



WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

2018 is a year of important commemorations, celebrating the centenary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, marking the end of the battles of the First World War. It is also an Olympic year, since the 23rd Winter Olympics and Paralympics will take place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The Paralympic games hold much symbolism for many veterans around the world as, throughout the years following the Second World War, veterans took the route of rehabilitation through sport. Some of them were even able to compete in the first international sporting events for war disabled such as the Stoke Mandeville Games, the first edition of which took place in 1948, paving the way for the Paralympic Games.

In 2014, 25 veterans participated in the Sochi Paralympics in Russia, and even more were present for the Rio Paralympics in Brazil, 2016. The WVF, through its Executive Board and Member Associations, would like to wish these athletes the best of luck and success.

2018 will also be an important year for the Federation as I can now confirm with great satisfaction that a "World Veteran Congress" will take place at the end of the year in Poland. This decision comes after my recent trip to Poland to meet Minister Jan Kasprzyk from the Office for Veterans and Victims of Oppression of the Republic of Poland. This Congress will consist of Meetings of the various Standing Committees of the WVF and a General Assembly. More information on my visit to Poland, where I was accompanied by Col. Hesselberg, Chair of the Elections Committee, can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter.

I would like to thank Minister Kasprzyk and all of his team at the Office for their excellent hosting. We will keep you, the invaluable Members of our Federation, informed of future developments concerning the preparation of this large scale project, which will determine the future of our Federation.

Dan-Viggo Bergtun
Président



*The WVF Executive Board and all of the
Secretariat staff send
you their very best wishes for
Peace and Prosperity in 2018*



WVF PRESIDENT VISITS UNITED STATES FOR VETERANS DAY

From 9 to 12 November 2017 WVF President, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, went to the United States to help set up the Standing Committee on the Americas and participate in various events organised in the region of Washington DC for 11 November.

This short visit was extremely fruitful. Mr. Bergtun was welcomed by Mr. Saif Khan, President of the American Veterans Committee and Acting Chairman of the WVF Standing Committee on the Americas, on 10 November.

Mr. Bergtun was invited by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to take part in a presentation of veterans' needs for work integration after mission, followed by a panel discussion.



Later that day, Mr. Bergtun was invited to the Veterans Appreciation Reception in VCU Alumni Military Veterans Alumni Council to be one of the Keynote Speakers. Mr. Kahn, who is also president of the VCU Alumni Military Veterans Council, hosted the meeting. Mr. Bergtun's notes were focused on international cooperation across borders and exchange of experience in the field of veteran health and welfare.

Mr. Bergtun also had the chance to meet with Commissioner John L. Newby in Virginia Department of Veterans Services (<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/d.../dvs-commissioner-john-newby/>) and learned about how they work for veterans (some 800 000 in Virginia).



On 11 November, Mr. Bergtun and Mr. Khan went to Washington to take part in various events for Veterans Day 2017. The first event was at the Armed Forces Retirement Home for Veterans, which hosts some 1 600 veterans - some have been living there for more than 15 years. They also had the chance to meet the Mayor of Washington, Mrs. Bowser, to brief her on the WVF and the Standing Committee on Americas.

They then took the opportunity to have lunch at Applebees Grill-Bar, which offers free food for all 22 million American veterans on the Veterans Day. A superb initiative.

Many events were held, the main one being National Veterans Day observation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, where Vice President Mike Pence gave a speech to those in attendance.



Mr. Kahn later took Mr. Bergtun to various events where they met a lot of veterans who were celebrating the Day. They also established good contacts with Commanders from AMVETS (American Veterans), Member Association of the WVF. They discussed the reestablishment of the Standing Committee and they offered their support.

Mr. Kahn will make further contact with them to ensure their participation in this project. Mr. Herrera and Mr. Thomas are doing a fantastic job for their 250 000 members.

Mr. Bergtun would like to thank Mr. Khan and all of his family for their warm hospitality and for his efforts in reestablishing the WVF in the field of American veterans.





