

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc. Office of Secretary, 500 W. Main Street Smethport, PA 16749-1149

Edgar B Burris Jr.
PRESIDENT
Warren County

I want to first and foremost thank Senator Baker and Senator Solobay for working on the problems of homelessness among our States Veterans.

Tim Cleveland
Vice President
EASTERN DISTRICT
Tioga County

This is not a problem restricted to Pennsylvania it is nationwide problem that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has made a priority.

John Cyprian
Vice President
WESTERN DISTRICT
Butler County

The populated areas around the state have many more recourses available, such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens and other temporary housing options, for the County Directors who serve in the more rural areas we face unique homeless issues such as “couch hoppers” where the vet moves from friend to friend or family member to friend couch/ spare bed.

Matthew Windsor
SECRETARY
McKean County

These veterans sometimes do not even classify themselves as homeless, because they do not fit the stereo-type homeless person with a shopping cart and living under the bridge. We are constantly getting phone calls from well meaning people telling us they know of a veteran that is living in their car or has no place to go ,our options are limited . We must start contacting the various federal, state, local agencies to see what options are available at this moment, as they are constantly changing because of funding and/or availability of shelter.

Gary Solander
TREASURER
Mercer County

One possible solution is to look at building s that may already be owned by the state in these rural areas as an option, if these were “rented” to faith based or local veterans’ service org, To set up and run as temporary housing with emphasis on ensuring that the veteran has secured all available services, that the veteran may qualify for from the VA, ie: a service connected disability or a non- service connected pension claim, healthcare and the local housing specialist.

Basil Huffman
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Forest County

Shirley Noga
CHAPLAIN
Lawrence County

Thomas Dye
LEGISLATION OFFICER
Lehigh County

Don Cohick
PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
Lycoming County

A concern that we have in the northern tier counties dealing with the Marcellus shale industry is the availability of affordable housing if there is any housing at all. I thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in this most worthy cause.

Robert Harris
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Franklin County

Sincerely
Timothy Cleveland
V.P. Eastern district