

# Veterans' Voice



Hello Nobles Pond community.

As many of you know, I have once again been elected president of the Nobles Pond Veterans Association and with more than 8 years on the board, am more than ready to serve. The trust you have had in me has been more than obvious and is greatly appreciated.

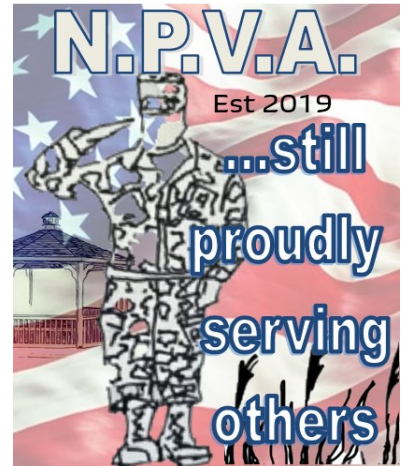
We are coming off an outstanding year in terms of money raised and donated. Thanks to the pancake breakfast and pig roast, we were able to donate \$6350 to thirteen well deserving veteran/military entities and we are looking to do even more in 2024. The generosity of the Noble's Pond community has been nothing short of amazing.

Going forward, I am asking for a greater veteran turnout at our monthly meetings at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month in the ballroom. This is your association and we need you to help make it work. We are not asking you to volunteer for anything, unless you would like to, but your input at the meetings would be greatly appreciated. Membership is open to any and all veterans living in Nobles Pond.

As many of you know, the Nobles Pond Veterans Association meetings are open to the entire community, as your input is equally as important. With more folks involved going forward, the Noble's Pond Veterans' Association will become even greater and be able to do even more. As always, we greatly appreciate your support. More information is on our website [www.npvets.org](http://www.npvets.org).

Thanks,

Walt



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## NPVA Officers

President:	Walt Waite
Vice President:	Bob Sly
Secretary:	Trish White
Treasurer:	Patrick Gaudett
Sargent at Arms:	Jim Ullman
Past Presidents:	Joyce Jamison, Bob Sly



## Thanks to our Volunteers and Community Supporters for a Great Year!

Reflecting on the past year, it's clear that the success of NPVA's events was a collective effort, a testament to the commitment of our community. From the Valentine's Day Breakfast to the Santa Parade, each event was a chance for us to unite and celebrate.

The year began with the Valentine's Day Breakfast, setting a communal tone. We then honored the sacrifices of those who served our nation with the Memorial Day Ceremony and placement of flags throughout Noble's Pond. Flag Day and the Independence Day Parade brought our community together under the banner of national pride, and even more flags.

Our social events, including the Sunday Grilling, Summer Pancake Breakfast, and the Pig Roast, offered relaxing opportunities for neighbors to connect. The Veterans Day Ceremony was a respectful nod to our heroes, and the festive Santa Parade and the Basket of Cheer brought even more joy to the season.

Our support for community Bingo continued throughout the year. Yet, these events wouldn't have been possible without those NPVA members who went above and beyond and others in the community who joined in supporting these efforts.

The Quilts of Valor seamstresses contributed their skill and time, crafting symbols of respect and gratitude. Numerous spouses became the unsung heroes, ensuring every detail was attended to for smooth event execution.

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The generosity of our community shone through those who purchased raffle and event tickets, along with anonymous donors whose quiet support was invaluable. The Noble's Pond Voices added a layer of warmth and engagement to our gatherings. The involvement of Boy and Girl Scouts brought a youthful energy and sense of duty to our events.

Lastly, the speakers at our meetings offered insights and stories that enriched our understanding and connection to the causes we support. It's this tapestry of contributions, big and small, that made our year not just successful, but meaningful. Here's to another year of community, celebration, and shared efforts.

Literally, there isn't enough space here to list all the names or show all the pictures, but among those who helped with our many activities were Joyce Jamison, Donna DiStefano, Bill Rogers, Gail Ferrilli, John Lawson, Walt Waite, Colleen Ostafy, Barb Sly, Fred Ziegler, Bob Sly, Ted Story, Nancy Story, Tom Dolphin, Linda Christensen, George Ricks, Carolee Christie, Debbie Kluska, Sandy Sewell, Don and Kathy DiLaura, Joan Waite, Tom and Lucy Mehl.

## NPVA Plans for 2024

Noble's Pond Vets discussed plans for 2024 at a recent membership meeting. NPVA remains committed to many traditional activities associated with Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day. So far this year, the traditional Pancake Breakfast served 134 guests in the Point's Conservatory. Community members can plan to attend Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. And, of course, a celebratory Parade on Independence Day. Expect patriotic flags throughout our growing Noble's Pond Community. Plan ahead for another Pig Roast. This year, the Pig Roast will be on September 14—early enough for farm fresh corn on the cob to share the plates of pork and chicken.

