



**Department of Veteran Services**  
294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401  
[www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

**Timothy Niejadlik, Director**  
**Laura Thorne, Assistant**  
**Mark Fitzpatrick, 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 May 17, 2017**  
**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
  - Financial & Operations update
4. New Business
  - Nomination and election of officers for FY18
  - Lease extension
  - Upcoming events/outreach for district
  - Set next meeting date / time (Oct 2017) 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**

*The Town of Greenfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer,  
a designated Green Community and a recipient of the "Leading by Example" Award*

## **Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2016**

- Meeting called to order at 1803
- Motion by Mike Hastings to accept previous meetings minutes, second by Bill Shores. Motion carried.
- Tim Niejadlik talked to 90 day report and FY17 report
- Grant VVMI of \$10k has been expended as of this year
- \$1000 from Montague ladies Auxiliary –total \$2325.23 in needy veterans fund
- Gravestone flags—past year purchased 92 gross for town at cost of 15.5 cents per flag
- Gravesite flag holders available from the district at cost of \$18 for bronze, \$8.50 for aluminum
- Mark Fitzpatrick will fully retire as of December 2017. Replacement would be offered \$25 per hour at 18.5 hours per week with no benefits, or \$17.85 per hour at 22.5 hours per week with benefits. Preference would be to find the right candidate willing to put Veterans needs above salary.
- Motion by Denis Brennan to allow Tim to hire VSO, second by Mike Hastings with the caveat that interested UPPVSD members have visibility. Hire to be finalized at October meeting. Motion carried.
- Motion by Bill Shores to fund FY 18 budget, second by Bruce Bezio. Discussion on said budget and explanation that the increase was due to the end of the grant. To clarify assessments are blended. 50% EQV 50% population. Motion carried
- Discussion by Dave Gendron that district as a whole benefits from passion and support of Greenfield Mayor Martin. Suggestion to send letter of appreciation to Mayor Martin.
- Discussion by Mark Fitzpatrick that the professional efforts of Tim have transformed the model Veterans district within the State to follow ours.
- Spring meeting date set at 17 May 2017, 1800
- Motion to adjourn by Bill Shores, second by Bruce Bezio, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1855

Respectfully submitted,

Denis Brennan, Secretary



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### **District Annual Report FY17**

FY17 was the second year our district has been in existence. We continue to be the largest district by community count and square miles covered in the state. The State of Massachusetts awarded Laura Thorne Veterans Services Assistant of the Year at our annual training. In addition the state continues to use our district model and our efficiencies in paperwork as examples during training.

We have continued to work hard helping veterans and dependents file for VA benefits due them. Our awarded claims have kept pace with FY16, bringing in close to \$300,000.00 in new claim money for our clients. Overall the district has over \$1,500,000.00 in VA awards flowing into our towns on a monthly basis.

After seeing a large reduction in M.G.L. Ch115 payouts in FY16 we leveled off this past year. We forecast this caseload to remain relatively 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.

Our major outreach this spring will be the Agent Orange town Hall, expected to be the largest event of its kind in Western New England, and has done a lot to bring recognition to the district.

The district purchased 90 gross of Memorial Day cemetery flags this year at the same cost as last year. Our primary flag holder vendor has closed shop so we will be switching to all aluminum as the inventory is depleted.

For the coming year we will continue to assist veterans, conduct outreach events, and will emphasize programs for the dependents of veterans, particularly the elderly population.

Timothy Niejadlik, Director  
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

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