

**VAVS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
VA MEDICAL CENTER, PORTLAND/VANCOUVER
3710 SW US VETERAS HOSPITAL ROAD
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JAMES TUCHSCHMIDT, MD, MM
Director
Chairman, VAVS Comm.

KAY HILT, CTRS, CAVS
Chief, Voluntary Service
Deputy Chairperson, VAVS Comm.

DAVID STOCKWELL, MHA
Deputy Director Administration/Finance
Co-Chairman, VAVS Committee

1. SCHEDULED MEETING: The VAVS Committee meeting for Portland and Vancouver Division FY 2007 convened on Friday, February 16th at 11:00 am in the Portland Auditorium.
2. VA STAFF ATTENDING: VA Medical Center staff attending the meeting was as follows:

David Stockwell, Deputy Director
Kay Hilt, Chief, Voluntary Service
Frederick White, GEMS Committee
Chaplain Hartmann, Chaplain Service
Amanda Silvers, Secretary, Voluntary Service
3. OPENING OF MEETING: Kay called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Thomas Hartmann, Chaplain, led the invocation and Mr. Richard Lucht, Disabled American Veterans Deputy, (Oregon) led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT

David Stockwell began by thanking everyone for being so understanding regarding the last minute and unplanned rescheduling of the VAVS Committee Meeting.

Mr. Stockwell let everyone know that as of February 15th, the President has signed a new Continuing Resolution giving the VA a solidified budget for 2007. The VA got a 9% increase in the annual budget over last year.

There is also a new east side Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) that will be opening on May 14th. This clinic, located on the second floor of a building on 105th avenue and Glisan, will serve approximately 9,000 patients and lighten the burden on the Marquam Hill facility. VA's Central Office scouted possible locations in January for a west side clinic and hopes to find a location soon. These CBOC's will free up some much needed parking for the patients who come to Marquam Hill

There are new, strictly enforced regulations surrounding Information Security due to stolen laptops. Mr. Stockwell thanked everyone for being patient and completing all the new

requirements. He expressed concerns that these new regulations may deter people from volunteering as the paperwork may seem too cumbersome.

The Portland VA Medical Center has just been awarded \$5.5 million for exterior renovations. Repairs are expected to start summer 2007.

At this time Mr. Stockwell opened a question/answer forum.

- Q: Of the 9,000 patients that will be served by the eastside CBOC, how many of those will be Vancouver patients?
- A: It looks at this point that only patients from the Portland VA Medical Center would be using this CBOC.
- Q: How is parking at this clinic?
- A: Adequate. This was a major consideration when choosing the location and was a primary reason that downtown was not chosen. We have also been stepping up the parking enforcement at the Portland VA Medical Center, and recently had 3 vehicles towed that were not authorized to park here.
- Q: Will the DAV transportation program have to make adjustments to serve the clinic?
- A: We have opted to have a shuttle bus run from the Portland campus to the clinic, and of course there is public transportation available.
- Q: So will there be a pharmacy there?
- A: At this point, no, but they are evaluating that aspect. Patients would have to either take advantage of the mail-out program or come to the Portland campus to have their prescriptions filled.
- Q: Will there be a volunteer program there?
- A: We hope so, we are looking to incorporate volunteers there, and Kay is currently in discussions with the clinic manager there about areas that volunteers could contribute.

5. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Stockwell announced that there was an award and called the Chairman of both the Portland and Vancouver VAVS Executive Committees to come to the front of the auditorium. He then presented the 60th Anniversary Crystal Awards and read the inscription on the awards that followed:

“For your continuous service to veterans through VA Voluntary Service”

6. VAVS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS/AWARDS:

PORTLAND

Nita Lucht, Chairman of Portland VAVS Executive Committee, began by thanking everyone for helping with the January sale even though the weather was not the best. They made \$700 from the sale and \$935 from ice cream sales, and the Quilt donated by the Girl Scouts brought in \$169. Since starting the sales in 1997, the VAVS Executive Committee has brought in \$68,495 to the PVAMC. The next sale is on March 7th and 8th.

