

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes,
Monday, October 16, 2023, 7:00 PM

Members Present:

Kristin Reilly
Wendell Rich
Dave Reese
Erik Saracino

Others Present:

Paula Gasper - Liasion
Lisa Russo - Administration Liaison
Dave Parry
Bernadette Heenan
Tom Yaegel
Bill Klenke

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Sept 18, 2023, Unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

- VAC fundraiser held at Giuseppe’s Pizza, Richboro, PA, raised over \$5K. The donations collected will be used to purchase wreaths for the “Hometown Hero’s” ceremony on December 2, 2023.
 - VAC will send thank you cards to Giuseppe’s Pizza and the Richboro Beer Store for their generous contributions.
- October 2, 2023, Kristin Reilly and Erik Saracino met with Kymberly Diglia and students from the Veterans Service Club (VSC) at Council Rock North High School (CRN), Newtown, PA.
 - The visit provided an opportunity to discuss MSgt Elwell’s background and the group’s desire to host a dedication ceremony at CRN (TBD: 2024).
- Township Veteran Repository
 - Talks continue as members provided recommendation to revise the graphics initially submitted to the township’s newsletter.
- October 6, 2023, Erik Saracino and Bernadette Heenan attended the Veteran Benefit Expo at Parx Casino, Bensalem, PA. The event provided an opportunity to speak with representatives associated with various veteran programs.
- Dr. Michael Spadafora, Richboro, PA, provided free dental services to veterans in the local area.

NEW BUSINESS

- Due to ongoing construction and limited parking, VAC members decided to move the location of the upcoming Veterans Day ceremony to the Council Rock STAR Center, Richboro, PA,
 - Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and PA State Representative Kristin Marcell - Confirmed.
 - Citations will be issued honoring the following veterans for their military service (Petrashune, Arnosky, and Nieman).
 - Erik Saracino and John Burns, Director, Council Rock South High School (CRS) Marching Band, Holland, PA, continue to discuss plans regarding the band's participation.
- Kristin Reilly plans to meet with CR South High School officials (TBD) regarding collaborative initiatives.
- Lisa Russo recommended participants review the VAC's webpage hosted on the township website and provide feedback at the next meeting.
- Bernadette Heenan recommended a quarterly informational sessions that highlights various programs.
- Submissions for the Northampton Township Newsletter are due in Jan 2024.

REMAINING 2023 VAC SPONSORED EVENTS

- **VETERANS DAY: Saturday, November 11, 10am @ STAR Building, Richboro, PA**
 - CR South High School Marching Band (35-40 musicians)
 - The band will perform a selection called the "Armed Forces on Parade" arranged by Allen Gray.
 - The work begins with a short introduction approximately 10 seconds in length, followed by a sustained drum roll that gives an MC a chance to state the name of the Armed Forces Branch we are honoring. For example, the MC Says "ARMY" during the first drum roll and we begin an excerpt from the Army Hymn. Each excerpt is 30-45 seconds in length. The total performance time for this work is approximately 3 minutes. We perform the excerpts in the order in which the branches of the armed forces were commissioned. 1 Army, 2 Marines, 3 Navy, 4 Air Force, 5 Coast Guard.
 - The band is also prepared to play "This is My Country" words by Don Raye, music by Al Jacobs, arr. by Michael Sweeney.
 - M/C: Erik Saracino
 - Guest Speaker: Erik Saracino
 - Chaplain: Rev. Doug Dwyer Addisville Reformed Church
 - Singer: Lisa Gardner
 - Color Guard: Patriot Det. 1230, Marine Corps League

- Bugler: Awaiting confirmation, Bernadette Heenan
- Service Flags w/gold base: Bernadette Heenan
- Reveille & Brick segment: Erik Saracino will discuss with Director Burns this week.
- Dry Run: November 1, 2023 @ 2:30pm
 - Director Burns invited to attend.
- Sound System: Lisa Russo (NH Township)

- **HOMETOWN HEROS WREATH LAYING CEREMONY: Saturday, December 2, 11am @ Union Cemetery, 209 Almshouse Rd, Richboro, PA**
 - M/C: John Coulbourn
 - Guest Speaker: Jason Dowd, Tri Hampton EMS
 - Singer: Lisa Gardner
 - Chaplain: TBD
 - Color Guard/Firing Squad: Patriot Det. 1230, Marine Corps League
 - Bagpiper: Awaiting confirmation from Dave Parry's contact
 - Bugler: Erik Saracino will seek participation from Director John Burns and the CR South Marching Band.
 - Sound System: Tom Yaegel confirmed.
 - Wreaths: 375 with red bows & delivery - Confirmed.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm

Respectively Submitted

Erik Saracino, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2023