

To: DAV Chapter #47
From: Steven E. DeAvilla, Commander
Subj: General Business Meeting Minutes; 1 July 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours with 6 members present.

Roll Call of Officers: Taken, Junior Vice Commander 1st, John Callahan, and Treasure, Melissa Vaughn absent, all others present.

The Minutes of the 6 May 2010 were electronically delivered to all prior to the meeting and accepted. There was no meeting in June.

The Treasurers Report not available will be presented at the August meeting.

The Chaplain's Report: Chapter members Kenneth Carl "Casey" Baier, Kenneth Edward Lange, Kenneth R."Tony" Spagnolini, Ralph Manuel Brewer, and John Gartner Have all recently passed away. Our condolences go out to their families.

New Members: None.

Committee Reports:

Membership: The membership web site is unavailable until mid July. As of May, we had 1,025 members.

CSO: June: 74 Walk-ins, 150 Telephone inquiries, 63 forms were submitted, 181.5 CSO hours, number of van riders for the month of June was 104.

Hospital: None.

Publicity: Meeting information disseminated in several local papers.

Entertainment: Nothing to report.

Grievance: None.

Communications:

- The Annual Retiree Seminar will be Saturday September 18, 2010 from 8 am to 12:30 pm; exhibit viewing is from 7:30am until 1:30 pm at the Noř Wester onboard Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.
- Donations in lieu of flowers in memory of Kenneth Lange received.
- North Whidbey Help House is requesting a donation for their Christmas in July food drive. A vote will be taken at the August meeting after the Treasury report is presented.
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DAV NEWS:

VA Announces New Hotline for Homeless Veterans

<http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>

VA has established a new telephone hotline to provide emergency support and resources to homeless veterans. Family members, workers at community agencies and non-VA providers also may call the hotline at 1-877-4AID VET to find out about programs and services available to assist homeless veterans. Well-trained expert responders will staff the hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Homeless veterans are in need of food and shelter, clothing, financial assistance, and treatment for medical conditions. Additionally, many require access to permanent housing, veteran’s benefits and vocational resources. VA assistance is available for homeless veterans who may have mental health issues, substance abuse, depression, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. The responders operating the new hotline will ensure veterans receive the help they need and deserve. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is the latest in a series of initiatives to help homeless veterans. Last year, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki launched a campaign to eliminate homelessness among Veterans within five years. VA has approximately 4,000 agreements with community partners to help homeless veterans. Last year, more than 92,000 homeless Veterans were served by VA’s specialized homeless programs.

VA Initiative Enhances Safety of Inpatient Surgery Services

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the nation's largest health care system, today announced measures to ensure that all inpatient surgeries are performed under the safest possible conditions at facilities with the resources to support them.

VA is the first hospital system to conduct a comprehensive review to determine what level of inpatient surgeries may be performed in each of its 112 surgery programs.

“VA began this major undertaking in 2007 to close and prevent gaps in surgical care,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's Under Secretary of Health. “Our mission is to provide the best

health care to Veterans, and we are determined to meet uncompromising standards for inpatient surgery.”

After an expert work group's review of surgical standards, VA conducted on-site studies of each of its hospitals between June 2009 and March 2010. As a result, VA has assigned each of its medical centers an inpatient "surgical complexity" level -- complex, intermediate or standard.

Based on appropriate criteria developed by 16 surgical advisory boards including 80 experts, VA has authorized 66 hospitals to conduct “complex” inpatient surgeries; 33 hospitals to conduct “intermediate” inpatient surgeries; and 13 to conduct “standard” inpatient surgeries.

Hospitals with a “complex” rating require special infrastructure (facilities, equipment and staff) allowing intricate operations, such as cardiac surgery, craniotomies and total pancreatectomies. Those with an “intermediate” rating may perform surgeries such as colon resections, repairs of abdominal aortic aneurysms and complete joint replacement. Those with a “standard” complexity rating may perform inpatient surgeries requiring limited infrastructure, such as hernia repair, cholecystectomy, urologic procedures and ENT surgeries.

We are committed to expand Veteran access to quality care,” added Petzel. “If a patient requires a surgical procedure that exceeds the facility's complexity rating, VA will ensure that the patient receives the required care from another provider.”

Five facilities that have previously conducted some “intermediate” surgeries will now perform “standard” surgeries in-house and ensure that Veterans obtain other procedures nearby from the best qualified providers. These are the surgery programs at VA hospitals in Alexandria, La.; Beckley, W.V.; Fayetteville, N.C.; Illiana at Danville, Ill.; and Spokane, Wash.

VA does not anticipate that any Veteran surgery will need to be rescheduled at these or other facilities due to the planned launch of the Surgical Complexity Initiative on May 11, 2010.

While aimed at ensuring patient safety and high-quality care for all Veterans, the initiative will affect only a very small number of surgical procedures. VA provided over 357,000 inpatient surgeries for Veterans during 2009, and based on 2009 figures anticipates that 0.1 percent of “intermediate” or “complex” surgeries (approximately 364) would now be referred to another provider.

VA’s surgical review program will be continuous, expand to include standards for outpatient surgery, and provide a key tool for ongoing health system improvement. Each of

VA's 21 hospital networks has developed a surgical strategic plan to ensure that Veterans receive needed care while facilities strengthen quality, safety and service.

The VA health care system serves nearly 6 million Veterans each year and is the 2010 recipient of the leadership award of the American College of Medical Quality. The VA health care system is committed to public accountability by publishing its quality performance data online at www.hospitalcompare.va.gov.

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“At this time a moment of silence was observed for our fallen comrades, may they rest in peace.”

Old Business:

- Internet upgrade is still in progress. CNI has been contacted and will advise us of what we need to do to upgrade. I did contact Comcast cable but they are not available at our location. Our current internet services are once again through a philanthropic grant from Whidbey Telecom.

New Business:

. We held night time hours in June and we had two customers. We will set up a schedule for evening hours; it will be the third Thursday of the month from 1600 to 2000. An announcement will be placed on the Public Service Station.

- Driver refresher training will be 13 July 2010 at building 13.

Good of the Order:

- The Chapter will hold a Garage Sale, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of August 20th and 21st. If you have anything to donate please call 360-257-4801 to arrange to drop items at staging area. Please ask to speak to Steve, Floyd, Muggs, or Michelle.

Time Adjourned: 1940

We will meet again on August 5th 2010, at 1900 hours at the Skagit Valley College in Hayes Hall, room 137.

Submitted by:

Michelle McClain,

Adjutant

Approved by:

Steve DeAvilla

Commander