



Veterans and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

19 June 2013

Minutes

DRAFT

Present: Chairman Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Brian Leen

Absent: Nicholas Pisano, Lloyd Calderon, Pat Gaston, Stephen Asher, Elise Wheeler, Steve Overman

Meeting call to order by Chairman Newall at 9:14am

May 2013 Minutes were accepted as submitted.

In regards to the question: What is the percentage of Veterans who have been interviewed and hired?

Chairman Newall stated the percentage of interviews based on the number of applications submitted is 12%. He feels the issue continues to be the inability to fill out the applications properly by the veteran. Archie spoke with Mr. Yermal who stated the City computer system now has the ability to designate a 'v' for veteran.

Membership

Chairman Newall asked the Board for a moment of silence to recognize the recent passing of Dennis Kelly. There is now a vacancy on the Board; he asked members to submit names of individuals who may be interested in joining the Board.

Members whose term expires in September 2013:

Ken O'Keefe – 1st Term

Louis Tafoya -1st Term

Stephen Asher - 1st Term

Albuquerque Veteran Employee Coins

The presentations of the Employee Veteran coin to recognize City employees who are veterans have been difficult to arrange due to work schedules.

Hiring Preference

Chairman Newall is working to clarify the language of the initiative.

Projects

There are no projects scheduled at this time.

Children's Freedom Festival

The Children's Freedom Festival went well; plans for next year are not certain. There will be a wrap up meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 1:00pm at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial.

New Mexico Veterans Business Expo and Job Fair May 8 -9, 2013

The Expo was very successful. There were approximately 150 exhibitors. The City of Albuquerque was very supportive in allowing the use of the Convention Center and offering free parking. There was some confusion when some individuals arrived on the set up day or went to the wrong side of the Convention Center. Advertising of the event could have been better; the decision will be made to have the marketing services contracted out.

Archie would like to have a two-day conference some time in September or October 2014 to include the five state regions. The first day, have workshops and a dinner to recognize companies which do business with veterans. The next day have a match making session with veteran owned businesses. He will recruit sponsors to defray costs.



Archie has been working closely with reporters from the Albuquerque Journal who have agreed to publish an ad promoting the “Hire a Vet” in the classified section of the Sunday publication at a reduced rate. The ad will include a picture of the veteran along with a brief overview of their experience. On alternate weeks, the ad will read “Hire a Veteran Company” which will highlight the company’s qualifications including their company logo along with those of the City of Albuquerque, Sandia Labs and VPAC. Archie will be recruiting sponsors to defray costs.

Chairman Newall stated VPAC receives funding from the City of Albuquerque’s Economic Development Department; he will oversee the reporting.

Next Advisory Board Meeting

The sense of the attending members was to continue with meetings during the summer months. The next Board meeting will be on 17 July 2013 at the New Mexico Veteran’s Memorial, 1100 Louisiana SE, 9:00am to 11:00am.

Upcoming Events

On September 8, 2013, Blue Star Mothers, Rio Grande Chapter will host a 5k Remembrance Run at the Balloon Fiesta Park. There are four levels of sponsorships; VPAC will send \$500 for their sponsorship. The organization is looking for names of individuals who are overseas.

On July 4th, 2013 the 44th Army Band New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) will perform a concert at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Admission is free. Ralph Harris sent Ken the press release announcing the event. The concert is part of 44th Army Band of the New Mexico National Guard musical tour of southeastern New Mexico beginning on June 26, 2013. The band will visit five cities including Clovis, Portales, Roswell, Hobbs and Carlsbad.

Archie complimented the performance of Native flutist, Ron Hoskie at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Ken has a contact for a piper for the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55am

