

**Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home
Advisory Council Meeting
Erie, Pennsylvania
December 11, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Gary Fry, President, AMVETS

Mr. Raymond J. Chambers, Vice President, Marine Corps League

Mr. Brian Fuller, Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mr. Richard DiGiacomo, Secretary, Military Officers Assoc. of America

Mrs. Karen Foust, Disabled American Veterans

Mr. William Rose, PCU Resident Council President

Mr. Joe Benacci, Director Erie County Veterans Services

The Honorable Daniel Laughlin, PA Senator

The Honorable Patrick J. Harkins, PA Representative

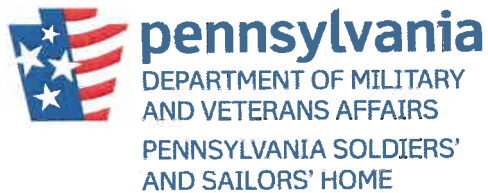
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Richard Supak, Catholic War Veterans

Mr. Anthony DiGiacomo, County Director of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Robert C. Eiler, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mrs. Bobbi Cumpston, County Director of Veterans Affairs



OTHERS PRESENT

Mrs. Maureen Weigl, BG (PA Retired), Deputy Adjutant General-VA

Mrs. Barbara Raymond, RN, NHA, Director of Veterans' Home

Mrs. Cheri Spacht, RN, NHA, PSSH Commandant

Mrs. Elizabeth Seibert, PSSH Deputy Commandant

Mrs. Rasheda Goodwine, PSSH Commandant Assistant

Mrs. Emily Heubel, PSSH Admissions Coordinator

Mrs. Danielle Ahlbrandt, PSSH PCU Administrator

Mr. Ken Vybrial, PSSH Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Ron Kline, PSSH Chief Pharmacist

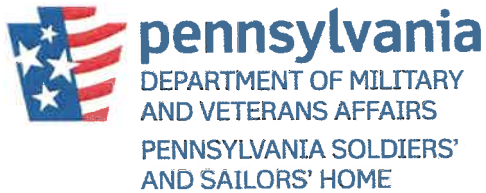
Mrs. Jessica Kanash, Facility Reimbursement Officer

Mrs. Katie Nagle on behalf of Senator Daniel Laughlin's office

Mrs. Charlotte Lupp, NCU Resident Council President

Mrs. Alicia Grassi, Visitor

Mr. Ed Kissell, Visitor



CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fry called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Fry led a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Goodwine took roll call for all present.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Chambers, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Fry were sworn in by General Weigl.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

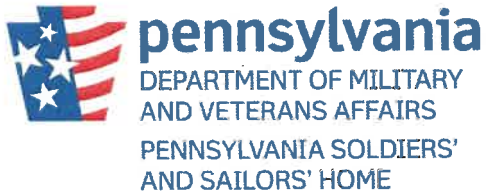
A motion was made by Mr. DiGiacomo and seconded by Mr. Supak to approve the minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting held on September 11, 2025. Motion carried, and minutes were approved and written.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

Mrs. Spacht provided update on behalf of Dr. Millie:

Mrs. Spacht began, "Good morning everyone. First I would like to introduce Michael Edwards. He is our new D.O.N. and Clinical Services Manager here at Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. He started back in September and went through a very substantial training process, which is great! Mike has been with the Commonwealth for 20yrs. and comes to us from corrections, so, welcome you Mike. He is present at this meeting today to observe the process of the meetings. At our next Advisory Council meeting, he will present the medical director's update. In the absence of Dr. Millie, I will present his update today. Right now, we are not seeing anything respiratory in our facility, Covid nor Influenza. But respiratory season is upon us. And we had the most up to date Covid vaccine clinics for our residents, as well as a flu clinic for our employees. That is the conclusion of the medical director's update.

Any questions?



ADMISSIONS AND MARKETING UPDATE

Mrs. Heubel provided the update:

Mrs. Heubel started, "Good morning everyone. Currently our census is 163. We have 32 residents in our memory care unit with 3 on the wait list. There are 74 residents in our nursing care unit with 5 on the wait list. We have 57 residents in our personal care unit with 5 on the wait list. I've been trying to get out to different VFW's in our area, trying to get our name out there and some applications and things like that, just to let them know that we do take in veterans and spouse's of veterans.

Any Questions?

Mr. Fuller asked if we have any Purple Heart Recipients in the facility at this time?

Mr. Vybrial answered, "We did have one, but sadly he passed away."

