

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Bozeman Government Center, Room 311

Attendees:

Joe Simonelli, Chair

Dulce Carrillo, Coordinator of Community Engagement, Arlington Public Schools

Eric Godon, Chief Plans Analysis & Integration Office

J. Michael Griffin, School Subcommittee Lead

Jay E. Kalner, President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227

Christy Kenady, Northern Virginia Program Manager, Serving Together

Andy Penn, Deputy Chief, Arlington County Police Department

James Schwartz, Deputy County Manager, Arlington County Manager's Office

Dirk Casson, Manager, Grant Thornton

Chona Acker, Arlington County Police Department

Chair Remarks:

We will be working with the Communications team, Bryna Helfer, in promoting MVAC. They have suggested in write ups to ArlNow highlighting a veteran. The first person to be interviewed will be Joe Simonelli – highlighting his career and his choice to call Arlington his home. The second interview would be Dan Donahue and his accomplishments. The third possibly a veteran family member and the month of April being dedicated to Military Month of the Child.

Welcome and thank you to Dirk Casson from Grant Thornton for attending meeting.

This year's goal is Outreach – how to get connected to families.

December 2019 Meeting Minutes:

- Corrections: Add Chapter 227 for Jay E. Kalner and last name for Dulce Carrillo.

Sub-Committee Reports

- **USS Arlington** – no reports as Kevin Reardon has the flu and Frank O'Leary had conflict with meeting.

Arlington Public Schools (APS)

- You are invited to an Open Community Forum: Come share your input to help build the leadership profile for the next Superintendent: Jan. 22nd or 25th. An online form will be available from January 21st – February 2nd. Press Release: <https://www.apsva.us/post/school-board-announces-community-engagement-schedule-for-superintendent-search/>
- Pre-boundary planning is underway. A draft proposal explores moving some countywide option schools for the 2021-22 school year. Decisions will establish framework and foundation for the [Fall 2020 Elementary Boundary Process](#). A

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[School Board Public Hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30th at 7:00 p.m.](#) at Syphax Education Center. Biggest growth expected in the next few years in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor

- Recent hiring of Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Mr. Arron Gregory.
 - Bridget Loft, former Yorktown High School principal, has been named Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.
 - Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum which will be consistent across school system. Process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set positive goals and feel empathy towards others.
- **Programs and Events**
 - **Website** – sign up to receive notifications regarding events and updates <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/military-veterans-affairs-committee/>

Organizational Updates

- **JBM-HH**
 - With the current climate, there is an enhanced and increased security posture.
 - 100% ID check
 - If you do not have access, should go online and fill out visitor pass <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/index.php/teamJBMHH/my-fort/all-services/access-gate-info>
<https://pass.aie.army.mil/jbmhh/> for visitor passes
 - Vehicles are subject to search.
 - Arlington National Cemetery is also affected, to include funerals, with identification checks.
 - Housing Issue – none of the homes are privatized and still government owned however there still challenges with mold especially with the older homes. There is funding to renovate barracks and housing by end of year 2020. There have been no families displaced.
- **Serving Together**
 - Mid-Atlantic Regional Community of Practice – Serving needs of minority veterans and subpopulations – January 28th – event will be held in Pittsburgh, PA.
 - Register to participate virtually: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7840870709402208781>
- **American Legion**
 - will be providing M-VETS two dedicated offices once their new post is built.
- **Grant Thornton** – is one of the largest Business Resource Group (BRG)
 - Working in areas such as mental health and emotional wellbeing, connecting military members with potential employers, job fairs, provide resume and interview workshops for civilian careers and transitioning out of active military duty.

Old Business

- **Calendar Input**
 - Creating a calendar that is being sent to MVAC members for input. Would like to populate with as many events as possible, perhaps be able to team up with other organizations for their events. Examples include
 - ✓ Military Month of the Child in April
 - ✓ Purple Up – Salute to Veterans
 - ✓ Wreath Laying
 - Per James Schwartz, so long as events are free, the event can be highlighted on the county calendar and can be promoted on social media platforms. Will work with Bryna’s team to push out as many of the events as possible.

New Business

- **Veteran Survey** – better name should be Veteran Outreach.
<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/military-veterans-affairs-committee/>
Assistance is provided through use of networks for Veterans and current military members who work and live in Arlington.
- **Civic Federation** – <http://www.civfed.org/>
Monthly meeting held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM from September through June at the Hazel Auditorium, VHC, located at 1701 North George Mason Drive.
- **ACPD Outreach Team** – can push out information

County Comments

- Per Jim Schwartz, consider writing proclamation for submission. For example: Libby Garvey can make “Purple Up” a proclamation so that it becomes school system wide and not just a few schools to participate in wearing purple clothing in support of Military Children.