

# McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### August 17, 2011

**Chairman Joe Kersten** called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1931 the meeting took place at the Veterans & Family Services Drop in Center, 5330 W. Elm St., McHenry 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>	Joseph Kersten	<b>Sr. Vice Chairman</b>	Ted Andersen
<b>Jr. Vice Chairman</b>	Randy Granath	<b>VAC Inc Treasurer</b>	Gerald Raske
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Raymond Rigsby	<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	Jim Koch
<b>McHenry County Board Rep.</b>	Mary Donner	<b>Parliamentarian*</b>	Raymond Rigsby
<b>Chaplain*</b>	Roger Lasko	<b>IACVAC Delegate*</b>	Robert Howe Jr.
<b>IACVAC Alternate*</b>	Raymond Rigsby	<b>Secretary *</b>	Michael Wisniewski

**Posts Represented:**

<b>American Legion</b>	<b>#119 Fox River Grove</b> Del <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#253 Richmond</b> Del <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#491 McHenry</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#606 Hebron</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#673 Huntley</b> Del <input checked="" 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-Grove</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Veterans Of Foreign Wars</b>	<b>#4600 McHenry</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polish Legion</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VietNow</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guests</b>	Mrs Donna Kurtz, McHenry County Board Member.	

**Officers Remarks** – There were no Officer's Report.

**Routine Reports:**

**The July Minutes** – A copy of the July Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the July minutes was made by Mary Donnerand seconded by Robert Howe Jr. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

The Dental Plan will be available according to the following categories: Category I candidates are available for veterans assistance by VAC, have no dental insurance and have a discernable need for dental services.; Category II candidates are veterans whose income is less than the amount awarded by the VA for 100% service-connected disability (\$2673.00 per month), have no dental insurance and have a discernable need for dental services; Category III clients are every one else and all categories of applicants must not have received dental care restorative services from the VAC office prior to their latest request.. The eye grant will use the same eligibility screening criteria as the dental grant by the VAC staff.

The vacant job position for the regional superintendent of schools is in a bit of a muddle as the job position is unfunded by the state governor's request in spite of a stringent list of qualifications needed for applicants to be regional school superintendants which reduces the number of qualified candidates who are willing to work for free at that job.

The VAC has expended 45.36% of the allotted funds up through July of 2011.

The VAC had expected to use as much as 66.7% of the allocated funds up through July so the VAC has been able to control overall budget expenditures well enough to save on expenses so far.

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

**Public Participation** – No public participation.

**Correspondence** – No Correspondence.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting* – Nothing to report.

*By-Laws Committee* – Nothing to report

*Corporate Report* – The VAC Inc held their regular monthly meeting prior to the regular meeting.

*Public Relations Committee* – Ted Andersen reported that the VAC booth was visited by a large number of fairgoers and the booth workers were able to dispense a lot of good information. The AMVETS booth was adjacent to the VAC booth and their workers were able to sign up some prospective candidates into the AMVETS organization as well as other military service organizations. Ted Andersen then discussed the McHenry County Drop-In Center that was established with the SAMHSA Grant for to assist local veterans and their families work through PTSD and other mental issues and to help the veterans access the extensive social net of help to return to the civilian world and gain employment.

*Report of IACVAC Delegate* – The next IACVAC meeting will convene in Springfield on September 29<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. The VAC Superintendent will be attending a training seminar being hosted by the IACVAC on September 26<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Superintendents Report* – The proposed VAC budget has moved out of the budget committee with some reservations that were voiced by the committee. The budget committee is looking for a "reduced budget proposal" by having the 2% VAC employee raise figures removed before the budget proposal goes on to

the Finance and Human Relations offices. The VAC may get some moral support from local veterans who can attend some of the county board meetings and relate to the county board what the VAC does to assist veterans to file VA disability claims and get financial assistance as well as to get referrals to other local agencies for various counseling services and help services. The veteran guests also can tell the county board how the VAC transportation system actually works to get clients to their VA medical appointments. The county board meetings are open to the public and meet twice monthly on the first Tuesday at AM and on the third Tuesday at 7 PM.

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

- 1) Ted Andersen gave an update on the steady completion of the Drop-In facility--phone line hookup, the installation of their computer network with the help of the IDES IT techs along with a wish list of equipment still needed by the offices.
- 2) The VAC Superintendant wishes to give a hearty thank-you to the volunteers who helped the VAC staff in manning the VAC booth at the McHenry County Fair. A lot of good information was given out to the visitors to the booth.
- 3) The VAC presentation at the Valley-Hi Hospice on the VA Pension and compension was given high marks by the attendees. Joe Walsh invited the VAC to do a presentation on the VAC on August 31<sup>st</sup> at his next Veterans Round Table session at the Woodstock Public Library at 6:30 PM.
- 4) The VA regional office gave the VAC staff a seminar on security training in regards to VA software and that will now give the VAC the go-ahead to access and use the VA database for filing claims and to access client information and medical histories.

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

- 1) The VAC may be able to apply for a transportation grant to help pay for fuel costs incurred in operating the VAC vehicle fleet. This grant is a federal grant.
- 2) The IDVA will host a public meeting at the Woodstock Opera House on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM on services being offered to veterans in McHenry county.
- 3) Ted Andersen submitted a directive that the VAC Superintendant and or the IACVAC delegation submit a report on what the IACVAC does during their meetings at the next VAC general meeting following the IACVAC meeting.
- 4) County Government Veterans Representative, Mary Donner requests that she is invited to attend the general meetings of the local military service organizations. This will allow her a chance to speak to the post membership on how the McHenry government works and allow her to observe how the posts run their meetings and what the posts do to benefit their communities. This will allow her to get feedback on veterans concerns both at the post level and eventually through McHenry county.

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

**Chaplain, Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.**

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2014.

*Michael Wisniewski*

Respectfully Submitted  
Mike Wisniewski  
Electronically Signed