

From: MOPH National <[mophnational@purpleheart.org](mailto:mophnational@purpleheart.org)>

Date: Wed, Apr 18, 2018 at 12:58 PM

Subject: Message from Leadership to Members

To: My Fellow Patriots:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you about a disheartening discussion yesterday between the Order's leadership team and the Purple Heart Foundation. In a conference call with the Executive Board of the Foundation, MOPH was informed by Chairman Wrooley that there is a requirement to significantly reduce funding of the Order below this year's grant of \$7.2 Million, which is already a significant reduction over prior years. Specifically, MOPH was informed that the FY 2019 grant for operations of the Order and the Headquarters would be reduced by an additional 50% to \$3.6 million, beginning on July 1, 2018.

In accordance with the five year agreement between MOPH and the Purple Heart Foundation, effective on September 2, 2016, para 3.3 states "The Service Foundation will fund the reasonable budget submitted to it by the Order and as approved by the National Finance Committee of the Order, including but not limited to 'grandfathered states,' Service Officer Program, legislative affairs, public relations, Ladies Auxiliary, annual conventions, membership services, member recruitment, scholarships, and other expenses."

The ramifications of this decision, from which there is no immediate recourse, is that the Foundation will fail to meet its obligations under the terms of the Agreement. Thus, all of the programs of the Order that are funded by the Foundation annual grant are, without exception, now in jeopardy for the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2018. The Foundation did, however, approve a drawdown of \$1.5 million to meet existing financial obligations thru June 30, 2018.

I want to assure you, my fellow Patriots, Associate Members, and Auxiliary Members, that I and your entire leadership team are committed to the survival of our beloved Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. As I promised when you elected me as National Commander, every step that the Order takes in the coming days will be completely open and transparent so that the Membership can be kept aware of all actions necessary to be taken to deal with this emergency situation with only one clear objective in view, survival of our beloved Order. To that end, I intend to communicate with Region and Department Commanders, and through them to the Chapters and individual Patriots, through a series of Conference Calls in the coming days.

You should also know that Leadership is currently seeking legal advice on next steps that may be necessary under other provisions of the Agreement that address what happens in the event of dissolution of the Foundation and its assets.

Neil VanEss  
National Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

From: **Angelo Wider** <[angelowider@purpleheart.org](mailto:angelowider@purpleheart.org)>

Date: Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Subject: Re: MOPH National Service Program

To: nvehunter <[nvehunter@aol.com](mailto:nvehunter@aol.com)>, Jack Leonard <[nationaladjutant@purpleheart.org](mailto:nationaladjutant@purpleheart.org)>, Doug Middleton <[dougmiddleton@att.net](mailto:dougmiddleton@att.net)>, felix garcia <[sgtg31@yahoo.com](mailto:sgtg31@yahoo.com)>

Cc: Adale Tourtellott <[adaletourtellott@purpleheart.org](mailto:adaletourtellott@purpleheart.org)>

FYI... I am starting to get calls about the shut down from VA field sites. I want to be transparent would appreciate your concurrence to notify leadership at VA.

On Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 4:05 PM, Angelo Wider <[angelowider@purpleheart.org](mailto:angelowider@purpleheart.org)> wrote:  
All,

It is with a heavy heart and great disappointment that I share my plan to abolish the MOPH National Service Program.

Effective today I have ceased program acceptance of POAs, processing of new claims and granting/renewal of certifications.

In conjunction with the Area Managers I have implemented a four (4) phase shut down of the program.

Phase 1 - May 4, 2018 - First release of employees. Relatively new NSOs providing minimal contributions.

Phase 2 - June 1, 2018 - Release of NSOs in smaller offices and where we have duplication.  
Release of BVA staff.

Phase 3 - June 30, 2018 - Release of all NSOs except those NSOs assigned to Area Transition Teams.

Phase 4 - TBD - Release Transition Team and Area Managers, Executive Assistant to be reassigned, National Service Director position to be abolished.

Area Managers will determine who gets released and when.

All work of the Training Committee and the Policy and Procedures Committee is to come to a halt. The Systems Committee is ask to review the VetraSpec contract and advise on options.

HR will prepare and send out the release letters.

Equipment disposition:

MOPH Computers (most outdated) and printers will be offered to employees and local chapters. Other MOPH office equipment will be offered to chapters.

Recently purchased digital signature pads will be returned to HQ for disposition.

Documentation such as the Veterans Benefit Manuals and Title 38 will be offered to the NSOs and/or the chapters.

Contracts will be reviewed, modified or cancelled where possible.

Letters of Revocation for existing POAs will be sent out by the NSOs and BVA staff.

Chapters will not be allowed to assess offices and collect data or files due to HIPPA violation concerns. Any original documentation on file will be sent to the Veteran. Other documents will be destroyed.

Area Transition Teams will consist of the Area Manager and his choice of three NSOs. The teams will stay in place to handle residuals and to insure offices are closed out. The National Service Director will determine the termination date for the teams and the disposition of equipment, credit cards and other material held by the Area Managers.

Your comments and recommendations are welcome.

YIP

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**Angelo Wider**  
**MOPH**  
**National Service Director**  
**703 642 5360**