



Department of Veteran Services
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Timothy Niejadlik, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Christopher Demars, VSO
Brian Brooks, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
- New Salem*
- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

Meeting Notice
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District
Wednesday April 17th 2019
6:00 P.M.

Location: District Office
294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - FY19 district Report
4. New Business
 - Nomination and election of officers for FY20
 - Upcoming events/outreach for district
 - Set next meeting date / time (Oct 2019) and location
5. Executive Session, if desired

***Please note that the list of topics in this notice was comprehensive at the time of posting, however the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.**

S Drive: UPPVSD/District Mtg & Notices



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October 17, 2018 UPVSD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
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-Meeting called to order at 1800 by Chairman Dave Gendron

Towns Present: Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Shutesbury(board has quorum)

-No minutes from cancelled April 2018 meeting, motion by Leo Parent to accept Oct 2017 minutes, second by Bill Shores, motion passes

-Old business Tim Niejadlik presents information on FY19 activities; this was part of packet handed out for meeting. Motion to accept by Leo Parent, second by Al Springer, report accepted

-New business:

Officers elected Chairman Dave Gendron, Vice-Chair Al Springer, Secretary Michael Aldrich

Discussion to eliminate Treasurer on board as this is covered by Greenfield Treasure, and all budget warrant produced by UPVSD staff, motion to eliminate by Leo Parent, second by Mike Hastings motion passes with ability to re-visit need if board needs to

-FY20 budget and assessment discussion. Budget present is 3.6% higher than FY19, this is all because of contractual raises to staff. Motion by Leo Parent to accept, 2nd by Al Springer, motion to accept passes.

-Dave Gendron proposes a quarterly newsletter/report to keep board more informed of activities in district. Proposal to send via email/snail mail. This is agreed upon and will be implemented for 4th quarter

-Handout/discussion of outreach events in district by UPVSD staff: VA A&A seminars, GCC Vets Day, work-study tasks, students cleaning Federal St cemetery, and Vietnam Veterans Day mar 29 2019. Jeff Neipp also discussed Pearl Harbor Day event and upcoming film based on a MIA from Vietnam War

-Next meeting date set for April 17 2019 at 6pm UPVSD offices

-Motion to adjourn by Leo Part at 1843, seconded by Jeff Neipp, meeting adjourned



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District Annual Report CY18

Our district has now been in operation for 3 ½ years. We are the largest district by community count and square miles covered in the state. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch 115 benefit – Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events(fairs, festivals, health care expos)

We have continued to work hard helping veterans and dependents file for VA benefits due them. Our awarded claims have outpaced CY17 bringing in close to \$435,000.00 in new claim money for our clients. Overall the district has over \$2,358,000.00 in VA awards flowing into our towns on a monthly basis.

We forecast the Ch115 caseload to remain flat for the foreseeable future for our towns. Although reimbursed back to the towns at 75%, this takes over a year to get back from the state, so reducing payouts up front has freed up funds for the member towns.

For the coming year we will continue to assist veterans, and will emphasize programs for the dependents of veterans, particularly the elderly population. Our long-term goals include up dated hardware and expanding satellite hours in the district.

Timothy Niejadlik, Director
 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District