## New features for NPVets website

Two new features have been added::

1. Polling website visitors
2. Volunteer signup lists.

These features don't replace past practices such as using the Point's bulletin board, but they are in addition to them. Polling results can be reported in spreadsheet format. Volunteer requests can be customized to make it easy to recruit volunteers for specific needs. The volunteer signups can also be downloaded and printed out as spreadsheets.

For technical details on how to use these features, contact Bill Newmiller.

Also contact Bill if you have a suggestion for improving our website or newsletter.

# NPVA Donates \$6350 to Charities

The NPVA membership approved donations to the non-profit organizations listed below. Congratulations to all the recipients and a sincere thank you for all you do to support veterans.



Hospital for the Chronically Ill (DHCI), located in Smyrna, Delaware, is a state-operated nursing home providing care for residents who cannot be served in community settings or private nursing facilities. They offer a full range of medical and support services, including skilled nursing care, rehabilitation therapy, social work, and dietary services.



The Fisher House for Families of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, is a unique facility among the Fisher House Foundation's other locations. It is the only one of its kind, designed for families of the fallen and managed exclusively by uniformed personnel. It is designed to provide short-term, on-base lodging to families who travel to Dover AFB to witness the dignified transfer of their loved one.



The MOAA ROTC Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to ROTC cadets pursuing careers in the military. The scholarships help to offset the cost of tuition and fees, making it easier for students to attend college and fulfill their military service commitment.



The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Chapter 1 advocates for the needs of veterans and their families in Delaware. They offer a variety of services, including counseling, employment assistance, and access to benefits.



The Quilters of Noble's Pond honor our community's veterans year-long as they stitch handmade quilts that they distribute to selected veterans.



The 1st State Military Academy is a public charter high school in Delaware that offers a rigorous academic curriculum combined with military training. The academy prepares students for college and future careers, instilling values of discipline, leadership, and service.





Home of the Brave provides transitional housing and support services for veterans and their families. They help veterans reintegrate into society after their service, assisting with housing, employment, and mental health care.



The Gary Sinise Foundation serves injured veterans, first responders, and their families. They offer a variety of programs, including building specially adapted smart homes, providing financial assistance, and organizing recreational outings.



The USO Dover provides a welcoming environment and support services for active-duty military personnel and their families. They offer a variety of programs and activities, including relaxation rooms, game areas, and free meals.



Honor Flight provides veterans with an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., and see the memorials dedicated to their service. The flights are free of charge and allow veterans to reflect on their sacrifices and connect with fellow veterans.



AFJ ROTC DE 081 is the Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Dover High School. The program teaches students about leadership, citizenship, and aerospace science.



The AMC Museum Foundation supports the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover, Delaware. The museum houses exhibits on the history of military airlift and air refueling, and it honors the contributions of air mobility personnel.



The Delaware Submarine Association serves as a support network for active-duty and retired submariners and their families. They offer a variety of programs and events, including social gatherings, educational opportunities, and support services.

## From the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of the *Veterans' Voice*,



the official newsletter of the Noble's Pond Veterans Association.

Gaining from the experience of publishing our first edition at the beginning of autumn, this edition begins its twice a year publication schedule. Going forward, we expect to see our newsletter being a biennial publication that that will continue to run in tandem with our website to report and archive what NPVA does. You may have noticed a formatting change with this edition, which, on its first page, features an image created by Ron Hunsicker that our membership selected to represent the Noble's Pond Veterans' Association.

Bill Newmiller  
bill@newmiller.com

## Noble's Pond Quilters Honor 13 Veterans with Quilts of Valor

Thirteen NPVA Vets were honored to receive Quilts of Valor at our Veterans Day Ceremony in the Point's Ballroom. Noble's Pond vets from the Air Force, Army and Navy received quilts made by Quilters Rosanne Christensen, Abby Eaton, Mary Ann Goodhand, Nancy Helmer, Barbara Ingino, Mary Johnson, Alice Riley, Barbara Sansone, Carol Vieira, and Corlyn Yusef. Lending an additional layer of authenticity to our quilts is Mary Koszka, a retired USAF veteran, who passionately sews the backings as our longarm quilter. It's worth noting the original members who embarked on this journey: Nancy Helmer, Suzanne Kreisher, JoAnn Risko, Barbara Sansone, and Mary Toole.

Air Force quilt recipients were Josephine Alston, Wes Camp, Gordon Childers, Bill Newmiller, Dee Sullivan, and Neil Sullivan. Army recipients were Phil Corosone, Richard Mahee, Tom Reynolds, Lance Sieben, and Peggy Sieben. From the Navy, Moe Moy and Robert Perry were recognized.

