

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 20, 2011

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1911 the meeting took place at the County Government Center, 667 Ware Rd 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)

Chairman	Joseph Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Ted Andersen
Jr. Vice Chairman		VAC Inc Treasurer	Gerald Raske
Judge Advocate	Raymond Rigsby	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.		Parliamentarian*	Raymond Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	Robert Howe Jr.
IACVAC Alternate*	Raymond Rigsby	Secretary *	Michael Wisniewski

Posts Represented:

American Legion	#119 Fox River Grove Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#171 Crystal Lake Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#192 Marengo Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#253 Richmond Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	#265 Harvard Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#276 Cary Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#412 Woodstock Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#491 McHenry Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	#606 Hebron Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#673 Huntley Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#1231 Lake In the Hills Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	
	AMVETS	#245 Cary-Grove Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Of Foreign Wars	#4600 McHenry Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#5040 Woodstock Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#8249 Harvard Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#11496 Crystal Lake Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
Marine Corps League Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Polish Legion Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	VietNow Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
Guests	Loren DeRusha from AMVETS #269	

Officers Remarks – No officer's remarks.

Routine Reports:

The March Minutes – A copy of the March Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Robert Howe Jr. and seconded by Eugene Boxleitner. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

The proposed VAC budget useage was expected to be 33.3% of the allotted funds.

The actual VAC budget useage came out to be 23.5% of the allotted funds.

A motion to accept the Superintendent's report was made by Pat Conley and seconded by Don Stage. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

Public Participation – The secretary intrduced Loren DeRusha to the assembly. He is a member of the AMVETS Post #269 out of Woodstock and he dropped in ot observe the proceedings.

Correspondence –

1) A thank-you letter was sent to the superintendant from a client who thanked the VAC staff and the American Legion for the help he received and actually donated \$100.00 to the VAC . The donation was deposited in the VAC Inc account.

2) The Family Services & Community Mental Health Center sent a letter to Jim Koch ,acknowledging the his registration to attend the Senior Fair. This event will be held at the McHenry Township Hall on Friday, April 29th at 8:00 AM.

3) A flyer was published by the Elgin Community College on a Veterans Summit on Wednesday, May 4th. This event is a job and resource fair to be held at the Spartan Events Center in Elgin from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – Nothing to report.

By-Laws Committee – Nothing to report.

Corporate Report – Nothing to report.

Public Relations Committee – Ted Anderssen gave the report.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – The IACVAC Legislative Meeting will convene in Springfield on May 9th through May 11th and the Hospitality Room will at the Crown Plaza Convention Center and be open from May 8th through May 11th. The VAC wishes to thank the delegation for showing their support for the Hospitality Room.

Superintendents Report – The transportation stastictics are showing that the number of trips to and from the Capt. Lovell FHCC has been about the same as last years trips.

Under the scams category there is two items: The Robinsons are still seeking assistance downstate while posing as a retired master sergeant. The Veterans Support Organization is not affiliated with the VA or with any veterans groups and has been prosecuted for misuse of donated funds. The latest trick by telephone solicitors to get donations are to claim they are calling in behalf of veterans groups, firefighter groups and police organizations--you can call the VAC office to verify the validity of the solicitor.

The McHenry County VAC has gradually worked its position in VA disability claims awards in relation to other state VAC's--we are now 10th. When the Superintendent started with the VAC McHenry County ranked 19th in the state. Mike Iwanicki wishes to give a hearty BRAVO ZULU to the VAC office staff for all the hard work they did to increase the total of successful VA disability claims.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

- 1) Ted Andersen is working with the Veterans and Family Services in setting up the new Drop-In Center. This Drop-In Center is to be known as "Fire Base Alpha" and it will be open from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM on Monday through Friday. The facility will be open beginning May 2nd and with the grand opening TBD. They will have phones hooked up soon and the number is 1(815) 322-2620. The new facility will be open for veterans to learn what benefits are available to them; get counseling for PTSD; reduce homelessness and suicides; and use the Internet for job searches and information. The new facility is also to be a clearinghouse for info on local veterans groups so the posts are encouraged to provide brochures and sign-up forms.
- 2) The VAC; the AMVETS; and Fire Base Alpha are planning to set up separate booths next to each other at the upcoming McHenry County Fair. The VAC plan on having a VAC staffer on hand but are going to need volunteers to help provide information and chat up the visitors. There will be a training session in the works for helpers to be effective "salespersons", with the date TBD. Volunteers will be needed to man the booth from 10.00 AM through 8.00 PM on August 3rd through August 7th.
- 3) The VAC still have some grants in the works: The \$3000.00 Transit Grant was awarded to the VAC to help for to pay fuel costs. The fiscal problems in Springfield are likely to cause the Outreach Program Grant to fall through so the \$10,000.00 being asked for to rehab a bus into a mobile office may have to come out of the VAC budget. A grant for dental services has been applied for.
- 4) This is an update on VAC staff training. VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki just completed advanced VSO training at the American Legion service officer seminar in Washington DC. The superintendant is actively training the VAC staff on a continual basis as the VA procedure updates and changes come in. The VAC has posted the Nehmer case on their E-mail.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business

- 1) *The Family Services & Community Mental Health Center is hosting a Senior Fair at the McHenry Township Hall on Friday, April 29th from 8 AM. If you have questions, call Geri Davis @ 1(815) 669-2550.*
- 2) *The NACO Webinar is a website that offers a series of seminars on County level outreach programs to Veterans and their families.*

