



Alaska VA Healthcare System (463)  
1201 N. Muldoon Road  
Telephone Number: 907-257-4949 or Toll Free 1-800-353-7574  
Fax Number: 907-257-6774  
May 2, 2018  
1pm - 2pm

## VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

**Call to order:** Jeanne Fox, Chief, Voluntary Service

**Invocation:** Mrs. Marge Blankenship

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Ann Robinson

**Review of Minutes:** Jan 11, 2018 minutes were approved as written.

**Staff present:** Cynthia Joe, Chief of Staff; Jeanne Fox, Chief, Voluntary Service; Alfredo Stokes, Jr., Voluntary Service Specialist; Mary Catherine Murano Median, Patient Centered Care Coordinator; Richard Vaughn, Voluntary Services Specialist; Holly Melear, Group Practice Manager

### **Discussion:**

Dr. Cynthia Joe stated that Mr. Thomas Steinbrunner was on temporary duty (TDY) in Washington, DC and was unable to attend the quarterly meeting.

VA is still moving out of Northway Mall completion scheduled for June.

The OR/Surgical/Specialty area will be undergoing Humidification upgrade pending award of contract (2018-2019).

Choice contract ends on September 30, 2018, (4 regions) with rebids to make Alaska their own region; Dr. Matthews (Community Health Care) visiting May 9, 2018 with more to come on these changes.

National Veterans Golden Age Games committee in Alaska May 7-10, 2018 meeting with local venues in preparation for hosting 2019 games.

New full-time providers (2) in Matsu and one new provider slated for Fairbanks late May.

### **Events Schedule:**

May 18, 2018 Armed Forces Day recognition table in atrium of Anchorage Clinic

May 25, 2018 Memorial Day recognition table in atrium of Anchorage Clinic

June 14, 2018 Flag Day recognition table in atrium of Anchorage Clinic

July 28, 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle/Car Show at Anchorage Clinic

### **Wants/Needs:**

Donations of monies for GPF #4407 Emergent Needs / donated items for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle/Car Show / Gift Cards from Wal-Mart & Fred Myers along with Local Hair Salons/Barbers and new clothes for the Domiciliary.

**VAVS Committees:**

None schedule for facility

**Old Business:**

Project Homeless Connect (Stand Down) on Jan. 24, 2018 at Eagan Center served 27 Veterans.  
"Ruff" Carpet Event for Feb. 10, 2018 was canceled on Jan. 25, 2018; reschedule date Feb 2019.  
National Salute to Veteran Patient Week was Feb. 11-17, 2018; flag pins were distributed to Veterans, "EAT for Your Health" was the theme for the tables set up in the atrium over \$400.00 in fruit was handed out to Veterans, and 14 JBER in-patients received personal care kits.  
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival – local competition was held Jan. 1 – Feb 15, 2018; seven local winners when to Nationals (1,716 art entries from 127 VA facilities were judged at the national level of competition); Colleen Darrell received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Fabric Art for her quilt.  
Received 31 volunteer applications/packages 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. (Jan – Mar 2018) completed 8.  
Provide updated letters for Representatives/Deputy Representative  
Complete Annual Training (for all those that volunteer through the VA)  
2018 National Events Schedule posted to VA Website  
Partnership Program are continued to be work throughout the community  
Partnership Program - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC signed on Jan 20, 2018 by Dr. Ballard

**New Business:**

Red Coat Ambassador Program, Jan 1 – Mar 30 volunteers Kenny 215 hours and Cornell 225 hours.  
"No-Show" Campaign launched March 30, 2018 reducing national stats of 9 million no-shows.  
Holly Melear (VA, Group Practice Manager) presented information regarding the national program.  
Volunteer Meredith Townsend received the VA Volunteer of the Year award on Mar. 17, 2018 from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for volunteering with the Alaska Veterans Affairs Healthcare System since 2008 and accumulated over 4389 hours (\$105,950.46 savings)  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual VA2K May 16, 2018 w/Employee Health Fair bring donations of toiletries, packaged food, blankets, backpacks, socks, gloves etc.  
Motorcycle/Car Show Event – Jul. 28, 2018 – Service Organization involvement needed.  
Student Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon with date in August and Service Organization involvement needed.  
National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG) Site Visit #3 to Albuquerque, New Mexico will be June 25 – 28, 2018 Alaska VA will be going down in preparation for hosting in 2019.

**Questions:**

Gayle Cederberg stated that Tim E. Craig (True Value Hardware) donates flags to general public for display.

Yvonne Charles stated that she has been receiving text messaging regarding her VA appointments and that her experience has been outstanding.

**Federal Holidays:**

May 28, 2018 – Memorial Day (VA Closed)  
July 4, 2018 – Independence Day (VA Closed)  
September 3, 2018 – Labor Day (VA Closed)  
October 8, 2018 - Columbus Day (VA Closed)  
November 12, 2018 – Veterans Day (VA Closed)  
November 22, 2018 – Thanksgiving (VA Closed)  
December 25, 2018 – Christmas Day (VA Closed)

**Upcoming Events:**

Veteran Tele-Town Hall – May 10, 2018  
Anchorage Clinic 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Veteran Town Hall Anchor Point – May 16, 2018  
Anchor Point Senior Center 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Veteran Town Hall Kenai – May 17, 2018  
Challenger Learning Center of AK 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Registration – Jan 1 – Apr 15, 2018  
Orlando, FL – Jul 30 – Aug 4, 2018  
National Veterans Golden Age Games – Registration – Apr – 2 – May 2, 2018  
Albuquerque, NM – Aug 3 – 8, 2018  
National Disabled Veterans Tee Tournament – Registration – Dec 1, 2017 – Apr 1, 2018  
Iowa City, IA - Sep 10 – 14, 2018  
National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic – Registration – Nov 1 – Apr 1, 2018  
San Diego, CA – Sep 16 – 21, 2018

**Certifications:**

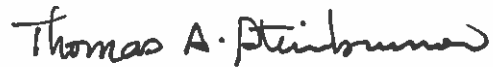
The Forty and Eight, Representative Elexzanderia Carr & Deputy Representative Finis Sheldon received January 25, 2018  
American Legion Auxiliary, Deputy Representatives Melissa Snell (Haines) & Ann Robison (Anchorage) received April 5, 2018  
Partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Representative Delmoncia Williams & Deputy Representatives Yvonne Charles, Daphine Hatton, Patricia Wilson-Cone, Laurie King received April 30, 2018

**Annual Joint Reviews:**

January – AMVETS signed by representative April 10, 2018 sent to NAC May 3, 2018.  
February – Military Order of the Cootie: no AJR  
March – Knights of Columbus: AJR pulled no certification letter on file.  
The Salvation Army: AJR pulled, certification letter on file, representatives not active.  
April - American Legion, sent on April 2 with no reply, resent on May 11, 2018.  
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, sent on April 2 with no reply, resent on May 11, 2018.  
Disable American Veterans, sent on April 2, 2018 with no reply, resent on May 11, 2018.  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, sent on April 2, 2018 with no reply, resent on May 11, 2018.  
Red Cross sent to NAC on May 3, 2018.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting Date:**

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 12, 2018 (5 p.m. to 6 p.m.) in the Alaska VA Outpatient Clinic (Room 2D101/103/105).



THOMAS A. STIENBRUNNER, FACHE  
Associate Director  
Chair, VAVS Committee



JEANNE M. FOX, MAM  
Chief, Voluntary Service  
Deputy Chairperson, VAVS Committee