Mr. Kazmi and Mr. Cervantes will follow-up and give us an update at next months meeting.

**Assistance Fund** Mr. Tellner - No new requests received in May 2023.

**COA Liaison Report** Mr. Trujillo informed us that we need to submit our application to the COA to participate in the upcoming COA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. He also informed us of the 2023 Illinois Joining Forces Aurora Area Regional Summit from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on **Friday, July 28, 2023** at Blackberry Farm in Aurora.

**Upcoming Events** Mr. Rick Lawrence invited us to attend the Naperville Salute / Naperville Responds event June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 2, 2023.

**Old Business:**

- Mr. Maxson distributed information surrounding the potential new AVAC Honor Guard uniform. (Please see list attached) We decided to table this discussion until next month's meeting.
- Update - 65 x Gift Bags for Veterans residing at the Hope For Tomorrow facility. Mr. Tellner informed us that Mr. Josh Pfeuffer (Chair) has asked for AVAC volunteers to meet at Amvets Post 103 at 6:00 pm next Wednesday, June 21 st, to stuff the Gift Bags for future delivery.

**New Business:**

- A motion was made by Mr. Tellner and seconded by Ms. DeVore, that we purchase a new AVAC parade banner at a max budget of \$200.00. A vote was then taken from the floor and unanimously passed by the membership. Mr. Tellner will purchase the new banner.
- Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to distribute our current \$100 Aldi Holiday Food Gift Cards to the financially indigent Kane County Veterans that were previously helped by the Veterans Smile Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kazmi. A vote was then taken from the floor and

unanimously passed by the membership. Ms. DeVore will help to identify these local Veterans in need to determine if they would like to receive one of these \$100 Aldi Food Gift Cards.

- We discussed possibly purchasing some AVAC promotional program table and items, ex: 10 x 10 canopy, folding table, etc. for future use at events. Further discussion was tabled until next months meeting.
- Mr. Tellner mentioned AVAC possibly hosting our own golf outing next year. Further discussion was tabled until next months meeting.

## **Announcements / Good of the Order -**

**Next meeting is** July 12, 2023

**Adjournment** Called at 7:25 pm with a motion from Mr. Carrasco and a second by Mr. Rodriguez. Motion was passed.

## **Aurora Veterans Advisory Council Honor Guard Uniform Discussion**

### **Head cover:**

Baseball style cap with the official AVAC logo

Color: TBD

Supplied by AVAC

### **Uniform Shirt Short Sleeve:**

Shirt style: Collared shirt with official AVAC logo on left breast

Color: White or Navy Blue

Supplied by AVAC

### **Uniform Shirt Long Sleeve:**

Shirt style: Collared shirt with official AVAC logo on left breast

Color: White or Navy Blue

Supplied by AVAC

### **Pants:**

Any commercial, off the shelf, pant that is navy blue in color. A Docker or dress pant style is preferred but other styles (i.e. cargo or tactical) of navy blue pants can be worn.

Supplied by AVAC member

### **Belt:**

Black leather

Supplied by AVAC member

### **Shoes:**

Any style shoe that is all black

Supplied by AVAC member

**Not recommended - Other potential items for discussion:**

- Shoulder braid (if chosen, then braid is either attached to short with a pin or a shirt with epaulets will be needed)
- American flag patch on left shoulder
- Tie