

## **TOXIC EXPOSURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JANUARY 20, 2022**

A virtual meeting was held on January 20, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Nancy Switzer and Nadine Owen, co-chairs. Members present were Pat Furno, Mary Miller, Jennifer Ellis, Willa Burgess and Tom Owen, Special Advisor.

The meeting got started with introductions, interests, and the main focus of tonight's meeting. We are a team and we all gave views of what we wanted for our committee. Nancy and Nadine also requested that committee members send their individual emails and phone numbers so that a list can be created and shared with all members for future communications.

Our main focus/priority is the web site for Toxic Exposure. We all agreed that it needed revamping (especially rewriting/rewording) and a better view along with the addition of the new generation of veterans including, but not limited to, Gulf War veterans. Willa brought up the 'bulkiness' of the old VVA Agent Orange Brochures, suggested incorporating the smaller, more concise pamphlets available via the Department of Veteran Affairs. These pamphlets can also be made available through our new website. All agreed on the need for updated information. A motion was presented at the last AVVA meeting to support the Birth Defects Registry. Betty Mekdeci sent two (2) links to the Registry and the committee agreed to not only link this organization to ours, but to add the two (2) links sent as well.

Links on the web site: We all will be looking at different links that have to do with toxic exposure, including educational symposiums on the effects of toxic exposure. It was felt from the VVA Toxic Exposure meeting that that would attract the younger veteran to participate.

Assignments: Nancy Nadine, Tom, Pat and Mokie Porter will work on the wording of the "new web page".  
Mary Miller is assigned to keep up with information on spraying and toxic exposures in the United States.  
Willa and Jennifer will look into different links that affect our committee.

Meeting adjourned, next meeting February 1, 2022 at 2PM PST/3PM MST/4PM CST/5PM EST

# **TOXIC EXPOSURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 08, 2022**

A virtual meeting was held on February 08, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Nancy Switzer and Nadine Owen, co-chairs. Members present were Pat Furno, Mary Miller, Willa Burgess, Kathy Andras and Tom Owen, Special Advisor. Jennifer Ellis was absent due to illness. Nina Schloffel, AVVA Secretary, was initially present to be introduced to the committee and ensure successful meeting connections by all.

Meeting started with the unanimous approval of minutes for the January 20, 2022 meeting. The revised website 'lead in' that was submitted by Pat also received committee approval, Pat noting that she is going to clarify the reference to 'air pollution' so as to not offend the newer era veterans.

Nancy shared that she will be meeting with Betty Mekdeci while she is in Florida to discuss the Birth Defects Registry. She will be joined by Mokie Porter, VVA Communications Director and Sandy Wilson, VVA Toxic Exposure Committee Chair. AVVA President Sharon Hobbs has agreed to having her recent write up on Betty included on our new website.

Nancy opened discussion on the recent changes made to our policy and procedures without notification and/or approval by the committee. Discussed the need for a motion from the committee that stipulates no changes to be made without the committee's approval. Nina ensured that with the current officers in place, this would not be an issue. Discussion tabled for now.

Nadine discussed the enormous amount of information/websites available via internet and great sites Willa forwarded about the Gulf War Veterans and also, burn pits. Discussion on the need for a more 'user friendly' website, as well as, categorizing the links associated with the individual eras of service. Kathy will help with the development of the site. Everyone agreed then encouraged to submit related sites. Willa agreed to collect the websites from the committee and forward to Mokie Porter for review. Nadine will help.

Mary continues to search through information relating to spaying and toxic exposures here in the United States.

Nancy made the motion that 'no changes shall be made to the policy and procedures of a committee without the committee's approval'. Short discussion on the motion's need for future administrations. Mary seconded, unanimous vote of approval.

Meeting adjourned.