

**VETERANS HOME ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER, 30, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 1pm. Committee members present were:

Georgiann Callaway:	1 <sup>st</sup> Division	
William Frangquist:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	
Roger Schwengel:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Division	Vice Chairman
Ron Shapland:	4 <sup>th</sup> Division	Chairman
Don Houghland:	5 <sup>th</sup> Division	

Marty Conaster, Department Adjutant, was present to inform us about the Centennial Coin Program and how it works and ask us to carry the message back to our posts.

Our discussion started with the number of veterans who are refused entry to the state operated homes because of mental or emotional problems. Veterans of WW2 or Korea were not diagnosed with post traumatic stress, Veterans from Vietnam era and other later conflicts might be refused admission to the state operated homes just because they were diagnosed with post traumatic stress problems.

We were informed that there is supposed to be a training program to teach the employees of the state homes how to deal with people with PTSD. We hope that this training program will be implemented before to many Vietnam era vets are refused entry to the home because their mental problems.

We also discussed the hiring of non veterans at the state nursing homes over those with veterans preference. There is no question that the non veterans are well qualified employees however we believe that veterans are more likely to be more understand of the problems of veterans.

We encourage our fellow legionaries around the state to be aware of the jobs available at the state operated homes, and to spread the word to other veterans to try to get more veterans into the various positions available at the veteran's homes.

Bill Frangquist reports that at the LaSalle home at the time of the last council meeting, 178 beds out of a possible 200 were filled with 4 new coming in. The home is fully funded. They are short on nurses. They have computer problems with being hacked. They are trying to get new computer equipment.

Don Houghland reports from Anna, they have 49 beds filled out of 50. Plus 12 beds in domiciliary. Eight to ten filled all the time. They were approved for a 40 bed addition several years ago and are still waiting for funding.

They have been without a full time adjutant for 2½ years. They also need a volunteer coordinator, an activities director, and several nurse's positions. Their next advisory council meeting is October 28 at 10am. With a program in the afternoon at 1 pm honoring Vietnam Vets.

Roger Schwengel reports from Quincy home, they have 376 residents with a possible 550 beds available.

Their new administrator is not a Veteran, but Roger tells us he is very well qualified and everyone likes him.

They are concerned about security at the home. Apparently some of the security people are not qualified.

We were told that LaSalle and Anna Homes are on full-time lock down, where you have to press a buzzer and be let in.

They have problems at the cemetery. Several of the stones are tipped and need to be reset. They are told that grant money is available, but apparently no one is doing anything about the problem.

The home at Manteno Advisory Council does not meet until October 21<sup>st</sup>.

We were visited by Department Commander Bob and Vice Commander Michael. Commander Henderson told us about his project, Boys State and the need to get more boys to attend.

Vice Commander Carder talked about membership and the importance of renewals.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Shapland  
Veterans Home Advisory Committee Chairman