**VMF-Caucus, April Meeting Minutes**

8, April 2023

Attendees: Kee Evans, Chair; Michael Ramos, Vice Chair; Andrew Anderson, Secretary; Susan Fitoussi, Communications; DAVMF Caucus members.

Chair asked the Secretary if there was a Quorum to open the meeting. Secretary responded in the affirmative.

Chair called the meeting to order.

Chair moved to approve the Agenda for April and the Meeting minutes for March. Agenda and Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair announced that the VMF-Caucus is growing in membership. The present members as of April 1 are 1,125. A growth of 5 members. Chair stated that this is good news.

Chair commenced with the items on the agenda.

Chair’s first order of business was Senator’s Menendez’s introduction of S. 1090 which requires the VA to allow electronic fund transfers to foreign schools for tuition payments.. Chair asked that members support the legislation and to go to the VMF Caucus website and use the draft letter under the “Take Action” tab to write to their Representatives and Senators.

Chair stated she requested permission for the Caucus to sign Honor Transgender Day of Visibility. Permission was granted by the DPCA ExCom, and the DA also signed the letter. The letter was sent to President Biden and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs on March 31. The highlight was that the letter was signed by 386 organizations and individuals.

Vice Chair discussed the review of the DSP plan. The Vice Chair asked the members to review the draft 2024 DSP before voting to approve it, and especially checking to see if VMF persons stayed included in DA’s Representational Goals. The Int’l Excom has indicated the revised DSP will be available for viewing no later than April 15th.

Chair then asked for reports on the TOR, Newsletter, VFRL and other activities.

The TOR lead was not in attendance yet sent an email with the status. The TOR is under review. Plan to finalize the TOR review and any suggestions by the end of August. Chair strongly suggested the TOR Team meet by Zoom, phone or any means convenient to the three members of the Team.

The Newsletter lead was not in attendance yet sent an email with status. The newsletter is evolving and focus should be on VMF activities and those supporting Veteran Administration and Congressional actions that could impact Veterans. Suggestion was made to focus on those news items that impact Veterans.

The VFRL lead reported that he is attempting to coordinate a meeting via ZOOM with the Veterans For Responsible Leadership (VFRL). He is working to coordinate a date and time.

Susan Fitoussi reported that our Facebook Page is showing more activity with 959 followers. Twitter followers is at 406.

Chair reviewed the Quarter activities. 2nd QTR Podcast on Deported Veterans is on hold. There is discussion of inviting Dr. Jill Biden, in 3rd QTR. Focused on 4th QTR and the Bells for Peace. Bells of Peace is sponsored by the Doughboy Foundation; bells are rung at 11:11, on November 11 of each year to commemorate the end of WW1. Chair suggested that we invite all Caucuses to join us.

VMF and the Ohio State Team will meet with Connie Pillich, chair of the Ohio Democratic Party’s Veterans and Military Community Caucus, regarding the change in the time allowed for overseas ballot return. No date has been set.

Chair called for New Business. There was no New Business. Chair called the meeting and announced the next meeting will be on 13, May, 2023 at 07:00am EDT.

Meeting Title = **DA VMF Caucus Monthly Meeting**

* Date and Time = **Sat, 13 May 2023 07:00:00 – US Eastern Time**
* Host Provided Local Date/Time: Check your local time.
* Duration = 2 hours
* Meeting number = 23035519694
* Meeting Password = **dems**
* Meeting URL: <https://democratsabroad.webex.com/democratsabroad/e.php?MTID=mcdd41f84ff3974dcc794866a5d0a2010>

Meeting was adjourned. Meeting was recorded.