



22 Feb 2017

## Veterans Incarcerated Committee

### Committee Report Nov 2016-Feb 2017

#### 1. Veterans Incarcerated Activities

- a. Most activity occurred at Zephyrhills Correctional Institution (ZCI) Chapter 195 Union Correctional Institution (UCI) Chapter 1080 and (WCI) Chapter 1114.
- b. Please see Chapter 195's 1080's and 1114's Reports for details.

#### 2. Chapter 1097 Assists Veterans at Avon Park Correctional Institute

- a. Chapter 1097 in Sebring has six volunteers to be sponsors for the Veterans Incarcerated at Avon Park. All six have PINs and have visited the Veterans to discuss joining Chapter 1097.
- b. There are not enough Vietnam or Vietnam Era Veterans at Avon Park CI or Martin CI to form Incarcerated Chapters.
- c. On 13 Dec, the Chair of the VI Committee, the President of Chapter 1097 and Chapter volunteer met with Warden Roberts and SGT Anderson. We briefed the Warden on the VVA and requested that Chapter 1097 Volunteers be allowed to meet with the veterans on a regular basis. We requested that the inmates be allowed to join Chapter 1097 as VVA or AVVA members. She will recommend approval and forward the request to Region and then Tallahassee for approval.

#### 3. Chapter 1036 and Sumter CI

- a. Some regular chapters are located near Correctional Institutions that have Veteran Dorms or significant numbers of veterans. The Florida Department of Corrections has asked us to consider forming an Incarcerated Chapter at Sumter CI. However, there is not sufficient Vietnam Veterans or Vietnam Era Veterans to start a new chapter. The President of Chapter 1036 and a volunteer have submitted requests for PINS for admittance to Sumter CI.
- b. If there aren't enough Vietnam or Vietnam Era Veterans to form an Incarcerated Chapter, the Incarcerated Veterans can join the sponsoring Chapter.

4. **Martin CI and Chapter 1041**
  - a. Our POC at Martin CI is Heidi Starr. There are not enough Vietnam or Vietnam Era Veterans to start a new chapter. Chapter 1041 can establish a relationship with the Veterans at Martin CI especially in Re-Entry and Re-Entry Preparation.
  - b. Chapter 1041 has a VSO as one of its members.
5. **Re-Entry and Other Assistance**
  - a. Veterans Incarcerated begin Transition Planning at 18 months prior to their End Of Sentence (EOS). When Veterans are released they are given whatever clothes that local charities have donated, \$50 and a Bus Ticket.
  - b. Some Veterans have a family or support group to meet them when released. The released Veteran will transfer his membership to his new Regular Chapter.
  - c. Some Veterans may be homeless/indigent until they find employment or Social Security or VA payments begin and have no one to meet or support them. These veterans will need more support. Chapters can provide new clothes for release in the correct size. Meet them at the Prison or Bus Station and take them to their new address and initial VA appointments.
  - d. There is a VA Grant in 46 of Florida's Counties to support Homeless Vets and their Families. It is the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. The grant will provide a Case Manager, Housing Specialist and a Mentor/Employment Specialist for all Veterans and their families who are homeless or imminently homeless. The grant may provide rent for 3-6 months. Chapters may be asked to provide funds for temporary housing for two or three days in a motel until the VA Grant kicks in.
  - e. Each Chapter should have a Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair listed on their elections report. Veterans Incarcerated Sponsorship can be funded from HGSP Funds. During the Re-Entry Preparation Phase your Chapter may be contacted to provide information or assistance.
6. **Re-Entry Pilot Program**
  - a. The Pilot Re-Entry Course is "Getting Ahead While Getting Out". ZCI will be the first Correctional Institution in Florida to use this program. A Grant from the Society of St Vincent de Paul paid for our Chapter Sponsor to become a Certified Facilitator and for 12 sets of books. The course is 11 weeks during this time the returning veterans prepare detailed plans for their first 72 hours and their first year on the outside. Tallahassee FDOC has established a new process for approving new programs. We have received a copy of the application and will be submitting it shortly.

- b. We have applied to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for a follow-on \$5,000 grant to provide clothing, housing and employment assistance during Re-Entry. We be informed in April if we have been awarded a grant.

**7. Dog Harnesses for Union CI**

- a. Chapter 1080 received funding from the FSC to purchase 13 harnesses for training companion dogs for Veterans. They will now be able to hand off the dog to the veteran with a good harness.

**8. Web Pages**

- a. The FSC is allowing the VI Committee to use two web pages on the FSC VVA web site for VI news and to keep your Chapter VI Committees informed.
- b. We will track the accomplishment of the three National Resolutions.
- c. The VI Committee Webpage can be found at [www.vvafsc.org](http://www.vvafsc.org) then go to Organization and click on Committees.

**9. Re-Entry Stories**

- a. Martin, an VVA member of Chapter 195 was released from the Florida Department of Corrections in October 2016. We provided him new clothes for his release and took him shopping at Walmart. He is being assisted by the VA Service and Support for Veterans and their Families Grant (SSVF). He is receiving Social Security but is still in a motel in Port Richey because we can't find housing that meets his probation requirements. Chapter 195 and Chapter 1003 have provided transportation for Martin to the James A. Haley VA Hospital.
- b. Dave was released last summer, his family and his home were waiting for him. He has joined his local VVA Chapter.

**10. Future Activities**

- a. The VI Committee plans to meet regularly on the Friday Night prior to the FSC Meeting. The next VI Committee Meeting will be 24 Feb 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Fete Boardroom.

*Raymond Pawlicki*

Raymond Pawlicki  
Veterans Incarcerated  
Committee Chairman