

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

Highlights of the General Meeting - June 22, 2016

NEXT FLIGHT: Negotiations continue for the jumbo-jet flight tentatively scheduled for Oct. 8 out of Miami. Chairman Rick Asper estimated the mega-flight as "65% likely." The board will consider normal flights in September and October if the mega-flight cannot be finalized.

URGENT CALL FOR VETERANS: With the big flight approaching, we need to register many World War II veterans. All volunteers are urged to participate. If you know of any veterans in your community, condo or church or a friend of a friend who had a parent or grandparent in the war, encourage them to file their flight application. Jim Naskrent has designed flyers and posters to print or post on Facebook. Go to <http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/supportmaterial>.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: We had a reminder of the urgency of our Honor Flight mission with a moment of silence for two veterans who have gone on flights -- Glen Orihood and Harold Jayson. Another of our veterans, Gary Lester, also died recently.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jed Wolcott reported that the hub currently has approximately \$145,000. But he did say, that cash receipts have decreased for the fiscal year closing this week. Over the past 12 months, we have taken in \$177,000, down from \$221,000 the previous year. Jed also said that charter prices are going up and we can't count on the excellent rates we have had in the past.

CORPORATE SPONSORS?: How do we increase revenue to fly more veterans and project a steady cash flow in the future? The board has approved the concept of corporate sponsorships, but is debating what is appropriate. There are many questions: What is acceptable as far as allowing a sponsoring company to advertise with their Honor Flight donation? Should company logos be allowed on T-shirts? This discussion will continue as to how to balance sponsors' needs and requests with our own priorities of fundraising and honoring more veterans.

FUNDRAISING: Rick Asper presented an oversized check for \$3,039 from the Bokamper's Memorial Day Heroes Tribute. Rick said the Bokamper's benefit evolved through a suggestion from a volunteer and encouraged all volunteers to never hesitate in presenting ideas.

Some fundraising plans currently being planned or discussed:

- Considering an Honor Flight license plate -- The \$30 annual fee goes directly to the charity. This is being considered as a HFSF benefit or a statewide project. There seemed to be strong interest among volunteers in attendance.
- Charity Golf Classic -- Plans continue for the Nov. 5 tournament, benefiting several charities, at Madison Green Country Club in West Palm Beach. Anyone who has been selling tickets for the car raffle should bring cash and remaining tickets to the July 13 meeting.
- Spring golf tournament -- Being discussed for Spring, 2017.
- Military gala -- Being discussed for Summer, 2017.
- Running event -- Very preliminary discussion in sponsoring a race.

VIRTUAL HONOR FLIGHT: The next program designed for veterans who are not able to fly is planned for Dec. 7 at South Plantation High School.

NEW ORLEANS WORLD WAR II MUSEUM: The board has had some discussion about a flight to the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

SUNSHINE SUMMIT: A conference is being considered to share ideas beneficial and unique to the nine Florida hubs. HFSF's partnership with Broward schools has led to similar programs around the state.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m., Broward College, Building 22, 3502 Davie Rd., Davie.

-- Tom Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator