

West Suburban Veterans District – January 15, 2019

Location: Wellesley Town Hall, Great Hall

Present: Chris Coleman, Elizabeth Doucette, Leon Gaumont and Blythe Robinson

Also present: Sarada Kalpee and Sally Rose

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

Business:

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Minutes

The Board voted (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting.

3. Outreach Events

Sarada mentioned that since the last meeting Needham has had 4 VA comp or Aid and Attendance claims, Wellesley 2, Wayland 1 and Weston 1. One Needham CH 115 client recently passed away, but another one has been added, and an additional transfer from Hingham will be starting soon. Sarada spoke about Veterans Day activities. Because Wellesley, Needham and Wayland all had their ceremony at 11:00, Sarada was in Wellesley and then went to Weston for their 1:00 program. She mentioned that this was the 3rd year that she was involved in the Tenacre School's program where three Wellesley Veterans spoke to the students about their military experiences. Weston had a Veteran's Day Breakfast, Wellesley's COA had a Veteran's Lunch. Sunrise in Wayland did a ceremony as did Wingate in Needham.

4. Director's Update

Sarada said that in December she met with Congressman Kennedy and others to interview 30 high school students who are interested in attending one of the four military academies. Ultimately ten students were selected.

Sarada has been organizing the DD 214's and putting them in sheet protectors and binders. A Wellesley senior has been helping with this as part of the senior work off program. Beth said that she'd keep this in mind for the next budget cycle.

Sarada told the Board that the WSVD website with Network Solutions is no longer being used. Each town has a Veteran link on their town website.

Sarada will be away for training from January 30th – February 21st. Paul Carew, the Natick VSO, will again be available to handle calls. Sarada said she would still prefer for the Veteran to call and leave a message on her cell before calling Paul.

Sarada regularly goes to the regional office and hand delivers the claims for the District. Recently a Wellesley resident appealed his denial of benefits and received 40% disability and pay retroactive for two years. He and his family are thrilled and very appreciative for all that Sarada did to help with his claim.

The Board unanimously approved the FY20 Budget.

5. Old/New Business

The Board did not establish a date for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.