Mr. DiGiacomo asked, "Are there any beds that aren't filled because they're not available?"

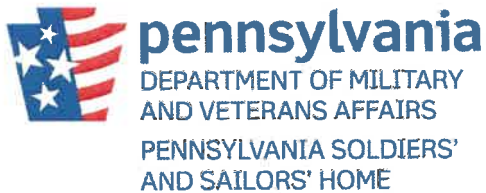
Mr. Heubel answered, "No, we are not any kind of holds."

Any other questions?

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mrs. Spacht provided the update:

Mrs. Spacht began, "We have one employee that we are recognizing for the outstanding job that this individual does. Ron Kline has been our Pharmacist at PSSH since August 2022. His education, licensure, and professionalism have been most valuable and deserving of this recognition. We are fortunate to have an in-house pharmacy on campus which is not available at most care communities. It creates responsibilities that Ron manages very well. His efforts and skills maintain tight organizational parameters for that department and has great opportunity for potential problems that can directly impact residents. The routine auditing that occurs between the pharmacy, accounting and nursing personnel has determined no findings of concern. That includes counting some of the smallest pills and reconciling orders in and dispensing out zero variances, are ideal and the only outcome determined with his leadership. His participation in resident care meetings and discussing falls, behaviors, and medication reviews has supported compliance with regulatory agencies but most importantly assist with meeting our residents needs. Please join me in recognizing our own Ron Kline today. Congratulations Ron!"



REPORT OF THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

General Weigl provided the update:

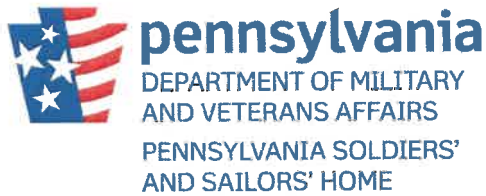
General Weigl stated, "Good morning, so nice to be here. Well last year, I think you had way more snow when I came up for Wreaths Across America, so this trip was easier today. I do apologize for not being able to make it up here for Wreaths this year. But you guys had a fabulous event this year. I was at Fort Indiantown Gap this year. Some big news is obviously the budget was passed, so that's a great thing. We're actually back to hiring some folks on the outreach side and in the homes. No big issues with the homes budget so that's a good thing. We had a State Veterans Commission meeting last week with all of your American Legions VFW's, all of the State Veterans Committees, and they are coming up with some new governance ideas and meetings. So, you might see from your organization some paperwork. Take a look. It's how you guys communicate with the TAG. We talk about all of our issues and our priorities and what we need help with. It's great information that's going to be coming out. I know it's going to the County Directors next. So, when you see the paperwork, just don't blow it off. If you have input, feed it up to us. We want to have that interaction with the service organizations in the counties and that's the way you guys can do that. TAG's been on a whirlwind tour. I'm catching up with him next week. We keep doing opposite sides of the state right now. But thank you for hosting him. He had a really good visit and loved coming up here with everybody. He brought some soldiers and airmen; they went around & brought Santa Clause. They had a really nice visit. He's going to be at GMVC tomorrow. And then next week we have Philly & Hollidaysburg. It's been very busy. In January, the American Legion and I are trying a new event that will be out on January 22nd in the Harrisburg area. There is a Philadelphia Greater Veterans Business network that brings a lot of business owners together to really network and grow their market. And it just kind of highlights the great things that veterans do in the community. We're going to try that in Harrisburg and see how many folks we get. But if you want to do it out here in this area, I can get you the list of all the veterans & small businesses and bring them together and kind of let them market and give their elevator pitch for their company. We also are working on a housing crisis pilot and we're working on two fronts. We deny probably about 75 people a year access to our homes because they have behavioral health issues or some other criminal issues and they're hard to place. If we can't take them, there's not a private nursing home that's going to take them. So those families really struggle. We're trying to figure out better solutions for that demographic. But then we also have folks leaving incarceration that are hard to place veterans. We are working on some different transit ideas. If you have any ideas, let us know because we're putting a pilot together to see if we can solve some of those problems. If there aren't any pending questions, that's all I have for my report."

Any questions?

