

All Veterans Memorial in Hubbard County Inc.

2023 Progress Report & Timeline

- **January**

We began the year with the seating of our officers.

2023 Officers:

Everette DeCramer - President

Frank Burrow - Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah Lester – Chaplain

The first task of the Officers was to review our insurance, which was immediately up for renewal, with the local insurance brokers. Everette took on this task and upon review found that with shopping the policy we were able to significantly lower our costs and comply with our property rental agreement.

- **February**

This meeting was devoted to beginning the following business plan:

- 1) Begin developing a budget for the year.
- 2) Fund raising projects.
 - a) Memorial Day flag event
 - b) Coborn's Brat Stand
 - c) AVM Merchandise
 - d) Advertising AVM Brochure
 - e) Spring Cleanup

- **March – April – May**

We worked with Ken Davis to update our security. We had the locks changed, camera upgrade and a new set of security protocols were put into place. *Thank you to Ken Davis of United Security & Alarm Systems, with all his work, advice, and donations.*

While working on updating the website, it was an opportune time to piggyback on our "Who are we?" statement and turn it into a brochure that we can hand out to AVM visitors, Chamber of Commerce visitors, and others that we give talks to about our Memorial and Organization. Everette and Shannon Maset did a nice job putting it together along with Haas Printing. *Thank you to Haas Printing, Shannon Maset and Everette for your work in making it happen.*

On May 2-3 we had spring cleaning at the AVM with a good number of volunteers from the AVM members and the DAV auxiliary . On May 24 we planted flowers donated by Hafner's Greenhouse. The AVM members were assisted by the Park Rapids Garden Club (Karrie Kapsner, Diane Johnson and others). *Thank you to Hafner's, Park Rapids Garden Club, DAV, and AVM members.*

With not much time to meet our deadline, (April to May for getting information out to the community, receiving flags, printing honor tags, building a flag display fixture and getting the AVM up to standards, we started the fund drive with flags honoring veterans both alive and deceased in April. The flags were displayed at the memorial for the 2023 Memorial Day activities. The response that we received was overwhelming. Initially, we ordered a gross of flags (144) and ended up having to order more as the total number ordered exceeded 180 flags with honor tags displaying the veterans' name, branch of service, and date of service or conflict.

Incredibly, we had veterans from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as veterans who served our country in between conflicts from all our Military Services. After the Memorial Day display, each family who ordered the flag(s) was allowed to pick theirs up and take it home. What a wonderful success. *Thank you all for participating, volunteering, donating, and coming out on Memorial Day Weekend.*

- **June – July – August**

In July and August, the AVM members worked at Coborn's Brat Stand. Both events were very successful. We enjoyed meeting our neighbors, community visitors and veterans who stopped by for something to eat, share their stories or just to donate to the Memorial. *Thank you to Coborn's for making this fundraiser available to us and the AVM volunteers and supporters for working the stand.*

For the AVM group we were most thankful that we were able to open the museum on the weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. *Thank you to our AVM members and supporters who donated their time to not only be docents to our guests but were also able to help with inventorying our military artifacts as well as perform a much needed inventory and cleaning of the displays, cases, and building.*

- **September – October – November**

In October we had the Akeley Veteran and Community Outreach Center hold their monthly meeting at the AVM and tour our museum. The group of ladies had never been to the museum and several AVM members gave them a tour of the facility.

The highlight of our year happened during October/November.

Tonya Miller's college writing class visited the museum. We were able to host 23 College writing students from Park Rapids High School. Veterans and volunteers from AVM, DAV, American Legion as well as our local community were there to speak to the students as well as answer their questions. Thank you to Park Rapids High School for providing the transportation and staff to attend All Veterans Memorial. We also wish to thank Enterprise newspaper for providing coverage of the class visit.

To our surprise we got a bonus. The first week of November we had the entire 8th grade class (110 students) from Park Rapids Century School with their teacher Christine Saur. The visit was split into 3 visits that day with our Veterans providing exhibit information, answering questions, and providing life stories of training, schooling and military life. *Thank you to Park Rapids Century School for providing the transportation and staff to assist in the three groups visitations.*

As a side note, we don't know who benefited more from these events, the Veterans, AVM members or the Guests.

Other AVM Accomplishments during the year.

In other business we did the following:

- Website: The website needed updating in both information and technology. This required tracking down who had the keys to the system. We contacted the prior website administrator and got access to the content but also found that we needed to find who had the domain site ownership, as it was not us. We found the gentleman (Willi Davis) who had paid for the initial sign up of the domain and continued to donate the annual fee

for its existence. He graciously turned possession over to the organization. We now have it under ownership with AVM and with the help from Shannon Maset, have been able to update the technology and security of the website. *Thank you, Shannon, for your help, research, and work on getting the website upgraded to the latest technology.*

- Facebook page: Some may not know this, but we also have a Facebook page. Charlis Carrol is now working to keep this site up to date with information and pictures. *Thanks to Diane Johnson, Shannon Maset, and Charlis Carroll, we now have this under our control as well.*
- AVM Logo: With a lot of help from Camp 71 Apparel, a new logo was developed for use on clothing and letterhead. As a result, we ordered t-shirts which are now being worn by our docents, volunteers during fundraisers and other events. The T-shirts were all donated by Camp 71 Apparel. *Thank you to Jeff and Teresa Seegers.*
- Monument Pavers & Engraving: We have established a new company to do business with regarding our pavers, monument maintenance and updating our conflict monuments. More work is yet to be done and we will keep everyone updated.
- Signage for the Museum: New signage was created to let visitors to the Memorial know when we are open. More work is yet to be done and we will keep everyone updated.
- Electrical repairs: Minor work was done to replace automatic optical sensors for flag lighting.

2023 Donations from Organizations, Companies and Hubbard County Townships:

We would like to thank the following for their support:

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 212
American Legion Post 212
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 212
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 38
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 38
Akeley Veterans and Community Outreach
Post 212 Legion Riders
Akeley Township
Hendrickson Township
Savannah Township
CAF America (Donor: Sheila Caswell)
Bruce Wignall
Hafner Greenhouse
Park Rapids Garden Club
Camp 71 Apparel
United Security & Alarm Systems (Ken Davis)

In conclusion, we want to thank everyone who came out to make the All Veterans Memorial in Hubbard County 2023 a very successful year. We look forward to bringing new events to the community in 2024 as well as new experiences for our museum guests and visitors. If you have any

*questions or suggestions, please contact us via our website:
www.allvetmemorial.com or contact us on Facebook.*