



## **SOUTHFIELD VETERANS' COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2018**

**The meeting of the Southfield Veterans' Commission was called to order at 6:32PM by Vice-Chairman Gerald Houston and reciting in unison the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Members present: R. Caruthers, G. Houston, D. Craig, B. Seldon. (A quorum)**

**Members Absent: B. Clarke**

**Members Excused: T. Wirkus, C. Miller**

**In the absence of Tim Wirkus, Barbara Seldon prepared the minutes. The minutes from October were read and accepted without correction.**

#### **Chairman's Message:**

##### **Vice-Chairman Houston**

- **Reported that President Pullium is out of the hospital. The heart attack was minor and he will be returning. Prayer was offered.**
- **Announced the passing of Commissioner Tim Wirkus. Provided a departing prayer for our devoted member.**
- **Discussed his meeting with Brookdale Nursing Center, passed out fliers about the commission and discussed the veteran's history project. Made a contact with the entertainers at the event at Brookdale. They are willing to do things for us at no cost.**
- **To date, we have interviewed 113 veterans for the veterans' history project. The interviews will be archived in the National Library of Congress in Washington D.C.**
- **SVC has joined in with the Michigan Women Veterans Empowerment Project lead by Sgt. Stephanie Shannon. It will be held on Saturday November 17th at 10 AM to 2 PM at the Southfield Parks and Recreation room 115. All SVC members are requested to attend.**
- **One of Southfield's Community Associations wants us to get involved in the City's issue to change their position on sewerage / septic tanks in their community. It was decided that this was a legal issue and outside of our responsibility.**

#### **Treasurers Report:**

- **Dr. Caruthers noted that there were no changes in the treasurer's report from last month's report.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **The opinion of the SVC members, the Veterans Day Ceremony event was a huge success. Many comments came from the attendees. They included, hearing the remembrance presentations were warm, thoughtful and moving, the repast was unexpected, and the exhibit of veteran wars put on by one of the Southfield administrators was wonderful. Placement of the flowers and ringing of the bell was made it memorable. Don Kuffner o the VFW appreciated the changes and wants to join in with us.**
- **It was suggested to go ahead and order 10 berets since you cannot buy just one. We will wait to get agreement from all members.**
- **5 Names were submitted to the commission by Rhonda Terry of Human Services. We will confirm the ingredients or the Christmas basket at the net meeting and determine who will receive them.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Commissioner Danny Craig Report:**

- **In partnership with AARP and Lead by Commissioner Danny Craig, there will be a bi-monthly Veterans support group program with speakers to include Veteran Jesse banks, Senator David Knezek, and Ponce Clay, Director of Wayne County Veterans' Services. The first meeting will be November 21, 2018 from 6 PM until 8 PM. It will be held at the Hannan Center on Woodward in Detroit.**
- **Attended an event put on by Wayne County Treasurer. It was amazing to see that there were so many veterans in attendance. They will be starting a data base.**
- **In order to reach the vets in our area, SVC will start a data base of veterans in Southfield. There are approximately 4000+ veterans in Southfield. Starting with the Lt. Chris Miller of the Police department, going through City Administration, the data base will be developed. The data should include e-mail and phone numbers.**
- **Mr. Houston will start a quarterly newsletter of information in preparation for Memorial Day. We hope to have the newsletter ready or Memorial Day.**
- **We will provide our community service award at the Memorial Day Service.**
- **For future growth, we can help the Eagle scouts get their badges through help with veterans.**
- **Southfield has never had a parade. Barbara Seldon suggest that In lieu of a parade, a combined partnership of veteran organization will get together as a mass group of**

**veterans to celebrate on Memorial Day. Possibly 500 people could fill the Pavilion during our Memorial Day celebration.**

- **As Southfield Veteran Commissioner, and appointed by Gary Peters, Barbara Seldon will be interviewing candidates or Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, and WestPoint at Lawrence Technological University.**
- **The SVC Speakers Bureau: Barbara Seldon, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, attended the Presbyterian Church on Lafayette and St. Aubin in Detroit, provided flags, posted colors, and spoke about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWI and sang taps.**

**Hearing no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

**Barbara Seldon  
Acting Secretary**