HEALTH AND WELFARE DIVISION

Two specialists have agreed to contribute to the work of the division. Dr. Walter Busutill (United Kingdom) is the director to the medical services of the leading UK charity Combat Stress. Dr. Peter Zimmermann (Germany) is head of the German Armed Forces Center for military Mental Health in Berlin.

Assistance from other regions will be highly appreciated, especially from the African and Asian-Pacific Regions, as well as from southern and eastern Europe. Correspondents work in close co-operation with Jos Weerts (Netherlands) the head of the division in collecting and disseminating information to the membership.

<http://www.wvf-fmac.org/index.php/fr/divisions/division-sante-et-bien-etre>



Dr. Peter Zimmermann



Dr. Walter Busutill

In the spotlight

new content on the website

Combat Stress is the UK's leading charity for veterans' mental health. It helps former servicemen and women deal with issues like trauma, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Combat Stress also raises awareness about invisible injuries from which veterans can suffer.

Monitoring Health and Welfare

In order to understand the effects that combat can have on the mental health of soldiers, and to develop effective methods for prevention and treatment, reliable information is essential. State of the art research can provide this information.

Post Traumatic Growth

Stressful experiences can also have positive consequences. This applies also for people who have been confronted with traumatic experiences (this means being exposed to actual or threatened death, injury or violence). This phenomenon is known as post-traumatic growth.

On the website, two recent articles dealing with these issues have been published.

<http://www.wvf-fmac.org/index.php/fr/divisions/division-sante-et-bien-etre>



M. Jos Weerts

UPDATING THE WVF WEBSITE AND WORKING WITH THE HVRT TEAM FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF VETERANS

The Health and Welfare Division is currently reviewing the presentation of its work and activities on the World Veterans Federation website. We hope to make these changes live soon. In this regard, we take this opportunity to draw your attention to the Health of Veterans' Research Team (HVRT Team), which publishes articles online containing recent information, mainly from the medical and academic community, about the health of veterans. This project is the initiative of the association of the WVF's British Members' Council, the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) and King Edward VII Hospital. The HVRT Team has been publishing articles regularly on its website since April 2016. You can consult these articles at the following address:

<https://hvrt-mac-veteranshealth.org/news>



Cobseo
The Confederation
of Service Charities





WVF PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF ELECTIONS COMMITTEE VISIT POLAND

From 13-16 December 2017, WVF President, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, and Chair of the Elections Committee, Col. Bjarne Hesselberg, visited Warsaw, Poland, to meet with the Head of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, Minister Jan Kasprzyk, in order to plan the "World Veterans Congress" that will take place in Warsaw, Poland, at the end of 2018.

Mr. Bergtun gave a presentation of his plans for the Congress to the Office and to representatives of several Polish WVF Member Associations. Following this presentation, Minister Kasprzyk agreed for the Congress to coincide with Poland's 100th Independence Day, 11 November 2018. They agreed that they will organise another planning meeting in February 2018.

Following this fruitful reunion, the participants dined together and toasted to what they hoped would be another successful WVF Meeting.

The following day, the WVF's delegation was invited to take part in the Pre-Christmas Gathering of Veterans held at the Cathedral Church of the Polish Army. Veterans from all of the WVF's Polish Member Associations were present.

Mr. Bergtun then awarded Minister Kasprzyk the Gold Veteran Support Medal as a means of thanks for his continuing support for Veterans in Poland and internationally.

Mr. Bergtun would like to thank the members of the WVF in Poland, the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression and especially the Vice President of the WVF, Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak.



From left: Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak, Minister Jan Kasprzyk, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun



Mr. Bergtun gives presentation of the planned «World Veterans Congress» which will take place in 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS

Since our last edition, two of our Member Associations have had changes in their leadership. We would like to congratulate Colonel General Agaguseynov Tofiq Yagubovich (President, Council of Veterans of War, Labour and Armed Forces of the Azerbaijan Republic) and General Sampan Tanyapuch (Director General, War Veterans Organisation of Thailand). The WVF President and Executive Board are looking forward to continuing working in cooperation with these Member Association in the future.

Keep in mind that whenever you would like to keep up with the WVF's activities, you can find us online at <http://www.wvf-fmac.org/> as well as on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/worldveteransfederation/>