For those in our community wishing to nominate a deserving veteran, we've made provisions. Every March, a nomination sheet adorns our bulletin board. However, nominations are welcome year-round. All we require is the veteran's first & last name, alongside their branch of service. Additional details like phone number and rank are optional.

Should this story resonate with you, and should you wish to become a part of our team, or perhaps nominate a deserving veteran, reach out to Barbara Sansone. Together, we can weave a tapestry of gratitude and healing.



**Quilter Mary Johnson adjusts quilts for Wes Camp and Gordon Childers**



# Past President Joyce Jamison Comments and Reviews 2023

As I reflect on my tenure as the President of NPVA, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have served you. This year, which seemed to fly by, was marked by significant achievements for our Association.

Upon assuming office, I pledged to build upon the success of the previous Board. To achieve this, I outlined a set of goals for the Association, encompassing short-term, mid-term, and new initiatives. These goals were designed to align with the board's objectives and address priority concerns, integrating input from both our members and the Board.

Short term Goals (within six months) were to integrate new faces leading committees, NPVA Newsletter, and a new veteran welcome letter.

- **Committee integration and Leadership:** We successfully integrated new leaders into key committees. Notably, the Flag Placement Captains, Howard Goodhand and Bobby Turner, led a team of 21 volunteers. They revolutionized our process, reducing time spent on the street by 125%.
- **NPVA Newsletter and Veteran Welcome Letter:** The launch of the 'Veteran Voice' newsletter by Bill Newmiller, Kim Callene, and Trish White was a milestone. Not only did it provide critical information to the community, but it also evolved into the informative website "Noble's Pond Veterans' Association" ([www.npvets.org](http://www.npvets.org)). Additionally, our welcome letter initiative, successfully attracted new members to our Association.

Mid-Term Goals (six months - 11 months) were to review our Bylaws, campaign to increase active membership, and provide an environment for every member's voice to be heard.

- **Bylaws Review:** The review committee consisted of Board members, our immediate past-president (Walt Waite), one former president (Bob Sly), and two new members (Tom Mehl and Howard Goodhand). The review process resulted in an overhauled of

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the original version which was adopted by our members in November 2023, delineating our purpose and operational guidelines.

- **Membership Campaign:** Although the Campaign initiative did not materialize, we saw a 7% increase in active membership.
- **Member Voices:** Under my leadership, we ensured that every member's voice was heard and respected, adhering to Robert's Rules of Order and fostering a participatory environment. This was a huge hurdle in overcoming past practices. Overwhelming numbers of members voiced their approval of this change.
- **2023 New Initiatives:** The focus was on transitioning to a member-driven Association. We saw remarkable participation in initiatives such as the NPVA Veteran's Roster (Howard Goodhand), Sunshine Coordinators, Polo Shirts Committee, and the Flag Day Ceremony (Dee Sullivan and Patty Wysong). These efforts demonstrated our members' commitment and leadership.
- **Community Engagement and Field Trips:** Our involvement in community events like the July 2nd Sunday Grilling (Moe Moy) and the Honor Flight experience reflected our dedication to both community and veteran causes. The fundraising initiatives, led by Bob Sly and Walt Waite, were particularly successful, raising a record amount for the Association.
- **Traditional Community Events:** We maintained our presence in traditional events like the Memorial Day Ceremony, Veteran's Day Ceremony (Dee Sullivan), the July 4th Parade, and the Christmas Parade. These events were executed with professionalism and enthusiasm by both veteran and non-veteran volunteers.

**Special Acknowledgement to NP Donors and Contributors** Bingo Committee (Tony Lupo); Quilts of Valor (Barb Sansone); Noble Voices (Bonnie Forgacs); Videographer (David Marcus); and the many Anonymous Donors.

## **Gratitude and Conclusion**

My heartfelt thanks go to the Noble's Pond family for your unwavering support during my presidency. Your generosity allowed us to distribute \$6,350 to various non-profit veteran organizations. I also extend my gratitude to the Board (Santo, Patti, Patrick, and Sal) for their exceptional teamwork and to the membership for their trust and support.

With My Sincere Gratitude,

Joyce Jamison



## Supporting Our Heroes: Delaware Office of Veterans Services and DAV Partnership

Navigating the complexities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can be a daunting task for many. The intricate maze of claims, benefits, and entitlements, although designed to support, can often leave veterans in need of guidance and assistance. This is where the collaborative efforts of the Delaware Office of Veterans Services and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization play a crucial role for vets.