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

- 1) Jerry Havens of the Marine Corps League is hosting an outing on August 13th, 2011. This outing will be at the Three Oaks Recreation Center in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The Marine Corps League wishes to hold an all-day outing for 30 to 40 resident veterans who reside at the Capt. Lovell FHCC and from McHenry area veterans with 100% disability. There are to be fishing and boating, along with various games and a big picnic feast. There will be assistance to be provided to guests who need help with activities. Tim Kukhering can be reached @ 1(847) 791-6067 for information and he is looking for donations and for volunteers.
- 2) The McHenry County Fair will hold their Veterans' Recognition Day on Thursday, August 4th and we need a good veteran turnout or lose this benefit in future years.
- 3) Veterans can get a 10% discount on purchases from Home Depot and Lowes.

4) A good website to contact on information on veterans discounts on purchases from various businesses and services is militaryconnection.com.

Chaplain, Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2027.

Michael Wisniewski

Respectfully Submitted
 Mike Wisniewski
 Electronically Signed

Financial Report April Monthly

Total Requested: \$39229.52
Total Assisted: \$39225.26

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food	36	\$3850.00	\$3850.00
Gasoline	5	\$195.00	\$190.74
Housing Mortgage	3	\$1298.45	\$1298.45
Housing Rent	13	\$6553.51	\$6553.51
Independent Living	4	\$1110.00	\$1110.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	3	\$199.38	\$199.38
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	14	\$2029.27	\$2029.27
Utilities Gas	7	\$1224.24	\$1224.24
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	1	\$58.00	\$58.00
Utilities Telephone	3	\$265.25	\$265.25
Utilities Trash	2	\$132.57	\$132.57
Utilities Water	3	\$166.99	\$166.99
VAC Bus Service	25	\$4953.92	\$4953.92
VAC Office	29	\$16783.94	\$16783.94

Financial Report Year to Date

Personnel					Goal 33.3%		Projected
Line No.	Line Item	Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	Annual
3010	Salaries	\$ 112,149.00	\$ 35,491.36	\$ 76,657.64	31.6%	68.4%	\$ 106,474.08
3020	Part Time	\$ 25,802.00	\$ 7,281.93	\$ 18,520.07	28.2%	71.8%	\$ 21,845.79
3030	Per Diem	\$ 56,995.00	\$ 12,213.26	\$ 44,781.74	21.4%	78.6%	\$ 36,639.78
3050	Merit Pool	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
3100	Uniform All.	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
3105	SS/Co. Share	\$ 14,914.00	\$ 4,103.45	\$ 10,810.55	27.5%	72.5%	\$ 12,310.35
3110	IMRF	\$ 14,182.00	\$ 3,968.42	\$ 10,213.58	28.0%	72.0%	\$ 11,905.26
3146	Hlth. Ins.	\$ 25,511.00	\$ 6,122.64	\$ 19,388.36	24.0%	76.0%	\$ 18,367.92
Personnel		\$ 249,903.00	\$ 69,181.06	\$ 180,721.94	27.68%	72.32%	\$ 207,543.18
Contractual & Assistance		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
4001	Contract Service	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 1,699.41	\$ 8,500.59	16.7%	83.3%	\$ 5,098.23
4005	Dues/Mbrshps	\$ 500.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 440.00	12.0%	88.0%	\$ 180.00
4006	Training	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 860.00	\$ 740.00	53.8%	46.3%	\$ 2,580.00
4008	Subscriptions	\$ 300.00	\$ 187.72	\$ 112.28	62.6%	37.4%	\$ 563.16
4055	Contract Printing	\$ 800.00	\$ 299.71	\$ 500.29	37.5%	62.5%	\$ 899.13
4060	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4096	Telecomm.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 602.50	\$ 3,397.50	15.1%	84.9%	\$ 1,807.50
4200	Vets Assist	\$ 290,962.00	\$ 60,158.61	\$ 230,803.39	20.7%	79.3%	\$ 180,475.83
4246	Medical Service	\$ -	\$ 810.00	\$ (810.00)	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ 2,430.00
4306	Vehicle Maint.	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 291.12	\$ 6,408.88	4.3%	95.7%	\$ 873.36
4321	VIMS Maint	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
Contractual		\$ 316,412.00	\$ 64,969.07	\$ 251,442.93	20.53%	79.47%	\$ 194,907.21
Supplies & Equipment		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
5010	Off. Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 421.90	\$ 1,378.10	23.4%	76.6%	\$ 1,265.70
5020	Off. Equip.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5040	Mileage	\$ 900.00	\$ 129.11	\$ 770.89	14.3%	85.7%	\$ 387.33
5050	Mtg. Exp.	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,904.73	\$ 4,095.27	31.7%	68.3%	\$ 5,714.19
5115	Comp. Hardware	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5125	Comp. Software	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5160	POL	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 1,940.40	\$ 8,759.60	18.1%	81.9%	\$ 5,821.20
5210	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5251	Promo Events	\$ 600.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00	13%	88%	\$ 225.00
Equipment		\$ 22,600.00	\$ 4,471.14	\$ 17,603.86	19.78%	77.89%	\$ 13,413.42
Other		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
6020	Vehicle	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
6810	Fund Bal. Enh.	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
Totals		\$ 588,915.00	\$ 138,621.27	\$ 449,768.73	23.54%	76.37%	\$ 415,863.81