



Women Veterans of New Mexico  
P O Box 36648, Albuquerque NM 87176  
MINUTES of  
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
January 22, 2011

Approved 02/09/11  
With Corrections

1. Call to Order by Pat Gaston at 10:10 a.m.

Board Members: (✓ means Present)

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ Pat Gaston, President, HG       | ✓ Myra Powers, Secretary, HG          |
| ✓ Jan Herbert, Vice President, HG | ✓ Joni Seymour, Sargent at Arms, HG   |
| ✓ Gloria Vinsky, Treasurer, HG    | ✓ <b>Christin Barden, Advisor, HG</b> |
| ✓ Diana Wong, HG                  |                                       |

11 Members in Attendance

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Agenda with changes. Introductions

3. Past Minutes: Minutes of Quarterly Meeting November 13, 2010 reviewed and accepted with corrections.

4. **Reports:**

a. President

- 1) John Garcia left his position as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, NM, and replacement is Timothy Hale. Four ladies attended ceremony of Veterans in Santa Fe
- 2) Meeting w/ Ward 7, Psychiatric Ward: Report to Membership concerning issues facing women in Ward 7, from meeting Pat and Myra attended. Dr. Castillo will be doing training; most bathrooms now have baby changing stations in restrooms. Clinic is no longer so 'sterile', being more comfortable.
- 3) Meeting with Carole Dunsbch (Women Program Mgr, VA); most bathrooms now have baby changing stations in restrooms. Clinic is no longer so 'sterile', being more comfortable.
- 4) Sponsorship for Transitioning Women. Donation of \$500 – from new member in Santa Fe who wishes to help sponsor WVNMM memberships for those who cannot pay dues, and the remainder to be used for assisting female veterans.
- 5) YWCA Transitional house:
  - a. Had painting party Jan 14, Jan 21, and upcoming Jan 28. Contact Pat to join!
  - b. We help them with furniture donations, picking up, storing, delivering.
- 6) Furniture Donations: we have helped 4 women who have received apartments, but no other household items or furniture. There are 3 people who want to donate items, but need to be picked up.
- 7) A-1 Storage has donated storage, which is already filled. Donate by manger, a Vietnam Vet veteran. A-1 Storage is on Academy, first light east of San Mateo, behind Sunflower/Italian Restaurant/gas station. We also are using the YWCA's donated storage, though hard to coordinate to get into.
- 8) 2011 Meetings: Membership – Jan 22, Apr 16, Jul 16, Sep Anniversary Party TBD, Oct 15 & Christmas Party Dec 17; Board meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs each month. Try to move to Shoneys/Furrs type places to combine with a breakfast to attract more members. Pat notes that brochures and cards are in back; website, address and PO Box are on these items. Put on website whether weeknight meetings may be good (for those who work).

- b. Vice President: Jan gives New Members report. Anyone who needs a membership, go to the website and complete online application, mailing dues to PO Box. If you want to pay today, we will hold the payment to await the online application.
- c. Treasurer: Gloria reports categories for accounting of funds:
  - Expense Categories**: Operations, Membership drive, honor guard, member support, fundraising.
  - Income Categories**: Dues, sales, donations, Organizational Support
    - Checking account balance: \$1,327.21
    - Savings account balance: \$1,291/71 includes \$125 on hold for reimbursement of conference fees which will be held until 09/01/11
      - \$615 income for dues and donations so far.
      - Expenses for mission support = \$192.29
- d. Honor Guard: Joni – Tribute to Women in the Military Mar 4<sup>th</sup>; Pow Wow Socorro (Mother’s Day), May 7-8<sup>th</sup>; Always good to have new HG members. Only about 4 events per year, practice the week of the event. We had the honor of presenting colors at the Veterans Day ceremony in Abq – received rave reviews.
  - & Christin reports on invitation from Corrales for Veterans Day
- e. Secretary: nothing to report.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Christmas Party – great turnout, wonderful food (especially loved the coconut cake!)
- b. Christmas gifts for ladies in VA residential programs – there 3 different residential programs – WVNMM gave them gift bag
- c. Jan had flowers sent to WWII ladies (by name) in TRC veteran retirement home – paid for by an anonymous donation.
  - a. If there are any women veterans we are not reaching, please let us know.
- d. Diana, Myra and Mary visited a Westgate middle school (5<sup>th</sup> graders) on Veterans Day (told personal service stories about the different eras). Kids were very attentive. Gave them little flag kits. There were items for them to view and ask questions. Probably will be asked to do it again.
- e. Shelters – Barrett House. Let women know that we can help in applying for benefits. We want to have pamphlets available – though we aren’t to do social worker job, we mainly want to let them know we are here to assist them.
- f. Advertising Alibi; feature story furniture for transitioning veterans. We had our first lady we helped in the Abq Journal. Anonymity is available, using name/pictures is always optional.
- g. Gift bags for women in hospital & programs. Joni & Diana to get together to put together bags. Looking for lotions (travel size), comfort items, activity books. Ward 7 wants non-generic soaps, good shampoos, makeup, etc. All ladies are invited to join us in putting these together
- h. Horses for Heroes – Horse therapy. You can google their website. They brought horses to the Wellness Therapy event. Christie reports that it is a good program, doesn’t matter what conflict, and it is mental therapy. They start you at your level. Grooming factor is the main thing, grooming a horse is very relaxing to the Veteran.
- i. Membership cards (need to assign poc) – Myra to do the badges for our volunteers to wear while they are working at shelters, etc.
- j. iGive.com – use iGive as a search engine, if you shop online, WVNMM gets a donation. We received \$26 from them just last month. There are times when searching gives us .02 per search.