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LONG-TERM CARE

Director Raymond provided the update on Executive Director Davis's behalf:

Director Raymond started, "Good morning everyone and welcome to snowy Erie. Travis is out today. He is at another event. But he does send his holiday wishes to everybody. He wishes he could have been here. No worries, I've got his comments in mind. Well, it's been an adventure these last couple of days. I'll start off with the Covid numbers. Currently we have 8 total residents that are positive with Covid- three of those are at our Geno Merli facility. The other 5 are at our Hollidaysburg facility. 1 of the residents is in the hospital. That individual just has some additional respiratory & cardiovascular issues, that sort of thing. We do anticipate that individual will return to us soon. We have 2 staff members at Gino Merli and 1 at SWVC in Pittsburgh. From that Covid vaccination process that Cheri mentioned, out of the clinics that we do offer 56% of our residents have received the most recent covid vaccination. From a staffing perspective, we don't have very many that take that most recent Covid vaccination. This current season, 79% of our residents are vaccinated for influenza. Staff wise, we have about 25% of our staff that are vaccinated against influenza. From an admissions perspective, we currently have a census of 11082 individuals in our state veterans homes. That's a 77% overall fill. Eighty five percent fill our nursing homes. So, its our personal care homes that we struggle a little bit with. The 15% that we have vacant on the nursing home side is primarily because of staffing concerns. That's why we're not 100%. However, at our Delaware Valley facility, our Gino Merli, and our Soldiers' and Sailors' home, we're up over 90%. I believe Cheri will talk about that, but I think we're even at 100% here or very close to it. From that nursing home perspective, we do currently have 258 individuals on our waiting list, primarily veterans. We have about 10% of those that are spouses. We of course have to maintain a certain percentage of spouses to maintain that federal funding that we do receive. We try to keep it at 18-20% because the regulation is no more than 25% for spouses. Based on a math perspective, we don't want to go too far past those numbers. Pertaining to some of the marketing events that Emily brought up, we do various marketing events across the state this time of year. The marketing events do slow down a little bit, but the holiday events increase. So, we do different things to get our names out there to improve those waiting lists as well as our staffing numbers. Without the staff, we can't take in the residents. However, from that staffing perspective, we do maintain up over a 4.0 ppd (8 hours per patient per day). In our nursing home section, the requirement is 3.2 hours per patient per day, so we provide almost an hour more per patient per day, which is pretty unusual for the nursing home industry. The nursing home industry does not go that high. That private sector conglomerate does not go anywhere near the numbers that we are able to provide. From that perspective, we do have vacancies with our RN's, LPN's, and Nursing Assistants. Those are our primary vacancies. We do contract with agencies though, to provide again those higher care numbers for our residents within the state veteran home systems. The numbers from that staff, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, that federal regulation that we've been talking about the past few years that is currently completely off of the table. We again continue to improve our staffing numbers. Various culture change initiatives that we have within the homes as well as retention bonuses that we utilize federal funding for as well. Our other challenge that we had with staffing was our Registered Dietician. Those are slowly filling up across the homes where we have very few vacancies in those areas as well. Again, we never fell below any federal or state requirements. We again staff above due to our resident population. With the social work perspective, the behaviors that we kind of deal with the different PTSD's and the trauma informed care. So, we staff our social services higher than the private



sector does, as well as our dieticians. A lot of our vets, they may be from that homeless sector and just need a little bit of additional dietary support, so we staff our dieticians higher than the private sector does as well.

From a survey perspective, we are awaiting the VA at our Delaware Valley facility, and we are preparing for our VA surveys at our SEVC, Gino Merli, and our Erie facilities. We anticipate the VA to come in the first quarter of the new year for those three facilities. Our SEVC recently had the Department of Human Services out here this past week. They did a very good job with that survey. Very minor concerns. There was a loose pill at the bottom of the medication cart. So yes, that is a deficiency. We are always looking at those kinds of things. We had our fire drills at that facility that weren't patterned. They were apparently patterned, they weren't random. Those are things that the survey team looks at, minor issues that we're working on correcting from that end.

Any Questions?

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' HOMES

Director Raymond provided the update:

Director Raymond continued, "It is that time of year that the state veterans homes across the way do review their emergency preparedness plans and the crisis management plans that are in place at all the homes. We review those at minimum on an annual basis. And that comes up from anything from a communication plan to what do we do if there's a snow emergency, anything. We had phone outages this past weekend at our Philly building and our Pittsburgh building. So, we have emergency preparedness plans for phone outages. It's that time of year that we are reviewing all of those. We recently, since we had our last meeting, we had governing body meetings. And our governing body is comprised of General Weigl, myself, and Travis, our chief medical officer, and we review key components from the headquarters perspective. We review things that are going on in the state veterans homes and see what we can improve upon, what is looked at and from that perspective to move us forward, to keep improving processes. We also have our TAG briefing that we've recently had since our last meeting here. In that TAG briefing, General Weigl then will roll up everything that we've talked about at the governing body meetings to the Adjutant General, so he is aware of any concerns or issues, safety concerns within the facilities, anything going on with the veterans, and then of course, obviously the TAG communicates that to the Governor's office.

