

THE MILITARY / VETERANS COALITION of INDIANA
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Minutes of the October 6, 2017 meeting held at Fort Harrison VFW Post #7119

Members Present: Ron Martin, VFW; Jim Bauerle, ROA; Milan Testanovich, CHPA; Dean Farr; Lori Turpin, IVSOA; Jessica Ilaria, Sen Donnelly's office; Marcus Murray, KIPVA; Mark Fiddler, PFC; Amy Carter, Ind. Institute for Working families; Andrew Janovicz, Marine for Life; Bob Tate, Bill Smither, and Bill Megrin, AFA; Andy Gothreau, MOAA; Russell Pryor, VFW/ Ivy Tech; Tom Norman, Key Consumer Org; Jim Patton, World Financial Group; Tim Cahoon, TCVC; Ron Wilson, HCV; Kent Morgan, ROA; Mike Sturm and Charlie Hiltunen, NGAI; Judy Brown, Old Glory Quilters; and Lisa Wilken, AMVETS.

Chairman Ron Martin opened the meeting at 0930 hours with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for September 8, 2017 meeting were approved.

Presentation By Lise Pace and Jeff Mittman of Bosma Enterprises. Bosma, a major contractor with the VA, is an Ability One Federal Contractor employing visually impaired workers.

ACTION ITEMS:

The Legislative Goals for 2018 with special interest on our HBOT initiatives at State and Federal levels were discussed. The Big 4 are finalizing their agenda items which include two items not on our list of goals. Those being, the expansion of video gaming and stipends paid to Bingo workers within their facilities. The Coalition will remain neutral on issues that affect the operation of Veteran Club facilities.

Ron and Jim have met with several Senators and Representatives to gain their support on specific Coalition initiatives. Half of our goals now have sponsors in at least one House. Future meetings are scheduled to secure commitment for our complete slate with corresponding sponsors in each House.

Ron Wilson discussed suicide prevention and the value of Crisis lines. He recommended reading a book, The Depression Cure by Stephen Ilardi for more insight into the issue.

Coalition members have attended the Big 4 sponsored Veteran Voice Town Hall meetings in Terre Haute and Carmel. Participation by local State level congressional people has been sparse but informative for the veterans attending.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 13 - Veterans Commission at Indiana Veterans Home, Lafayette
- Oct 14 - Red, White, and Brew, Legion Mall
- Oct 17- Veteran Town Hall at American Legion Post 64, Holt Road, Indy
- Oct 24- Veteran Town Hall at VFW Post 988, Valparaso
- Oct 25 and Nov 1- Legal Summit at Kokomo / Camp Atterbury
- Nov 16 – MOAA Annual Meeting, Fort Harrison State Park Lodge.
- Nov 18 – Vet Appreciation Day and Info Fair at the Armory on Old Fort Harrison.

Next Meeting date: November 3, 2017