VAVS quarterly awards were presented to Keith Walter as the Volunteer of the Quarter. Keith is a very dedicated volunteer who comes in 3 days a week and has put in over 1000 hours since 2005. Keith’s supervisor got him a motorized scooter to use when he escorts patients around the hospital.

Barbara Weatherill gave an update on this year's National Salute week. Each day there was a different organization in the Atrium with a table of items showing all the things that volunteers and organizations do for patients. They received many compliments from patients, staff and visitors. The display case this year housed memorabilia from WWI to present, and included such items as nurses cap, uniforms, pictures, and medals. She thanked everyone who participated for making this year a success.

VANCOUVER

Rex Hopper, Vancouver VAVS Committee acting chairperson and Marine Corp League Deputy, substituted for Michael Archer, Vancouver VAVS Committee Chairman. Rex reported that Vancouver popcorn sales brought in approximately \$130 a quarter and their first ever ice cream sale held on November 8th brought in \$100. He stated that it took some patience in scheduling the sale as there were days that ice cream was being given out for free by other departments. There is a need for a Chairperson for the bake sales and craft sales. Carolyn Minor has been appointed temporarily until a permanent person can be found for this position.

Rex also announced that the method for nominating and electing employee of the quarter has been changed. A committee (whose members change yearly) will now nominate the employee of the quarter.

7. GUEST SPEAKER FREDERICK WHITE FROM GEMS COMMITTEE

Frederick White, Industrial Hygienist, from the Green Environmental Management (GEMS) Committee came to speak about donations and hospital recycling and waste costs. He began with some statistics. In 2005, the Portland VA Medical Center recycled 250,000 lbs of co-mingled paper. In 2006, this number jumped to 420,000 lbs. The cost of recycling paper-based products is about ¢3 per lb which equals approximately \$11-12,000 annually. Volunteers can help curb costs by discouraging people from donating items that cannot be used. Some examples given included: hardback books, magazines older than 6 months or those in poor condition, romance novels, sexually explicit or violent materials, and medical equipment.

There are always needs for items such as: quilts (twin-sized preferably), new socks, t-shirts and underwear, up-to-date clothing for the Transitional Lodging Unit (items given should be something that would be suitable for job interviews), and puzzles and games should be something that could be completed in 1-2 days and not take more space than a bedside tray table.

At this time, everyone played a game that centered on appropriate donations. Everyone with 100% correct answers was entered in a drawing. Delora Compton from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Hearts won the drawing which was a water bottle.

8. OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM & OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OEF/OIF)

The Voluntary Service Department would like to welcome home military personnel serving in the Middle East. Many of these returning people may seek treatment at the PVAMC, and would typically enter the medical center through such as the Enrollment Office, Primary Care,

Emergency Care, and/or Mental Health. One idea which would say “welcome home and thanks for your service” is a kit filled with various items and a greeting card. Kay Hilt, Chief of Voluntary Service asked for volunteers to form a committee to be in charge of this. Several volunteers from Portland raised their hands; a meeting to develop this and other ideas will be set. Volunteers from Vancouver will be encouraged to participate as well. Individuals who volunteered for this committee were: Barbara Weatherill, Nita Lucht, Ann Barrie, Perry Blair, Karen Haltiner, and Delora Compton.

9. JOINT COMMISSION VISIT

The Joint Commission is expected to make their visit at any time. Volunteers are currently at 82% completion of the mandatory annual training review. This number is good, but remind your fellow volunteers to complete their mandatory training if they have not already done so.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. The Volunteer Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 11th at the Monarch Hotel.
2. The Voluntary Service Department is updating all the organization files and needs to have current copies of the letters of certification for all Representative and Deputies.
3. Ann Barrie also recognized the Vancouver division for their extraordinary work this year.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

Kay Hilt, CTRS, CAVS
Chief, Voluntary Service
Deputy Chairperson, VAVS Committee

David Stockwell, MHA
Deputy Director Administration /Finance
Co-Chairman, VAVS Committee