

COMMITTEE/SECTION DAY

November 21, 2013

Final Report

COMMITTEE: Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

STAFF MEMBER: Gabriele Miller-Wagner

ATTENDEES: See Attendance Sheet

- **Major Points Discussed**
 - a. **Plan for Frank O'Connor's Presidency**
 - b. **Bankruptcy for Vets and More – Dianna Schwartz, Exec Dir of Military Assistance**
 - c. **PA Veterans Justice Project - Melvin Dill and Richard Carter**
 - d. **Will for Heroes to include veterans**
 - e. **Veterans National Education Programs**
 - f. **Janet Colliton paper**
 - g. **Legislative**

- **Action Items**
 - a. **Resolution – Memorial for WWI Veterans to thank them for their service (Charles DeTulleo will draft the resolution, he will 1st write a letter to the President of the United States to confirm that there isn't any more WWI vets in the USA or World Wide)**
 - b. **Will send Janet Colliton's paper to the committee (an attorney in Chester writes for a newspaper, Veterans Day article to help vets to navigate the Vet Website)**
 - c. **Richard Goldberg PTS resolution draft almost complete, will distribute when finished to get it in front of the BOG. We should also talk to the Criminal Justice Section and the local DAs (DAs meet once a year) about this resolution.**
 - d. **Frank O'Connor during his year as PBA President would like every attorney in PA to do a pro bono action for a Veteran – maybe to have this committee create a sub-committee to assist.**
 - e. **Melvin Dill and Richard Carter – Veteran Justice Project, for incarcerated vets, legislation reform is needed for the vets in jail. They are asking us for pro bono help to draft the legislation.**
 - f. **Wills for Heroes to include vets – Wes will need to talk to the YLD Chair since WFH is their project to have a resolution co-sponsored to include vets into this program.**

- **New Business/Future Projects**
 - a. **Jim Proctor attended the Sept 20th qualification CLE – it went great**
 1. **Harry and Tom received a letter from the Office of General Counsel – complaint about inappropriate/unnecessary information conveyed at the class, but the letter did not state what information was unnecessary, which it stated they highlighted, but nothing was highlighted.**
 2. **Tom did send a response to the letter and will keep us informed if he receives a response.**
 - b. **Steve Loux, PBA Legislative – There is a push in the House right now to make it mandatory for an attorney to report child abuse. Steve was asked about an UCMJ change, he will look into this.**
 - c. **Dianna Schwartz, Military Assistance Exec Dir – They have both attorney and accountant volunteers to assist vets with legal and financial services (benefits, discharges, bankruptcy and help to keep people out of bankruptcy). This would be a great opportunity for attorneys to volunteer to get their pro bono project completed for Frank’s plan.**
 - d. **Vet Court – the existing ones are going strong, no new ones created. We currently have 16/17 counties that have Vet Courts out of the 67 counties.**
 - e. **Wes Payne presented Gabriele Miller-Wagner 2013 PBA Pro Bono Partner Award for her volunteer work she does for the WHF across the state and other pro bono clinics including Widener Law School PA Service Connect Team, a program to assist vets with legal resources across the state.**

Please attach any additional information and any meeting handouts to this report, as well as the original of the attendance sheet which has been signed by all attendees.