



AURORA VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

August 9, 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 (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Completed

Moment of Silence Completed

Roll Call **Present:** (Chair) Mr. Josh Pfeuffer; Mr. Jose Cervantes; Ms. Patricia DeVore; Mr. Rick Lawrence; Mr. Dave Tellner; Mr. Scott Maxson and Mr. Curtis Wilson.

Absent: Mr. Guillermo Trujillo (COA); Mr. Mike Carrasco; Mr. Pete Rodriguez and Mr. Ansar Kazmi.

Mission Statement Completed

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: The June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes were distributed to the membership in advance. A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Lawrence to accept the June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. A vote from the floor was taken and unanimously passed to accept the June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented with no corrections.

Public Comment - No Report.

Treasurer's Report The current July 2023 Treasurer's Report totals were presented to the membership by our AVAC Treasurer Mr. Tellner.

Scholarship Fund

Council Fund

Memorial Bricks Fund

Assistance Fund

Committee Report

Scholarship Fund Mr. Tellner informed us that a total of six \$1K each scholarships were recently distributed to six different students at six different schools in Aurora.

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 (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer will follow-up and give us an update at next months meeting.

Assistance Fund Mr. Tellner – A new request was received in July 2023 however the Veteran requesting assistance failed to complete or submit the proper AVAC assistance application so his request was denied at this time.

COA Liaison Report No Report

Upcoming Events Ms. DeVore reminded the membership of our AVAC / COA 1st Annual upcoming POW/MIA Ceremony event, which is now scheduled for 6:00 pm on Friday September 15, 2023 at the Veterans Memorial Island location in Aurora. All AVAC membership are strongly encouraged to attend this very important upcoming event.

Old Business:

- Update - AVAC Honor Guard uniform and costs. - Mr. Pfeuffer will update us next month.
- Update - 65 x Gift Bags for Veterans residing at the Hope For Tomorrow. - AVAC member's along with Mayor Irvin did deliver the 65 x Gift Bags to the Veteran Residents at the Hope For Tomorrow facility as planned after the COA 4th of July Parade. The Veteran Residents were very appreciative for their Gift Bags. This Veteran project was a huge success. Good job everyone!
- Update – New AVAC parade banner – Mr. Tellner did purchase our new Parade Banner however the membership discussed possibly getting another more professional looking Parade Banner. Mr. Tellner will check into the cost for another new Parade Banner and will give us an update at next month's meeting.
- Update - \$100 Aldi Food Gift Cards for local Veterans.- All Veteran applicant's must complete & submit one of our AVAC Assistance applications to request a \$100 Aldi Food Gift Card.
- Update – Purchasing some AVAC promotional program table and items.- Mr. Pfeuffer will update us next month's meeting.
- Update – Possible AVAC hosting golf outing next year.- Mr. Tellner advised he will be recruiting further assistance from Mr. Guillermo Trujillo (COA) in an attempt to secure a Golf Course location in Aurora for this potential future Golf Outing event. Mr. Tellner will provide an update at next month's meeting.
- Update – POW/MIA National Recognition Day on Friday September 15, 2023. - Ms. DeVore gave the membership an update surrounding our AVAC / COA upcoming POW/MIA event which will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday September 15, 2023 at the Veterans Memorial Island

in Aurora. Both Ms. DeVore and (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer met with the City of Aurora Officials last week and the COA is now on board to be involved along with AVAC for this upcoming event. The COA will help us with many of the various staff & items needed to host this very important event. Our AVAC Sub-Committee will also meet this evening after our regular monthly meeting adjourns, to finalize the POW/MIA Ceremony event Agenda, etc.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Ms. DeVore and seconded by (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer, that AVAC make a \$5K donation to the National League of Families of American Prisoners & Missing in Southeast Asia, a nonprofit organization and also that our AVAC budget be set at \$1K for the necessary materials needed for our upcoming POW/MIA Ceremony event. A vote was then taken from the floor and unanimously passed by the membership. Mr. Tellner will now issue the \$5K donation to the National League of Families of American Prisoners & Missing in Southeast Asia organization on our behalf. Ms. DeVore and (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer will work with Mr. Guillermo Trujillo (COA) to order the items necessary for our POW/MIA Ceremony event.
- Mr. Wilson talked about AVAC membership possibly getting more involved to help more of our local homeless Veterans in the Aurora area. Mr. Wilson would also like to recruit further assistance from the Aurora PD Officer's as well. (Chair) Mr. Pfeuffer made the suggestion that Mr. Wilson now form a Sub-Committee to further address potential ways we can be of further assistance to our local homeless Veteran's in need. Mr. Wilson will also invite Lt. Rowley at the Aurora Police Dept. to attend and speak at our next AVAC meeting on September 13th.
- Mr. Cervantes mentioned an email he had received from a local Veteran's family, asking AVAC for a \$150.00 donation to assistance the family with restoring the headstone for their departed Veteran loved one. Further discussion was tabled for now so Mr. Cervantes can bring more specific details about this families request to be further discussed at next month's meeting.

Announcements / Good of the Order - Ms. DeVore informed us of a current donation & gift card exchange benefiting the Veterans Smile Program.

Next meeting is September 13, 2023

Adjournment Called at 7:00 pm with a motion from Ms. DeVore and a second by Mr. Tellner. Motion was passed.