

## DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES



AMVETS Department of the District of Columbia  
P.O. Box 70261  
Washington, DC 20024-0261



April 11, 2015

# National District II Meeting

### Washington DC VA Medical Center's Winter Haven Homeless Veterans Stand-down:

Department Second Vice Commander Billie Ainsworth, MS Barbara Pittman and I supported the Winter Haven Stand Down. More than 700 Veterans Receive the Gift of Hope at Washington DC VA Medical Center's winter haven Homeless Veterans Stand-down. The Washington DC VA Medical Center's winter haven event saw record numbers of homeless, at-risk and underemployed Veterans. They attended the 21<sup>st</sup> annual winter haven Homeless stand down to receive one-on-one assistance with health care, benefits, employment and housing. The event also offered comprehensive women's health care to 86 female Veterans. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, many received something they didn't expect, hope. VA Secretary Bob McDonald and Interim Under Secretary for Health Carolyn Clancy joined medical center administrators, employees and volunteers for the event.

Winter haven is a true community effort. At least 500 Volunteers, including 100 active duty service members, were on-hand doing everything from giving directions and serving hot meals, to counseling Veterans on avoiding foreclosure and HIV infection. With over 60 agencies and community partners on-site, Veterans received the resources needed to propel them forward. Area employers participated in a mini-job fair, offering on-site access to job opportunities. Numerous Veteran Service Organizations, businesses and state and local agencies joined forces for the day to provide one-stop access to necessary services such as housing, tax preparing assistance and haircuts.

### Veteran Administrative Volunteer Service Representative/Deputy Representative Meeting:

DC AMVETS Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Billie Ainsworth serves as the Department's VAVS Representative and attends the quarterly meetings. Mr. Ainsworth also presents three checks to the hospital each month.

### DCVAMC Town Hall Meeting:

The Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Executive Leadership Team hostess quarterly Veterans and Community Stakeholders Town Hall meeting on March 9 at 6 p.m. in the Freedom Auditorium to share information on VA health care programs, services and community resources. The Town Hall is an opportunity for Veterans to have their VA health care questions answered, offer kudos for exceptional service and to meet the DC VA Medical Center leadership team one-on-one.

### Silver Helmet Award Banquet:

Department Executive Director Johnnie Collins Jr., Post #8 Commander Billie Ainsworth, Post #22 Commander Daniel Parker Post #22 Adjutant Stacey Jefferson and I attend the AMVETS National Silver Helmet Award Banquet on March 6, 2014. This Department nominated Commander Gregory D. Gadson of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 32 Field Artillery, Ft Belvoir, and VA. But unfortunate he was not chosen.

### AMVETS Magazine:

I visit the Washington DC Medical Center each week and place the AMVETS magazine in waiting rooms and lobby. Hopefully it will not only inform veteran of AMVETS work but also give them the mailing address of the AMVETS DC Department.

### **BECAUSE WE CARE DAY:**

Because We Care Day is AMVETS way of saying thanks to our hospitalized veterans. Members of DC Department of AMVETS visited patients at VA Medical Centers and distributed personal hygiene kits to our comrades and thanked each of them for their service to our country.

### Department 2015 Convention:

DC Department Convention will be June 19-20 2015 DCVA Medical Center. The Award banquet will be June 20 at 7:00 PM at Spate Hall, Ft Myer, Arlington, Virginia.

### DC Medical Center, Community Living Center (CLC):

This Department continues to comfort and service our community living Center veterans. Each month this department sponsor bingo at the DC Medical Center CLC (formally known as Nursing Home) donating canteen coupons books as prize money. The happiness we see on the faces of the residents is impossible to explain.

**Commander this is my report and I moved that it be accepted.**

**Aaron J. Smith**

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**DC Department Commander**