Now on to the fun things as General Weigl mentioned, we've had our TAG visits, so our holiday visits are in full swing, which are loads of fun for all of the residents across the homes. We have various holiday events. We bring our families in for some special meals and some special camaraderie with our vets and our residents. Lots of fun going on there.

Pertaining to Facebook pages, so something from that marketing end of things, we are in the process of developing Facebook pages individually for each of the state veterans homes. We're at the very beginning stages of it. Everything is obviously a process. Just something to look forward to. We'll let you guys know, we'll have you share and follow our pages. There will be more to come on that, there'll be the official Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Facebook page. So, we're looking forward to that, just to help with that awareness of what we do in our homes and all of the good work that we do.

Continuing on to share agreements. Mental health share agreements, something that we've talked about, the services that we provide from that psychiatrist and psychologist perspective. We work with the VA as well as our own individuals within the state veterans homes, but we're working on contracting officially with the federal VA. That's been a long process in place, but we are almost to the finish line with that mental health sharing agreement with the federal VA. So, that's quite exciting from that perspective. The only other thing I haven't touched on yet is the Advisory Council composition. As you all know we've been talking about the different advisory compositions within the panel. We are going to be adding three resident nominated individuals, one of whom has to be a current or former family member of one of the residents. We've got some decent interest here at PSSH. So, what's going to be happening at each of the nursing homes across the board are going to be voting at the resident council meetings. The residents will vote on the individuals that they would like to represent them on this advisory council panel. By the way, at our next meeting in March, we'll have some new individuals on this panel. There are some things behind the scenes from a policy procedure prospective that we've got to update and rewrite those sorts of things. But that's where we are on the advisory council composition changes. And I think those are the highlights of my report."

Any questions?

Mr. DiGiacomo inquired, "So what does that mean to me if I'm a resident here at the home?"

Director Raymond answered, "So that means that is we have a licensed clinical psychologist here at this facility. And if the individual isn't that individual may just need a little bit of additional support-we're able to then send our vets up to the Federal local VA. So, it's just additional support. We provide the service here, but if somebody needs something additional that option would be available."

Mr. Chambers asked, "Do you have any incentives in place for the staff to get Covid and flu shots, such as, if you get the Covid shot, and you contract Covid, you get 5 days off with pay. And if you get the flu shot and you contract the flu, you get three days off with pay. Now if you don't receive any of the shots and you contract one or the other than you have to use any of your accumulated sick or leave time to get paid"

Director Raymond replied, "That might not be out of the realm of possibilities."

Mr. Chambers continued, "The big thing is with Covid, you have small percentage of the staff that have a Covid shot. They go out in the community like the mall-where there's thousands of people, how many of them bring Covid back to the home to the residents. And unfortunately for us old people, you get Covid, you go down. I know the incentives work. I mean think about it, if I have to use my vacation when I get sick, I don't want to do that. So, they go and get the shot and most of them are paid for through their healthcare anyway."

Director Raymond replied again, "We will address that with the office of administration."

Mr. Fuller asked, "What's the expectation of the role of the resident family representative?"

Director Raymond responded, "The expectation of the role for the entire advisory panel is to make recommendations, make any suggestions on what we can advise the TAG on. These new individuals will just continue on with the same tradition of any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or recommendations that the panel has for the TAG."

Mr. Fry added, "To change the size, there must have been an amendment."

Director Raymond agreed, "Correct. The legislation is already done."

Any other questions?

REPORT OF THE COMMANDANT

Mrs. Spacht provided update:

Mrs. Spacht began, "Good morning everyone. Let's start off with what Barb was just discussing about the advisory council composition. If I can direct your attention to the end of the table, we have Charlotte Lupp. Charlotte is our president of our resident council on the nursing home side, and this is her first time attending the meetings. So, let's welcome Charlotte. And Will Rose, of course, president of personal care, and he's always here. Will, thank you so much. And as Barb said we did discuss the voting of the family members. We sent letters and we will be able to coordinate the resident voting on that particular candidate here either at the end of this month or the end of January so that at March's meeting we'll have that individual with us as well.