Facebook: Sophie will look into getting WVNM on Facebook, since a lot of people use it, especially the younger veterans.

## 6. New Business

- a. Memorial Day Celebration, Angel Fire – They are wanting to partner with WVNM to put together a Viet Nam Vets event. This would be a good opportunity to get WVNM more visible.
- b. Attracting new members – Membership/Awareness Table at VA.
- c. Women’s Clothes Closet – Sandra Singer in charge of organizing this. It is located in the Organizations (DAV, etc.) portable buildings. We have no shelves, one rack. No one probably has ever pushed organizing this – many women don’t know we exist. There is no restriction for how much clothing can be obtained. Volunteer Services runs it, Sonja Brown is in charge of all of Volunteer Services, and Joanne oversees that part. Need something like storage bins and metal shelves. Be sure women’s clinic, and other offices know this is there.
- d. Tribute to Women in Military – March 4<sup>th</sup> - \$17 includes lunch and tote bag. Shoshana Johnson will be guest speaker. Starting at 8:00 am. \$500 scholarship for women veterans to continue education – apply online for this, as well as registering for Tribute luncheon.
- e. Elections: ballots, refreshments, gifts for new members signing up – See item *l*.
- f. License Plate – Women Vets have our own license plate, one-time fee \$17 +  
- Download form for military plate, cross out and add WOMEN VETERAN for type of plate
- g. Habitat for Humanity: article in Daily Times, Farmington newspaper, details 14-yr Army Veteran and daughter’s new home. We will be framing this article for her. Some of our ladies helped finish out her home.
- h. Blue Star Mothers – Collecting items for veterans. As Pat gets emails from BSM, we try to help them for their events ((i.e. Valentine Packages last year to troops)
- i. Marcia – veteran, works with Congressman Heinrich’s office – can often help with claims that have stalled. Can also help spouses, active duty, DFAS pay problems, etc. Free help, taxpayer money. Will bring Veteran’s Handbook. Have lost a lot of money due to budget cuts, but can also find this on line.
- j. Sandra – VA putting forward about getting PTSD benefits without the stressor statements, however, have not extended this wording to Military Sexual Trauma. Affects women and men. Marcia states they are meeting at 9:00, Monday Jan 24, in Congressman Heinrich’s office, Christin will be attending.
- k. MOPH put out Survey for women veterans. Please help Michelle Tyson-March by filling out this survey that Pat sent by email.
- l. ELECTIONS: Gloria, as chair of Nominating Committee passed out ballots to everyone. The ballots have the typed names of those that the Nominating Committee has recommended. There is also a blank next to each for write-in candidates. Gloria and one member-at-large tallied ballots.
 

- President – Pat Gaston	- Secretary – Myra Powers
- Vice President – Diana Wong	- Sargeant at Arms – Joni Seymour
- Treasurer – Jan Herbert	- Director – Gloria Vinskey

## 7. Adjournment - 11:41 am (Motion: Myra; Seconded: Christin)

### Upcoming Events

- March 4, 2011 – Tribute to Women in the Military
- Membership meeting: April 16, plus our activities in between