

## Warrington Veteran Affairs Committee (VAC) 2017 Annual Report

***Submitted by: Oliver Groman, Chair, VAC and Jeanine Winslow, VAC Administrator***

The VAC meetings are scheduled for the last Monday of the month at 5:00 pm. We held five meetings at the township building in 2017 in which we had a quorum.

We have discussed programs to help our Township Veterans. We are in the process of launching the Helping Hands Program and have been brainstorming different possibilities. We realized that our first step was to acquire a data base of Warrington Township Veterans and of residents who would like to volunteer for the program. Our Administrator, Jeanine Winslow, created a two-sided flyer that was mailed out with the three cycles of water bills. The one side of the flyer is an announcement of the program and on the reverse side they would add their contact information and return it to the township. We had a good response to this mailing with approximately 75 returned. The returns were a good mix of Veterans in need and non-Veteran volunteers. We also had the flyer posted in the last four newsletters and people have cut out and returned it from the Link as well. The Bucks County Recorder of Deeds gave the VAC a printout of Veterans who reside in Warrington. Jeanine merged the flyer contact information with the printout from the Recorder of Deeds.

Our Memorial Day Ceremony had its largest turnout ever (except for 2012 when we added 40 names to the wall which were previously denied). Jeanine advised the VAC that in 2011, previous VAC Chair, Mike Walton, changed the criteria, with the Board of Supervisor's approval, to be eligible to be on the wall. It changed from living in

Warrington at time of enlistment or discharge to living in Warrington for at least 10 years. Mike Walton took all of the denied applications and reached out to the Veterans/families who had sent them, and we had a grand ceremony in 2012 with the 40 Veterans honored including living World War II Veterans. We wanted to share that in case the current Board was not aware. We have noticed that families that had a friend or loved one's name added to the wall are returning year after year and have made this a family tradition to honor our Veterans during the annual ceremony.

The VAC had a booth at Warrington Day and we were very happy that Jeanine was able to acquire a banner for the VAC booth. We also started a new way to raise funds, "Fill the Boot," to help with expenses. \$25 was donated, not bad for the first time!

Our next event was the second annual Veterans Day Ceremony held in the administration building meeting room, which was well attended. After the ceremony we went to Valley Square and met up with Property Manager, Tony Black (Air Force Vet). Valley Square donated \$500 to help the VAC with whatever we need.

The VAC members and alternates are committed to being there for our Veterans. All of us are extremely eager to move forward with rewarding programs. All of our different personalities and experiences work together for a common good for sure. God Bless America and Our Veterans.