We're going to move into what our HR status is currently for staffing. We are authorized for a total of 278 employees to our facility, and we have a total vacancy of 38. We have 10 open LPN positions, 13 nurse assistants, 1 food service worker, 1 custodial worker, 1 security, 1 clinical dietician, 1 human resources assistant, 1 registered nurse supervisor and 1 clerical worker. There are updates currently on those positions because we actually do have the registered nurse supervisor in our general orientation that is being conducted currently as well as the 4 CNA's in that class as well. We do utilize agency staff to meet some of the needs within the facility for open shifts. We have general orientation every two weeks here at the facility. We still do walk-in Wednesdays where people can come in on Wednesdays and get assistance with the application process, creating a profile on the website for employment, as well as people coming in at any time we offer assistance to them. We still conduct the CNA training program that we are partnering with HVA and that has been a huge success for us. Currently, we have 6 that are waiting to finish the class and then take the test required.

Any questions on staffing?

Mr. Fry asked, "On the nursing side there's 31. Is there a number that things become critical for accreditation or something like that or percentage or something (pertaining to per care for the residents?"

Mrs. Spacht replied, "We have never run up against anything where we're dropping below like what Barb spoke of, like what our resident to staff ratio is. And the good thing about what we have here is we have several other positions that do provide assistance that we don't even count in those numbers such as restorative nursing, Cna transport to appointments, restorative nurse aids & a restorative nurse. There's a lot of other resources that we utilize for the residents throughout the day and because they actually help with providing the care to those residents as well. Like with our agency contracts, we not only get the new employees in orientation, but we have the agency folks in orientation also, so they are trained completely before we look at stopping an agency person from coming in. Our goal is to keep that person and if they don't have good training, they're not going to stay. And that's difficult. But with the way we're doing the agency is very, very helpful for that reason in retention for the employees we have."

Mr. Fuller inquired, "Where are the positions posted, if I wanted to send somebody to look at the open positions?"

Mrs. Spacht responded, "It's actually on the Commonwealth website, Rasheda can send that information out to everyone."

Mrs. Spacht continued, "And the Cna training program, that is a paid position here at the facility. We pay for the schooling, & we pay for the test. They're paid as a Cna trainee until they finish, and then they're offered a position as a Cna on whichever shift is preferred by them. There are some other programs in the community that also do that but I'm not sure if it's fully paid, like we do here. So, we continuously try to get the word out on that."

Mrs. Spacht began again, "We'll move on to the construction report. As you all pulled in, I'm sure you saw the pavilion in front of the PCU building, that is complete. We are anxiously waiting to utilize it in the summer months when we have our State Veterans Home Week, which will be great having coverage when it's really, really hot outside. Our PCU elevator renovation contractors ordered parts and materials and the start date of that is mid-January. And just so everyone is aware, when we are doing the work on the main elevator over here on the PCU side, we do have resources. We have another elevator that will be used to assist residents getting from the second floor to the first floor and vice versa. We also have an HVAC split system, air conditioning, and heat pump project for Unit B short hall. It gets very warm over on that side of the building. The materials are here. The contractors are working on running power feeds for those units currently. And the campus paging system is still under construction and they're currently installing speakers and running conduit and wiring throughout the facility. Our bingo machine in the nursing home dining room, that is all up and ready. We do some fun things that we're working out with the vendor, but we are utilizing the system currently and it's working out very well. There's going to be tv's added, in addition to seeing it projected on the big wall for the residents. Emily with our admissions team have been doing a very good job at getting the veterans placed here. When we do have a resident that either discharges from the facility or passes away, we have that waiting list readily available to them. We hold admissions meetings every week. But again, if there's someone you know and it's an emergency situation, please reach out to me or Emily in regard to that veteran or spouse so we can work with them to get them where they need to be. And lastly, there are just lots of holiday parties, the snow, and the countdown to spring.

Does anyone have any other questions?

Mr. Rose asked, "Do we have any info on the Wi-Fi & do we have any idea when that's going to be completed?"

Mrs. Spacht replied, "I'm sorry, I didn't speak on that. They were here last week putting in wiring and cables throughout the facility with our IT person Troy Doverspike. I do not have any idea when that's going to be completed, but I can get that update for you."

Mr. Rose continued, "With regards to the advisory council board members from the NCU side and the PCU side, you stated they had to be a family member of a current or former resident. It could also be a volunteer, am I correct?"

