

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 6, 2010

Members present:

Jeanne Thick MACVC
Donald Lada/Funeral Director
Stephanie Krueger/VFW Aux.
Peter Sardo/ DAV
Dan Burrows/UAW 1C
Gerald Check/PLAV
Stanley Eisenberg/Jewish War Vets
Bettie Johnson/WAVES National
Edward Schultz/NCOA
Pauline Bickersteth/A.L. Aux.
Jim Tuohy/Marine Corps League

Bill Wentz /Patriot Guard Riders
Garth Wootten/Oakland County Gov't
Dan Crocker/VFW
Ray Johnston/A.L.
Ruth Hindes/DAV Aux.
Jim French Jr./UAW Region I
Joe Salvia/AMVETS
Ann Talbot/VAMC
Dennis Harvey/Purple Heart

Others Present/Alternates

Larry Edwards/UAW 1-C Alt.
Ed Nelson /Patriot Guard Riders
Bernard Grinko/Dad's of For Serv. Alt
Linda Burton/VFW-Alt.
Partnr/Pat. Guard Riders
Richard Anderson/Director GLNC

Dolores Smith/Amer. Legion Aux/Alt/
Sam Elston/VFW Alt
Lloyd Clark/Purple Heart Alt
Richard Burton/MCL Alt.
Diana Calvin/Oakland County Gov't Alt.
Maryann McConnell /Funeral Dir. Alt.

Excused

George Reynolds/Dad's of Foreign Service
Gary Stevens/Vietnam Vets of America
Ann Marie Amthor, WAVES Nat. Alt

Nancy Reed/ DAR
Alexander Crowe/40 & 8.

Note: No delegate assigned by Catholic War Vets

President Jeanne Thick called the monthly meeting of the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council to order at 1:05 p.m. and provided a printed agenda to all present.

Chaplain Dan Burrows gave the opening prayer.

Vice President Donald Lada led the Council in the *Pledge of Allegiance* to the flag of our country.

Secretary Stephanie Krueger made the roll call of officers and organizations present.

Secretary Stephanie Krueger stated that the minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting were e-mailed or mailed to the membership. Additional copies were available to members present.

President Jeanne Thick asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were two corrections. Pauline Bickersteth stated that under the Director's report the minutes should have stated that the check for \$800.00 was presented from the American Legion Auxiliary Pinckney Unit # 419 for the purchase of a bench at the cemetery and Director Anderson stated that Edie Jones, who he introduced at the November meeting, is a US Navy Commander. The minutes were approved as corrected.

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Treasurer's Report –

Treasurer Peter Sardo provided a written report. Starting balance as of October 31, 2009 was \$49,741.22 with receipts of \$3,095.21, disbursements of \$4,461.18 and an ending balance of \$48,425.25 on December 31, 2009. He noted that many organizations have not paid their 2009 dues that were due on 7-31-09. Please mail them as soon as possible to the cemetery address to the attention of Peter Sardo, GLNCAC Treasurer. The following organizations have not paid: AMVETS, American Legion and A.L. Auxiliary, DAR, Jewish War Vets, Marine Corps League, Purple Heart, NCOA, VFW, UAW Region I, VVA, Waves Int. It would be a cost savings to the council if all organization delegates would remind their treasurer/quartermaster that dues are to be paid in June/July annually.

Cemetery Director's Report –

Director Rick Anderson reported that the GLNC staff moved into the new office on 11-21-09. He invited the council members to come and visit. There were 239 burials in October, 194 in November and 213 in December 2009, with 80 more burials per month than there were in 2008. The total burials through 12-31-09 were 8,169. Director Anderson hired two OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) veterans. He reminded the council that we need to educate the community in regards to GLNC and that he is always willing to do a presentation at any of the organizations. Most veterans and family members are not aware that all the services at the cemetery are free; the funeral home fees are their only responsibility. The first columbarium has 39 niches left and the next columbarium in phase II will hold 7,000 and is under construction. There will be a columbarium in every phase. There were 2,100 wreaths placed this year from Wreaths Across America. Director Anderson reminded the council members that they can go online during the year to order wreaths and designate GLNC to receive them. (*wreathscrossamerica.com*).

Report of Committees

Fund Development –

Donald Lada provided a report from the December 9, 2009 meeting of the committee. They have created a 2010 Wish List including: a larger facility for the Honor Guard, a mannequin to display uniforms in the visitor's center, a tool box for flagpole accessories and supplies, a tri-fold brochure, folding chairs, light weight blankets, a stage canopy, snacks for the Honor Guard, and volunteers for the visitor center. Several fund raisers were suggested to raise funds for the wish list.

By-Laws -

Dan Crocker said he will look into the clarification of the GLNCAC by-laws as it relates to the billing and due date for the annual dues and present the information at the March meeting. In Article VI: Finance of the by-laws it states; "The Finance Officer will bill the organization on June 1st each year, with the amount being due no later than July 31st." He said that perhaps we will suggest that the council finance officer bill the organizations on 7-31 of each year and have the payment due by 12-31 and the organization will not be a valid member until paid.

Memorial Day Program

President Thick reported that there is a meeting of the committee today after the GLNCAC meeting. When they met in November the members were each given assignments to get started on. The DAV will be the host group.

Refreshments

Pauline Bickersteth reported that no one was assigned so her A.L. Auxiliary Unit #413 and their Juniors provided the refreshments for the meeting. She thanked everyone who assisted her with the refreshments.

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Historian

Dan Burrows took photos at the Wreaths Across America program. If you want copies, please contact him.

It was moved by Dan Burrows and supported by Jim French to accept the committee reports, carried.

Unfinished Business –

Remember that meetings are now every other month on the odd months (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th month)

New Business –

It was moved by Peter Sardo and supported by Ray Johnston to approve the purchase of a tool kit for flag pole maintenance/repair and a metal grinder at Harbor Freight, motion carried.

It was moved by Don Lada and supported by Jim French to hold a Golf Outing in 2010. The committee will fine tune the details (date, location, etc.) and report back to us, motion carried

Peter Sardo discussed looking into a possible by-law change to allow alternates to run for office if their delegate is not interested, but the alternate is interested. It was suggested that if the delegate didn't want to run for an office or volunteer for a committee but the alternate did, that he or she trade places instead of changing the by-laws.

Good of the Order-

Remember the Fishing Show.

Don Lada reported on Public Acts 148 & 149, which take effect on 7-1-10. This will allow for unclaimed cremated remains of Vets to be buried in the National Cemetery. This was signed into law by Governor Grandholm on 11-19-09.

Joe Salvia is willing to assist Bettie on the e-mail address list if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Stephanie Krueger - Secretary

Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council

**PLEASE NOTE - The Next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010
at the Holly VFW Post #5587 located at 201 Airport Drive.)**

2010 Meeting Dates are:

January 6, 2010

March 3, 2010

May 5, 2010

July 7, 2010

September 1, 2010

November 3, 2010