

# McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### May 19, 2010

**Chairman Joe Kersten** called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1917 the meeting took place at the Woodstock VFW, 240 N. Throop St Woodstock IL.

**Chairman Joe Kersten** led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chaplain Roger Lasko** presented the Invocation

**Secretary Mike Wisniewski** called the roll. A quorum of officers and posts were present.

**Officer's present:** (\*Appointed)

<b>Chairman</b>	Joe Kersten	<b>Sr. Vice Chairman</b>	Ted Anderson
<b>Jr. Vice Chairman</b>	Open	<b>VAC Inc Treasurer</b>	Gerald Raske
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Ray Rigsby	<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	Jim Koch
<b>McHenry County Board Rep.</b>	Ed Dvorak	<b>Parliamentarian*</b>	Ray Rigsby
<b>Chaplain*</b>	Roger Lasko	<b>IACVAC Delegate*</b>	Robert Howe Jr.
<b>IACVAC Alternate*</b>	Ray Rigsby	<b>Secretary *</b>	Mike Wisniewski

**Posts Represented:**

<b>American Legion</b>	<b>#119 Fox River Grove</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>#171 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#192 Marengo</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#253 Richmond</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#265 Harvard</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#276 Cary</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#412 Woodstock</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#482 Union</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#491 McHenry</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#606 Hebron</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#673 Huntley</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#1231 Lake In the Hills</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>#245 Cary</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Veterans Of Foreign Wars</b>	<b>#4600 McHenry</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>#5040 Woodstock</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#8249 Harvard</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#11496 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Marine Corps League</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polish Legion</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VietNow</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guests</b>	Robert DePaul	

**Officers Remarks** – Chairman, Joe Kersten apologized to the delegates who had attended the April General Meeting and the April VAC Inc. Meeting for the great length of time needed to conduct the business on the agenda and the for the time taken for the guest speaker to give his presentation.

**Routine Reports:**

**The April Minutes** – A copy of the April Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the April minutes was made by Don Stageand seconded by Roger Lasko. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

**VAC Financial Report** – A copy of the April financial report was made available to all delegates and alternates.

A motion to accept the Superintendent’s report was made by Tom Aellig and seconded by Tony Bilus . A unanimous vote passed the motion.

**Public Participation** – Robert DePaul is the past commander of the A. L. #245 and attended the meeting to observe the proceedings.

**Correspondence** – The VAC office received two thank-you letters from the families of two clients who had successfully filed service-connected disability claims with the Veterans Administration.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting* – The first executive board meeting convened after the VAC general meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> had adjourned. The executive board met to discuss a proposal from the VAC Superintendant to send seven veterans to a four week long course of instruction to become weatherization techs with the tuition being paid from VAC assistaqnce funds. The executive board tabled the proposal until more background information can be provided to the panel. The executive board reconvened on May 11<sup>th</sup> to review the information provided by a representative from the company that is offering the course and to decide on whether to accept or deny the proposal. The executive board discussed the proposal in depth and voted not to allow the course tuition to be paid out of the VAC budget as the VAC Guidelines do not specify the use of VAC funds for veteran retraining and the VAC By-Laws also do not have provisions to have the VAC cover veteran education tuition. The executive board will present the proposal and why the panel voted against the proposal at the May general meeting.

*By-Laws Committee* – The By-Law Committee have now completed the revision of both of the By-Law sets with the approval of the revised VAC Inc By-Laws by the delegation during the VAC Inc meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 followed by the signing of the document followed by the By-Laws going into effect on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The VAC By-Laws were revised and accepted by the delegation at the November 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 and went into effect on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and were filed with the County Clerk for recording.

*Corporate Report* – The VAC Inc met prior to the regular VAC meeting.

*Public Relations Committee* – No report.

*Report of IACVAC Delegate* – The IACVAC held their spring legislative meeting at Springfield on May 4<sup>th</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup> with our IACVAC Delegates Ray Rigsby and Robert Howe attending the sessions with VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki. Some of the topics covered in the sessions were the passing of the veterans court legislation; the expansion of the veteran lottery program to year round sales and some changes to allow veteran lottery ticket sales by the posts; and legislation allowing homeless veterans to obtain state ID cards. The NACVSO is to appoint a representative to the VA regional office to expedite the processing of veterans service-connected disability claims. The IACVAC is working to develop a set

of standards for screening veterans who request assistance. These standards are to be used statewide as a guideline for other VAC's.

*Superintendents Report* – The Superintendent's Report was given in detail by VAC Superintendent' Mike Iwanicki and covered VAC expenditures with emphasis on the transportation and on veterans assistance topics.

### **Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business**

A) The Veterans Legislation Day occurred at Springfield on April 29<sup>th</sup> and was set aside by the state legislature for to allow veterans to meet and greet their representative on veterans issues and get updates on pending legislation related to veterans issues.

### **Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business**

*1) The VAC Superintendent presented a proposal to the executive board at a meeting that convened after the regular meeting in April adjourned. The proposal was for the VAC to send seven veterans to a four-week course of instruction to become weatherization techs. The classes are being taught by the Focus Partners, LLC at a cost of \$3700.00 per student for a total of \$27300.00 total tuition. The executive board decided to table the proposal until more information was made available. The executive board reconvened on May 11<sup>th</sup> to hear a presentation from a Focus Partners representative on the course being offered and discussed the facts available and opted to vote against the proposal because the VAC Guidelines and VAC By-Laws do not allow the VAC to use VAC assistance funds to pay for veterans education as that is covered by other agencies and that the classes being offered are not yet certified by the VA or by state education agencies. The final argument was that the building trades are now in a severe slump and the jobs are not out there for weatherization techs. The proposal was also presented to the delegation at this meeting along with the executive board actions and the facts germane to the proposal. The delegation made a motion to support the executive board decision to not allow the use of VAC funds for funding the tuition of seven veterans to become weatherization techs. An aye vote would support the executive board decision to deny the use of VAC funds for veteran education while a nay vote would support the use of VAC funds for veterans education. The motion was seconded and a unanimous vote by the delegation supports the executive board decision.*

### **Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor for the good of the association.**

1) VAC Superintendent, Mike Iwanicki is looking for an artistic veteran or two to help put together a design for a booth backdrop as a focal point for a VAC booth display for use at trade expos and fairs.