Director Raymond answered, "No, legislation wise, the three resident nominees, one of whom has to be a current or former family member. That's the only stipulation."

Mr. Rose began again, "So we're working on the PCU and NCU side on a list of family members for the residents to choose from of people who are willing to be a representative and we should have somebody selected for that position by the next quarterly advisory council meeting. Briefly, I want to say the resident president on the PCU, our resident council charter stipulates that the PCU president will attend the quarterly advisory councils. It's one of the articles here. The NCU side in their being new to this does not have that in their chart. Now I realize we have gone around, and we had a separate set of nominations for the NCU side and the PCU side here just last month. We have elections coming up. So, I will be termed out and there will be a new PCU president next year. So, I guess what I'm saying here is you have two separate processes. You have the process that's already in place where residents elect a president. You get nominations. And then from those nominations we have an election every year for a PCU president and all the board members, along with that comes the responsibility to attend the quarterly meetings as part of their charter. We have another layer now on top of that where you're nominating, in a separate process which could be a little confusing for the residents. I don't believe you need to do separate nominations for appointment to the board for the NCU and PCU side if the residents are electing their representative already every year. Do you see what I'm saying?"

Director Raymond answered, "So where the change is happening is three resident members now. Three resident nominated members, one of whom has to be a current or former family member. The previous composition for the advisory council was one resident member. That's the difference. So, your bylaws and your articles will have to be looked at because we have to follow legislation. So, the prior bylaws were based on prior legislation. We have new legislation now. So, your bylaws are going to have to be reviewed. As far as your current bylaws are stating that you ATTEND advisory council and anybody can attend. It's a public meeting. New legislation is that the three residents nominated individuals will serve on the advisory board. So, serving and attending are two different things."

Mr. Rose responded, "Might I suggest to you and to the board in general that the election of a PCU and NCU president, should be the gold standard for who gets nominated to the position. Now if we need to make changes to the charter to reflect that, that's okay. And I could see that bringing our resident council charter in compliance with the law, with whatever the current legislation is."

Director Raymond responded, "Will, as long as your resident councils are ok with that, that's not up to the board. That's up to your resident council because it's a resident nominated position. For example, your ballot would read, Mr. Smith is your nursing home resident president. Would you like Mr. Smith to be your advisory council representative? Yes or No. It's 2 separate boards"

Mr. Rose retorted, "What I'm saying is you have an election every year for a NCU and PCU president of resident council. Now you have a separate nomination process where the residents can nominate somebody totally different who may or may not be in touch with the residents. It's kind of screwed."

Director Raymond commented, "That's what I'm saying your current charters and current bylaws have to be adjusted to reflect what the current legislation is. And if that's what your resident council wants to do, then that's what gets put into your bylaws. It's always been traditionally the PCU resident council president and we never included the nursing care side, which was wrong. We should have. We could only have one back then, though. We should have put it to the residents to say, which of the two individuals do you want? And honestly, none of the homes did it. I've been doing this for 2 decades and we never had it that way. So, moving forward, the bylaws, your bylaws absolutely have to change."

Mr. Rose replied, "Ok. Thank you."

Any questions?

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Mrs. Seibert provided update on behalf of Kristal Ferron:

Mrs. Seibert started, "Good morning. I will be providing the corporate compliance report on behalf of our regional compliance officer Kristal Ferron. She reported there are no open compliance or privacy investigations for PSSH or the BVH as a whole.

Any questions?

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Rose began, "I just want to say we've had a change statewide to our dining menu. With that in mind, our residents do not as a general rule take well to change. I will say that the new menu has some mixed reviews. We no longer have tacos and burritos here. That was one of the favorite meals. You have tried to gussy up some of the items, for instance, the country lima bean soup. You can call it country all you like; it's still just lima bean soup. Things like that are not hitting the mark with a lot of residents. So, I would like to invite you all to break bread with us and maybe take advantage of the opportunity this afternoon and see what's going on with the menu. I get it, you want to do things the same all across the board but you're losing a lot of the local flavor. There are some things that are unique to the Erie diet like Greek Hot Dogs. We no longer have Greek Hot Dogs. That's a miss. I just don't want to loose some of the local flavors on our menu."

Director Raymond responded to Will- "Yes we've heard this across the board and we're already in the process of fixing things. We do have 2 cycle menus throughout the year-a spring and fall menu. With the Spring menu we are going to go back to the normal. Our intentions were not to take away anything, and we are already in the process of fixing it and correcting it."

