



THE VRC EAGLE NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Hello from the VRC executive staff. It has been a long time since we last wrote to you, but the information drought has ended. As most of you know, the VRC was and remains an all-volunteer organization. The good side of that is we have been able to operate with minimum expenses. The downside is: Other factors in key participant's lives have interfered with their best intentions to support our mission. Those of us that are part of the executive team have made the decision that the mission is too important to let VRC's affairs lapse again, and we are going to aggressively drive toward fulfillment of our commitments.

What is the VRC?

Veterans Resource Central (VRC) is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization that provides transition assistance to returning veterans, active duty military and support to their families through a corps of volunteers and Internet tools. We provide education, information and guidance to veterans transitioning to civilian life, to military families dealing with life issues at home and to active duty or returned servicemen planning their civilian careers.

Featured Stories

- From the Chief Information Officer
- Program Status Update
- Events
- Funding
- Volunteers
- Web Site

I. From the Chief Information Officer



In an attempt to keep you, VRC's supporters, well informed, VRC has created a new position, Chief Information Officer. That's a fancy way to say that I, John Carrigan, will be the primary voice of the organization. I am a former president and will be doing much of the writing to keep you up-to-date with programs that benefit returning veterans.

As most of you know, there are many government and civilian agencies that work very hard to provide a safety net for our veterans. In many areas, these agencies do a fine job. However, we provide something they cannot: first person connections in the business community, which allows us to help both active soldiers and veterans find a career in midstate Pennsylvania.

I appreciate your support and comments. If there is something that you want more information on, an issue that requires attention or suggestions to share, please email me at jacarrigan@veteransresourcecentral.com.

II. Program Status Updates

Due to changes in many of our volunteer's careers, we have lost momentum, but we are committed to getting all programs back on track. However, we still don't have the resources to do everything instantly. Consequently, we are placing our near-term emphasis on career counseling and job placement assistance with returning veterans. We need people to act as counselors and mentors. We need a list of companies and organizations that are willing and interested in hiring returning veterans, particularly disabled or injured ones.

As a result of this organization's hiatus and the fact that our local units were not selected for deployment during the past year, we are temporarily deemphasizing our family support program. However, its mission is not forgotten and we still have the ability to provide both information and support. As our level of activity and finances return to prior levels, we will readdress this need.

III. Events

Last year, we successfully launched Family Recognition (Purple) day in Pennsylvania, and we will host it again this year on Saturday, October 13 at the Capital Rotunda in Harrisburg. The goal is to bring attention to the families who have loved ones deployed in the military far from home.

Most of us are aware of the sacrifice in time and risk the soldier, sailor, marine or airmen take on, but few of us think about the impact on their families. It is a lengthy challenge filled with angst and all the pains of a long-term separation.

We are fortunate in this endeavor to have the support of Senator Jeffrey Piccola and State Representative Ron Marisco who have submitted resolutions in support of the recognition day within their respective chambers.

We invite all interested parties to join us on October 13, 2007, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, for the ceremony.



Sen. Jeffrey Piccola and John Carrigan

IV. Funding

As alluded to earlier, our resources are significantly depleted. Furthermore, after two and half years of struggles, the executive committee has come to the conclusion that, to have a continuity of purpose and timely response to needs, we must begin outsourcing some of the work. The bottom line is we need to raise significant amounts of money. We are starting this process by replicating the successful sales of carwash coupons from last year, as well as other similar endeavors. We are open to new ideas and recommendations.

We know that if we are to succeed, we can't do it with our limited resources. However, we are committed to achieve what we set out to do.

V. Volunteers

We continue to recognize that what sets us apart from established agencies is the knowledge and passion of our volunteers. We need you now more than ever. We have formed several committees and are looking for interested people to help in each or possibly several. They are:

- Fundraising
 - Individual solicitations
 - Corporate solicitations
 - Events
 - Grant applications
- Administration
- Community liaison
- Marketing & Communications

VI. Web Site

Bill DeVore, Bob Holt and several members of the original team are hard at work refreshing the content of our Web site, and for the next few weeks, it will be a work in progress. We intend to be more proactive in updating the Web site regularly. This site is intended to be an information resource, and if there are any suggestions, please let the team know. In the meanwhile, we appreciate your patience.

VII. Current Board Officers

Charlene (Charlie) Veas, President
Barbara Groce, VRC CEO and Board Secretary
Robert C. Holt, Executive VP
Jim Nace, Treasurer
Duane Stone, Counsel

Thank you, and rest assured, I will have another newsletter update in a few weeks.

Yours truly,
John A. Carrigan
Chief Information Officer

For more information about the VRC, contact CIO John Carrigan at jacarrigan@veteransresourcecentral.com. Until our next issue, we thank you for your continued support,

From the editor's desk: Keep an eye out for a new, fresh look on the Veteran Resource Central Eagle Newsletter, coming in the next issue!

Jennifer A Carrigan, Chief in Editor