2) The Cary A. L. post will be hosting a veterans picnic on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Lions Park in Fox River Grove. Veterans from North Chicago VAMC, Hines VAMC, and other veterans hospitals in Chicago and Milwaukee will be bussed in and be expected to arrive at 11 A M. Volunteers will be needed to help serve chow, issue coupon books, and assist guests at the picnic. The contact person is Bob DePaul at 1(847)639-0267.

The Cary A. L. post will need canteen books to give out to the guests. The \$5.00 books would be best and the VAC Inc can tap into their account to pay for the books by putting this proposal on the June 16<sup>th</sup> VAC Inc meeting agenda for consideration.

3) The McHenry County Fair is celebrating "Veterans Day" on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Veterans get in free and there are a number of veteran-themed events are scheduled to occur through the day.

4) The Woodstock AMVETS post #269 is hosting a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the post at 6.00 PM

5) The VAC is looking to set up a booth at the County Fair August 4-8. The booth will have to be manned from 1000 - 2200 hours. Volunteers to help staff man the booth would be appreciated.

**Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.**

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2030.

*Michael F. Wisniewski*

Respectfully Submitted  
Michael F. Wisniewski  
Electronically Signed

Style: Tabular

Dept: 22

Org:

Year to Apr 30.

Summarize by: OCA 220005 Veterans Assistance Commission Secondary Summarize by: (None)

Primary Detail by: Object Lvl 3 Secondary Detail by: (None)

Object Lvl 3	Object Lvl 3 Title	Appn Budget	Enc/Preenc	Expend	Balance	% of Budget
3010	Regular Salaries	\$111,680.00	\$0.00	\$46,157.52	\$65,522.48	41.33%
3020	Part Time Salaries	\$18,514.00	\$0.00	\$8,005.61	\$10,508.39	43.24%
3030	Per Diems	\$56,996.00	\$0.00	\$21,657.84	\$35,338.16	38.00%
3050	Merit Pool	\$2,604.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,604.00	0.00%
3100	Uniform Allowance	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$116.00	\$234.00	33.14%
3105	Social Security/Co. Share	\$14,520.00	\$0.00	\$5,724.26	\$8,795.74	39.42%
3110 III.	Municipal Retirement F	\$11,577.00	\$0.00	\$4,507.01	\$7,069.99	38.93%
3146	HCP Premium	\$23,116.00	\$0.00	\$4,520.66	\$18,595.34	19.56%
4001	Contractual Services	\$2,400.00	\$2,315.00	\$2,918.19	(\$2,833.19)	218.05%
4005	Association Dues/Member	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$370.00	7.50%
4006	Training	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,194.95	\$205.05	85.35%
4008	Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$160.68	\$39.32	80.34%
4055	Contractual Printing	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$318.90	\$281.10	53.15%
4060	Legal Notices & Advertise	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$54.49	\$1,745.51	3.03%
4096	Telecommunications	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$863.04	\$3,136.96	21.58%
4200	Veterans Assistance	\$293,022.00	\$0.00	\$62,799.13	\$230,222.87	21.43%
4246	Medical Services	\$32,593.90	\$0.00	\$6,146.79	\$26,447.11	18.86%
4306	Repair & Maint - Vehicles	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$296.22	\$7,203.78	3.95%
4321	Computer Program Maint	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$633.00	\$117.00	84.40%
5010	Office Supplies	\$1,052.50	\$52.50	\$529.81	\$470.19	55.33%
5020	Office Equipment Less Th	\$2,153.95	\$1,153.95	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	53.57%
5040	Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
5050	Meeting Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,286.82	\$4,713.18	21.45%
5115	Computer Components U	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,996.93)	\$2,996.93	-199.69%
5125	Computer software Under	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
5160	Fuel, Oil, and Grease	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$3,408.51	\$8,291.49	29.13%
5210	Publications	\$250.00	\$0.00	(\$428.00)	\$678.00	-171.20%
5251	Promotional Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$325.00	(\$325.00)	0.00%
		\$607,679.35	\$3,521.45	\$169,229.50	\$434,928.40	28.43%

**Total Requested: \$50406.52**  
**Total Assisted: \$50406.52**

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	2	\$4262.79	\$4262.79
Eyeglasses	4	\$805.00	\$805.00
Food	58	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gasoline	1	\$39.00	\$39.00
Housing Mortgage	5	\$2771.28	\$2771.28
Housing Rent	12	\$6164.67	\$6164.67
Independent Living	6	\$1857.00	\$1857.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	2	\$201.05	\$201.05
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	3	\$180.00	\$180.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	8	\$1642.42	\$1642.42
Utilities Gas	8	\$2299.18	\$2299.18
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	1	\$73.80	\$73.80
Utilities Sewer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Telephone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Trash	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Water	1	\$122.02	\$122.02
VAC Bus Service	21	\$7817.45	\$7817.45
VAC Office	28	\$22170.86	\$22170.86