

American Veterans Heritage Center, Inc. Annual Report: 2005

President's Message:

Year 2005 started off with a flurry of activity that has led to both local and national advancements in meeting our refined VISION /Mission of the American Veterans Heritage Center. I am pleased to report the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places as of January 15, 2004 work continued. "Save America Treasures" National Park Service requirements were met and the floor repair contract was awarded to B and B Construction firm with repair completed in May, 2005. Formal Rededication of America's first permanent church constructed by the U.S. Government was Nov 7, 2005 to highlight Veterans Day events. AVHC initiated the Reliving Veterans History Festival event over Labor Day Weekend 2005. Over two thousand visitors came to Dayton's VA campus to see live fire Civil War exhibits, WWII through present Iraq War equipment and historical buildings and museum items showcased honoring the contributions of veterans service to this country. Especially noteworthy was the ongoing Veterans History Project of the U.S. Library of Congress whereby veterans were interviewed and recorded under the VET Voices to have their stories preserved legacies to our nation's patriotic roots. AVHC's HQ also was selected by Dr. Frederick Peterson, VA psychologist to host his monthly veterans writing group. Thanks to the mighty efforts AVHC's volunteers like Paul Gillman, AVHC's first Reliving Veterans History Festival event director with an entourage of volunteers like Mark Conrad, Jake Dailey, Gilla Farrel, Robert Kincses, LTC Tibbets (Ret), Sgt Maj Jim Snyder USMC (Ret) and Janet Wagner has helped to launch the festival into an annual event for school children in the community as well tourists from all states of the union. City Wide Development Inc, a nonprofit corporation visited and voted to devote their time and resources to developing a master utilization plan for the 261/348 Dayton VAMC national historic district site as their next community development endeavor. Master Utilization Plan for building use is now underway with Dept of Veterans Affairs involvement from Secretary Jim Nicholson to Dayton's newest hospital Director, Mr. Guy Richardson. NPS Assessment of Significance Survey focusing on the eleven oldest Dept of VA Soldier Home sites dating from 1867 to 1880 sited in H.R. 1762, The Veteran's National Heritage Preservation Act of 2003 was acted upon October, 2004. Dayton was the first site officially visited on Nov 28-30, 2006. Prior to NPS visit, AVHC hosted three other distinguished national visitors as Jim Nicholson, Secretary of DVA July, 2005, John Nau III, chairman, of Advisory Council of Historic Preservation for America in August, 2005 and Royce Yeater, Midwest Regional Director for National Trust for Historical Preservation in October, 2005. Despite the lack luster year in income/development and contributions, AVHC provided open house and refreshment support for both the Memorial Day and Veterans Day events on the Dayton VAMC campus. Our educational activities continue to heighten patriotism with special emphasis on the contributions of veterans through our ongoing partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans' History project. Nearly 50,000 people have visited our Internet site at www.americaveteransheritage.org. One of our dream visions is to have the Veterans Old Club House (Building 129) opened in 1881 become the site of for America's National Veterans Hall of Fame and Museum.

Meet Our Board:

- **James W. Snyder**
- **Dennis Samic**
- **Clay E. Dailey**
- **Margaret Kruckemeyer RN**
- **Harry Seifert**
- **David A. Neuhardt**
- **Daarold Burnette**
- **Mary Rogero**
- **Garry Day**
- **Edward Mechenbier**
- **Honorable Walter H. Rice, U.S. District Court Judge**

Annual Election of Officers

The AVHC's Bylaws specify that the Board of Trustees elect officers of the corporation annually. All officers are members of the Board of Trustees. The President is the chief executive officer responsible for the general management of the affairs of the corporation and is Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Vice President assists the President in carrying out the duties of the presidency and fills in as President in periods of absence. The Secretary records the minutes and tracks action items to completion. The Treasurer has the care and custody of all funds and securities of the corporation. We are pleased to announce the following officers for 2006.

- **Margaret Kruckemeyer, President**
- **James W. Snyder, Vice President**
- **David Neuhardt, Secretary**
- **Dennis Samic, Treasurer**

Strategic Planning (refer to separate report)

The AVHC Board of Trustees conducted a strategic planning session on December 3, 2005. Mr. Harry Seifert facilitated the very productive four-hour meeting. Goals and action plans were revised to include the development of committees with implantation of identifying working committee structure. The vision and mission statements were reviewed and kept as being current for 2006

Vision: The American Veterans Heritage Center is a non-profit organization that advocates for and assists in the preservation and development of the Dayton, Ohio Veterans Affairs Historic District

Mission: The mission of the AVHC, Inc. is to increase awareness of veteran's issues, recognize veterans' contributions, endorse patriotism, promote tourism, and enhance the neighborhood by preserving and developing Dayton Ohio Veteran Affairs Historic District

