



**Department of Veterans Affairs
State of Connecticut**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Special Organizational Meeting
May 5, 2021**

(Minutes subject to review at next Board Meeting)

I. Convene Meeting:

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick Nelligan at 3:04 PM in the DVA Commissioner's conference room and via TEAMS.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Patrick Nelligan followed by the taking of attendance of Board members.

In attendance: John Banks, Paul Barry, Philip Cacciola, Juan Cruz, Richard Dziekan, Steven Harris, Adele Hodges, Alyssa Kelleher, Frederick Leaf, Sharad Samy, Heather Sandler, Mark Spranzo, Kjell Tollefsen, Sherri Vogt and Dawn Works-Dennis.

Absent: Richard Benson and Peter Galgano

In attendance from the DVA: Commissioner Thomas Saadi and Darlene Deschaine.

Chair Nelligan thanked the Governor for appointing him as Chair and for his commitment to supporting the DVA Board of Trustees and the goal of making the DVA a first class facility for our Veterans now and in the future. Chair Nelligan stressed the need to spread the word about the services provided to Veterans across the State. Following established Board procedures Chair Nelligan appointed Trustee Dawn Works-Dennis as Vice Chair to which there were no objections.

Chair Nelligan then asked Commissioner Saadi, to administer the oath of office to newly appointed Trustee, Colonel (Ret) Adele Hodges, the first African American Woman to Command U.S. Marine Corps Camp Lejeune.

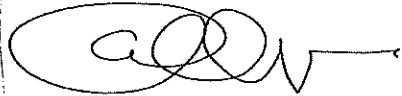
Chair Nelligan reported that under previous Chair Michael Thomas there were sub-committees that were established regarding the State Veterans Cemetery, Wreaths Across America event and the DVA Healthcare Center. He stated that these Committees will remain in place with Paul Barry continuing to Chair the Cemetery Committee; Sherri Vogt will chair the Wreaths Across America Committee with assistance from Vice-Chair Works-Dennis; and Heather Sandler will Chair the Healthcare Center Committee. Commissioner Saadi explained that the DVA Program Fee Committee was an ad hoc committee and that he will request appointment of a new Ad Hoc Committee in June as he plans to present a proposal to revise the DVA Residential Program Fee structure.

Chair Nelligan stated that the Board will continue to meet utilizing the hybrid in-person and TEAMS approach, with the in person meetings taking place in the Commissioner's Conference Room or the DVA Auditorium. The next quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 3:30.

II. Closing

There being no further business, Chair Nelligan entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Sandler, seconded by Trustee Harris and passed unanimously at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Patrick Nelligan, Chair
DVA Board of Trustees

Date May 18, 2021