Mr. Rose commented, "Ok. Thank you."

Mr. Fuller said, "I have a question on the legislation, and it kind of goes to the food and stuff on schedule. Does legislation dictate what we're allowed to purchase from certain companies and what companies would not like? I know there's a lot of sanctions on China right now. So, purchases from companies like Smithville Foods is now owned by a China corporation."

Director Raymond responded, "We have to follow government contracts. So, legislation doesn't tell me I can't purchase from there. Government contract says I can't purchase."

Mr. Fuller interjected, "So they do the vetting on it and then tell you, you have to use a different vet."

Director Raymond replied, "Correct, correct. Legislation regulation tells me I have to serve X number of carbohydrates per meal. X number of protein per meal. X number of calories per meal. Of course, we always want to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollar. So, we may not be getting steak and lobster every meal type of thing. We do have a budget to follow, and we have to follow the contract."

Mr. Fuller commented, "Thank you."

Mrs. Lupp began, "Good morning. I'd like to mention that we serve a lot of things with salt. Most of us don't need all that salt. That's my only comment from that."

Director Raymond answered, "I'll take that back to our dietitian. We want to keep you as happy and comfortable as we possibly can."

Mrs. Nagel started, "On behalf of Senator Laughlin, I just want to give a thank you to Ken and everyone here. There's been a lot of events in the last six months that we've been a part of. And we always get great notice and welcomed, and we love being a part of it. He really enjoys that. So, thank you for always including us. In the spring, he will be doing his annual breakfast. We always have a table from your building here. We love seeing them there and we'll make sure that the information is given to Ken. And everyone's a part of it. Again, thank you."

Representative Harkins began, "Good morning, everyone. Great to be with you. It was a month ago today that we passed the budget. Since then, everything's been relatively quiet. We are going back next week. I was telling Joe we had four members elected to judge shifts at one county executive across the state. So, we probably won't do much in the next month as far as a formal meeting because our numbers are down and we will be missing four members, probably until they have the special elections to fill those seats. Everything will be relatively quiet in Harrisburg. So just like to wish everybody happy holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and like Katie said, thanks for including us."

Mr. Benacci began, "Good morning, everyone. Something I want to bring up is we now have a hometown heroes banner program for the cityites of Erie and the Mill Creek Inns. So, if you go to Millcreek Kiwanis. org you can apply right online. We ask that any resident or past resident of Erie and same thing for Mill Creek families can apply for them. It's ninety five dollars for the banner. And that will have the banner up for two years. They will go up in May. They'll come back down in November. Wash and repeat for the next year. And at the end of two years, we will pull them down and either get them back to the families or discard them and it will start the whole cycle all over again. So, it'd be a great Christmas gift for your veteran. If you have any questions, everything's all right on the website. And like everybody else, I'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a prosperous new year. Thank You."

Mrs. Foust commented, "Good morning everyone. Well, we had a great day on Sunday. About sixty members of the American Legion came to celebrate Christmas with the residents here. We had people from the state headquarters, the western section and many of the legions here around town. We were all here to celebrate with the residents of this great facility. I will say that I am number one on the advisory council member list and I did get a letter from governor saying I was reappointed. I got up the other day. I'm really a member from the Disabled American Veterans. But I see Harry Stewart still on the list. I'm hearing he has resigned or retired basically because he did it for about thirty years. I wouldn't mind jumping over to the Legion but that's something we can talk about offline. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday."

Mr. Fuller started, "Good morning. I'm honored to be here for those I met a couple meetings ago but I'm officially part of the council and I'll do everything I can to support it. On the Purple Heart side we had one member here. Obviously sad news he passed away. I'll make sure to get that information up to the state to the State Park Foundation because they like to do some type of remembrance so they may call down and contact you. The other thing is for those of you that know Mr. Bob Hill, he's not doing so well. He's in the hospital not doing so well. He's done a lot with The Purple Heart for the vendors community and a lot here at Soldiers' and Sailors'. I ask that you keep him in your prayers. And then on top of that, if you do get any new members in or new residents in that are members of The Purple Heart or non-members that you have received just let me know and we can help them and their family to get into the organization. We pay for everything for them. Thank you and Happy Holidays"

Mr. DiGiacomo commented, "Good morning and thank you for such a great team effort all the time, for the support that the state gives to the house. The house always takes care of the residents. The residents always fulfilling their obligations of letting the house know when things be fixed, the spirit that that feedback is taken in, in the way it was meant. So, thanks across the board for all that. Another year in the books almost. So, to everybody here, another year of health, peace and prosperity and go Army."