The Delaware Office of Veterans Services, dedicates itself to advocating for Delaware veterans and their families. Through comprehensive support services, this office ensures that veterans are well-informed about their entitlements and are guided every step of the way in their claims process. From education benefits to medical care, employment assistance, and much more, the Delaware Office of Veterans Services is a one-stop shop for veterans seeking assistance.

Complementing these efforts, the DAV steps in as a formidable ally, specializing in assisting veterans in navigating the VA system. With a long-standing commitment to the welfare of disabled veterans, the DAV offers invaluable services including free claims processing, representation, and a plethora of programs aimed at empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. The DAV's expertise in handling claims, coupled with their relentless advocacy for veterans' rights, makes them an indispensable resource for those looking to understand and utilize their VA benefits fully.

For more information on accessing these services, veterans and their families are encouraged to reach out to the Delaware Office of Veterans Services and the DAV. Their expertise and assistance can make all the difference in successfully navigating the VA system and accessing the veteran benefits.

## NPVA Membership Approves Flag and Logo

Members at the NPVA February meeting approved Ron Hunsicker's design for a flag and logo to represent our organization. At the March meeting, the membership approved purchase of a flag, which will be displayed in the Clubhouse. Expect a forthcoming website posting featuring photos of the soon –to-be-sewn flag.

## A Cornerstone of Support and Camaraderie

*Editor's Note: What follows summarizes comments and observations by Walt Waite as he considered NPVA's role in the Nobel's Pond community.*

Since its foundation in 2015, the Nobles Pond Veterans Association has emerged as a cornerstone of support and camaraderie within its community, making significant strides in honoring and assisting veterans through a wide array of endeavors. Powered by the relentless dedication of its volunteers and bolstered by the generous contributions from the Nobles Pond community, the association has successfully marshaled approximately \$24,000 in donations.



These funds have been thoughtfully allocated to a broad spectrum of beneficiaries, including but not limited to USO Delaware, the Milford Veterans Home, the MARSOC Foundation, the Delaware Hospital for the chronically ill, and the esteemed Gary Sinise Foundation. This financial aid represents just a fraction of the association's comprehensive efforts to uplift and honor those who have served.

Beyond its financial contributions, the Nobles Pond Veterans Association has profoundly impacted the veteran community through a variety of commemorative and supportive activities. The establishment of a flagpole and an honor wall dedicated to deceased veterans stands as a permanent testament to their sacrifice, while the organization of patriotic parades and ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, the Fourth of July, and Christmas fosters a sense of unity and remembrance within the community. The association also organizes

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engaging social events, such as pancake breakfasts, chicken parmesan dinners, and a pig roast, further knitting the community together in support of veterans.

The Nobles Pond Veterans Association's commitment to honoring veterans extends to thoughtful gestures like placing American flags at each veteran's home on significant holidays, arranging flags along Guard House Lane, and acknowledging each veteran's service with a personalized "Veteran" sign at their residence. The creation of a service branch flag display stand and the provision of a color guard for events at locations like the Wild Meadows and Milford Veterans Home exemplify the association's dedication to public acknowledgment of veterans' service.

Furthermore, the association has undertaken larger projects, such as the procurement of a larger flagpole for the American flag in the ballroom, ensuring the flags are replaced as necessary to maintain their dignity. Organizing bus trips to Arlington National Cemetery and Quantico offers veterans and community members poignant experiences of reflection and connection. The association's efforts to facilitate Nobles Pond veterans' participation in the Honor Flight program, as well as arranging informational sessions with the VA and DAV about veterans' claim statuses, demonstrate a deep commitment to the well-being and recognition of veterans.

By successfully incorporating as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit and navigating the administrative requirements to bring bingo and other community events to life, the Nobles Pond Veterans Association has solidified its role as a vital organ of community engagement and support for veterans. Through its comprehensive range of activities, financial support, and the symbolic gestures of honor and remembrance, the association embodies the profound respect and gratitude owed to those who have served, making it an invaluable asset to both the Nobles Pond community and the wider network of veteran support.

### **Dover AFB Pharmacy can use a few Good People**

NP Vet John Hansen is a longtime volunteer at the Dover AFB Pharmacy. According to John, "a typical commitment is 4-5 hours a week at a time convenient to the volunteer." Volunteers need not have any specialized medical knowledge. John describes the volunteer work as "dispensing medication, manning the pick-up windows, and other tasks that free-up the military and staff to concentrate on the more technical aspects of the pharmacy system." A posting on the Dover AFB website praises volunteers like John who "take up to 25 percent of the workload, enhancing the readiness of the active-duty personnel."

If you're interested, contact John Hansen for details. His phone and email address are available on the community website <https://www.npscommunitywebsite.com/>. Click the link for the Website Resident Directory.