

STATE OF WASHINGTON

VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*PO BOX 41150*  *Olympia, Washington 98504-1150*  *360-725-2167*

**Meeting Minutes**

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| **Meeting attended by** | Larry Alcantara, Bob Wallace, Charles Wharton, Rufus Hoffer, Mike Mickunas, Jim Sims, Bob Garrison, Jerry Fugich, Jerry Wilkins, Linh Thai, Jerry Wilkins, Erin Mulka, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Liza Narciso |
| **Date** | September 17, 2020 |
| **Time** | 10:00 – 11:30 am |
| **Location** | Zoom |
| **Call to Order & Roll Call** | Larry Alcantara |
| **Minutes** | **After Action Report from 1st Virtual Town Hall held on July 29, 2020 via Go To Webinar:**  PRO'S -   * Time of the day was just right to conduct the virtual town hall * Information brief informative * All Topics covered by speakers were good * Information and info for attendees to follow up were placed in the Q & A or emailed to attendees to have later on when they may have questions or comments. * Slide briefs were emailed to all attendees. * Information to find those resources or assistance were shared with attendees as well as links were also sent via e-mail to attendees * Time Frame was good – went a little over the mark * Very Engaging   CON'S -   * Attendees needs to be muted * If available, keep all attendees in a virtual waiting room until the top of the hour when the meeting starts. preventing repeating constant introductions every time someone chime's in. * VAAC members needs to log on at least 15-20 minutes before start of the town hall to work on last minute logistics for the town hall to avoid destruction/interruption * Ensure that VAAC Members chime in on time and if cannot make it – notify VAAC Chair, Vice Chair and Liza so it can be announced during the roll call * Speaker should stand in a podium while giving presentation and try to have attendees engaged during the presentation * Power point presentation – good to see on the screen, suggest that presenter not read it verbatim * Would be great during presentation to give examples of the information being shared so attendees can relate better or have much better understanding * Camera needs to be and be focus to the individual presenting   VAAC Members – future topics for Virtual Town Halls – each member is to connect with their respective veteran service organizations and get information on what are current issues their members are bringing to their attention.  **Virtual Town Hall Flyer –** each member to ensure that respective VSO’s are aware of Virtual Town Hall – share info with veterans and families and encourage attendance  VAAC members to log on 15-20 minutes before town hall going live to work on last minute details  Questions for town hall – encourage those who registered if they have questions to e-mail to Liza ahead of time  **2020 Outstanding Service to Veteran Award Selection – October 14, 2020 at NW PVA in Burien at 9:30 am located at 616 SW 152nd Street, Burien, WA**  **Deadline for submission is September 30, 2020**   * Larry Alcantara * Bob Wallace * Matthew Mickunas * Jim Sims * Charles Wharton * Liza Narciso   **2020 Auburn Veterans Day Parade**  **Saturday, November 7th**  **Veterans Vehicle Procession 11:00 AM - 1:00PM Veterans Memorial Park, 411 E Street SE** Vehicle ProcessionThis event will give both parade participants and our loyal spectators and opportunity to participate. Participation in the procession is intended for our Veterans, active military, Veteran Service Organizations, historic military vehicles and living history groups and other Veteran-related groups. We encourage our community groups and parade spectators to find a spot along the procession route to welcome our Veterans along the way. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing the event route, suggested viewing locations and the ways to register for this twist to our traditional parade. The vehicle procession route is 3 miles long (that's roughly 6 times the length of the traditional parade), allowing for social distancing for our spectators. It is imperative that the spectators follow social distancing and other COVID-safety requirements currently in place while viewing the procession.  **City of Auburn will not provide vehicles or drivers for this parade – those who would like to participate needs to register online and need to ride their own vehicle. City of Auburn will provide flag and signage for the vehicle.**  **Sunday, November 8**  ***Virtual Veterans Tribute Program | Airing at 6:30pm*** This virtual program will include live performances, patriotic music, inspirational stories and a walk down memory lane. The program will be showcased on all of Auburn’s social media outlets on November 8 at 6:30pm. |
| **Next VAAC Town Hall Virtual Meetings Via Zoom:** | **2020**   * **October 21, 2020 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic –** Benefits Continuation – What happens after filing a compensation/Pension  **Presenter –** VA Regional Director – Pritz Navaratnasingam and Cesar Romero   * **December 9, 2020 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD**    **2021**   * **February 24, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD**   * **June 23, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD**   * **June 23, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD**   * **September 29, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD**   * **December 8, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:45 pm**   **Topic: TBD**  **Presenter: TBD** |
| **Good of the Order** | Next committee meeting will be do conduct an After Action Report for October Virtual Town Hall as well as come into consensus topics of December 2020 Virtual Town Hall and 2021 Virtual Town Hall. Also come up with potential speakers/presenters. |