Mr. Chambers began, "Good morning everyone. It's great to be Here. At least you didn't change this meeting because of the weather. I think it's nice out myself. That's only if it's the Air Force. Do they change the battle. Well, somebody must have done it in June. That messed me up. It's good to see so many people here and so many positive things. Years ago, you could put this entire council at two of these tables and we'd be 2 hours- 2 1/2 hours, and it would be ninety percent negative. So, it's good to have all the positive things and the support that we get. At one time, we had no support, and we were the only home in Pennsylvania. The council was actually formed because of a citizens action group that started. I'm starting to show my age, so. But I'd like to wish everybody a happy healthy new year and hope to see

you in the spring after we get done shoveling our 100 inches of snow. Thank you, sir. Thank you, everybody, for your reports.”

Mr. Fry began, “I noticed on the way in the pavilion looked really nice. At the last meeting when I came in, they were still working on it, and I kind of noticed there were a lot of residents out there with their chairs just sitting there, sidewalk superintendent, so to speak, watching that project. So, I'm sure it was done well. I think this thing with the new members; we have got to get on board now. It'll all get worked out, I believe. There might be a few bumps in the road to get going, but I don't think it's anything that can't be handled and get going. And just another reminder about Wreaths Across America this coming Saturday. And I would conclude to say Happy Holidays everyone and I'll see you at the next meeting. Thank you everyone.”

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

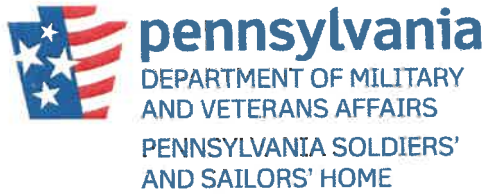
NEW BUSINESS

Director Raymond informed everyone-The agenda is going to look ever so slightly different for you guys on March 12th. Just so you all know, it'll go in line with the annual report that we have to roll up to the TAG.

GOOD OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Ken Vybrial provided the update:

Mr. Vybrial began, “Good morning everyone. Since our last meeting in September, we attended Rep. Bob Merski’s Senior Expo, Rep. Jake Banta’s Senior Expo, participated in the International Coastal Cleanup with Gannon University and the Diocese of Erie’s Blue Mass in October. We participated in Rep. Park Wendling’s Mercer Stand Down, Rep. Park Wendling’s Veterans breakfast, and the Veterans Day Parade in November. Also, the Veterans breakfast with the Erie Crawford Central Labor Council. We participated in the Erie County Veterans Day ceremony. Great Job, Joe! Thank you for the invitation. Excellent keynote speaker this year. We celebrated the United States Marine Corps 250th birthday, welcomed Dr. Nathan Packard from marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia to do a history presentation on the United States Marine Corps. That was well received. Our Veterans Day ceremony at the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home keynote speaker was Mr. Brian Fuller. Thank you Brian. Just recently we commemorated our Vietnam Veterans with a lapel pinning ceremony with our Catholic War Veterans. I see Mr. Rich Supak is not in attendance, but I do want to acknowledge his contributions and efforts on our behalf to make that happen. This past Sunday, we celebrated the American Legion Annual Christmas Tour. Great Job Karen! Thank you for your support. There is always an impressive turnout from those individuals. And upcoming, as you probably all know, we will be commemorating Wreaths Across



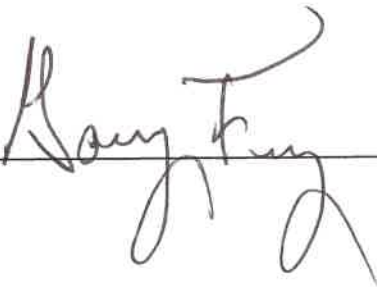
America this Saturday at 12pm with the ceremony at the Anthony Wayne Blockhouse with wreath laying to immediately follow. And on Tuesday, December 16th our annual Sounds of the Seasons concert with the Erie Philharmonic will be at 7pm in our Chapel. If I don't see you before then, I'd like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Mr. President, that is my report.”

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

The next Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 12, 2026, at 9:00 am.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Wayne", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is a large red arrow pointing left, and next to it is a red rectangular stamp with the words "SIGN HERE" written vertically in black capital letters.