

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA General Meeting Notes
July 8th, 2015

Thank you to all who attended Wednesday night's meeting; it was one of our best turnouts ever. And a sincere apology to those who tried calling in but couldn't connect into the meeting.

Here are some of the highlights:

- The key news is that our next Honor Flight will be Oct. 17, probably out of Fort Lauderdale. We will be flying 73 veterans with their guardians, plus staff.
- There are two interesting possible flights for the spring -- one would be a jumbo Airbus 380 or a B747 flight; the other would be a flight with all Vietnam veterans. Both of those flights are under consideration and have not yet been approved by the board.
- The financial report was especially encouraging for the first half of 2015. Even after our April and May flights, both fully paid, we have more than \$80,000 more in the bank than we had at the start of the year.
- We also had two generous donations at the meeting -- from Jersey Mike's Subs (planned by Nancy and Pete Bouvier) and a special event by Avis Swenson. Both of these events were a great reminder of how ideas can blossom into generous contributions to Honor Flight and gives us the opportunity to fly more veterans.
- While our financial situation looks good, we are making a major push to reach out to all the World War II veterans in South Florida. We have kicked off "Operation: One Last Mission, and we need everyone's help. Very simply, everyone knows someone who knows a WWII Veteran. Talking with your neighbors, co-workers, fellow church parishioners will go a long way in spreading the word on this very important campaign. And use your social media sites. Facebook, twitter and others. Get your on-line "friends" to help spread the word. What a GREAT way to network and let so many know about our mission.

To help you spread the word about Honor Flight, Jim Naskrent has again used his talent and enthusiasm to prepare a variety of display materials/posters to assist in getting the word out into your community. Display at your church, temple, community pool area, perhaps your neighborhood Publix and/or Winn Dixie entrance, at work in your lunchrooms and common areas. Go to www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS to find and print these posters. They are at the top of the page, with more to come.

- John Wagner has resigned as medical director because of family needs. As most of you know, John has been one of the key players in the whole operation of our flights. We can't thank John enough in all that he has contributed. If you have been on one of the flights, you have seen John in full action -- arriving at the airport early with the truck of wheelchairs, helping veterans

on to the plane, then off the plane into their wheelchairs and being there every moment of the day to care for their needs. John also reviewed all medical records before the flight, called veterans about their special needs, helped prepare flight bags, etc., etc., etc.

We are happy that John has said he will try to help on flight days. But we still need volunteers to help with the many roles John played; plus other volunteer needs we have. Here again is the list provided from last night's meeting; plus a few more items added. Please review the list and see where you best fit in. Email volunteer coordinator Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com -- with how you can help.

1. Wheelchair storage and delivery assistance -- Do you have a storage unit or somewhere to store our 80 wheelchairs? Also can you drive and/or have access to a truck?
2. Presentations to assisted living and retirement centers for WWII vets with Mike Miskew.
3. Washington DC coordinator to assist Chairman Asper (buses, bus guides, Arlington, police escorts)
4. Food coordinator for DC (help Rick Asper)
5. Physicians, RN's and/or paramedic to serve as or assist medical director. This is a very important position. Please check with any friends with medical experience to see if they can help.
6. Supplies and inventory custodian (shirts, hats, bags, lanyards, etc.) -- See either John McCrory or Mike Miskew.
7. Veteran and guardian calling assistance to Dee Soli and Rick Woolf.
8. Assistants to Dee Soli on registration and follow-up calls to veterans. We already have a number of volunteers available here.
9. Broward-Dade bus coordinator with Ryan Paton.
10. Mail call sorting and assistance with Mike Miskew.
11. Possible help with new spreadsheet-type computer program.
12. Fundraising with Zasha Rodriguez.
13. Assistants to provide minutes of general meetings.

Thank you,

Tom Christensen,
Volunteer coordinator