

# McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### November 16, 2011

**Chairman Joe Kersten** called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1939 the meeting took place at the McHenry County Government Center, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock IL 60098 Conference Room B.

**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>	
<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#253 Richmond</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input 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 checked="" 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>Cooties Put Tent #79</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>#245 Cary-Grove</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#269 Woodstock</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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polish Legion</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VietNow</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guests</b>	Mr. William Richards Jr. from the A.L. Post #491, VFW Post #4600 and the VietNow.	

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

**Routine Reports:**

**The October Minutes** – A copy of the October Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the October minutes was made by Mary Donnerand seconded by Chanty Lenton. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

The VAC office has seen an increase in the number of VA service-connected disability claims being filed and in the process of being processed in the VA bureaucracy. The unemployment benefits are now beginning to run out for unemployed veterans so the VAC office is seeing an increase for financial assistance of various types and the VAC has had to use some of the reserve fund to cover those requests. The VAC has been tapping into the reserve fund since September. The October budget report has some line items that are different such as adjusted payroll figures, VAC office fund figure of \$23,707.19 which actually includes the VAC Outreach Mobile Office setup costs of converting the old hightop van. The old VAC Bus Fund that was established by the original VAC Superintendant was published in the financial report.

The projected VAC budget useage up through October was to be as much as 91.7% of the allotted funds; yet the VAC had used only 73.41% of the allotted funds.

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

**Public Participation** – Mr. William Richards talked about some upcoming events at the VFW Post #4600 such as the Korean War Veterans Dinner on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM with the Korean War veterans eating free and other guests paying \$10.00; the blood drive with the Heartland Blood center at the VFW post from 8 AM to Noon. (actually overlaps with the Korean War Veterans Dinner!) The VFW will also host some 300 or so sailor-trainees from NTC Great Lakes on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day for chow, video games and comaraderie.

**Correspondence** – The VAC staff received several thank-you letters from grateful patrons who had VA service-connected disability claims filed and/or settled and who received VAC financial assistance. The Military Order of the Cooties has joined the roll of VAC delegates by nominating MOC Grand Cmdr., Ralph Diederich as the Delegate for the Rakkasans Pup Tent #79 and Cootie, Michael Heyl as the pup tent's alternate delegate, effective 7 November 2011.

The SHARE food club is offering food purchasing discounts to food buyers and their Christmas Dinner Package for a family of six for \$34.00 is hard to beat.

Mrs Jeanine Hill-Soldner is displaying a gallery of 14 portraits representing American Veterans from the Second World War to the present wars in Iraq and Afghan istan. The art is on display at the Shah Center on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 4.30 to 7.00 PM.

Introductory letter from Mr. Dominic Cannata who works as a health educator who works for the McHenry County Department of Health. He is reaching out to fellow veterans to inform them about the package of health care programs available at his agency.

Mr. Ben Thompson is the contact person for the Mission Hope of Chicago. He is seeking donations to help his agency assemble 150 care packages for 1500 US soldiers who are deployed overseas. He is looking for help towards collecting care package items, packaging them up into kits, and shipping the kits to the troops along with funds to ship the care packages out.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting* – The Executive Board met after the general VAC meeting in October to discuss two possible pending appeals hearings. The Executive Board also needs to convene early in December to conduct a meeting to set goals for the VAC to meet during the 2012 year.

*By-Laws Committee* – Ray Rigsby will convene a By-Laws Committee Meeting to review the VAC By-Laws and see if any revisions are needed to keep them current. The meeting is tentatively set to convene in January, 2012.

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

*Public Relations Committee* – No Report.

*Report of IACVAC Delegate* – The next IACVAC Meeting is scheduled for January in Bloomington, Illinois. One of the VAC offices in our district is being investigated by the State's Attorney! in Grundy County.

*Superintendents Report* – The VAC reported that the transportation service will end the year at around 4500 trips.

Mary Donner gave a briefing on the progress of the 2012 McHenry County Government Budget---It has been approved by the county board recently. The Budget Committee and the county board representatives worked hard and long to get the budget approval process done and Mary Donner asked that the county representatives who voted "yes" to approve a modest tax levy of 1.5% (or about only \$6.14 per family) to keep the county budget balanced should be commended in keeping McHenry County from operating in a deficit mode and in keeping our AAA credit rating even in a harsh fiscal climate. The final vote for to remove the modest levy increase failed in a 11 aye to 11 nay ballot by the 22 county board members present at the meeting.

The Veterans Conservation Corps held their second meeting and will work with the VA at the Capt. Lovell FHCC patients to provide the materials to build a batch of bluebird nesting boxes for Volo Bog Nature Center. Stacy Iwanicki is the Volo Bog Nature Center Director and has more information on the program.

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

1) Ted Andersen reported that the Supportive Services For Family Services is planning to install a wheelchair ramp for a disabled veteran in the Richmond area next spring.

2) Chairman, Joe Kersten reopened the nomination for officer candidates to run for the VAC officer positions and the VAC Board Of Appeals positions for the 2012-2013 term of office as specified by the VAC By-Laws. The nominations resulted in this slate of candidates: Senior Vice Chairman --- Open Judge Advocate --- Raymond Rigsby BOA VietNam Veteran Rep --- Eugene Boxlietner. The nominations for officer candidates were closed by Chairman, Joe Kersten.

3) The VAC staff had a meeting with the Public Health and Human Resources Office to discuss the VAC office facility issues. The VAC is expecting to see a marked increase in clients seeking to file VA service-connected disability claims and VA financial assistance and this will need the VAC to increase the staff to handle the caseload and that will result in the VAC to enlarge the office space and equipment for the VAC staff to work efficiently. The present office suite is working at full capacity and does not meet the needs of handicapped clients. The lobby does not allow easy access for electric scooters or larger wheelchairs and at least one office space door is too narrow for wheelchair access. A possible set of solutions could be 1) Relocate the VAC staff to a larger suite of offices. 2) Relocate a part of the VAC office staff to a second location that could be near the new Veterans Court and new district judge offices. This splitting of VAC staff would lose the present cohesion of the staff working together.

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

1) Ted Andersen made a motion that the VAC restore the transportation service that allowed the pickup of VAC clients from home if the client has a physical handicap (blindness or mobility) that makes it difficult for the client to get to and from pickup points. Randy Granath second the motion and the ensuing discussion resulted in that the problem with VAC transportation with this issue is not as bad as it seemed as the VAC can use taxicab services, call on Faith In Action volunteers to help provide rides and call on volunteer drivers to transport clients. The VAC can also arrange for the VA to provide medicar taxi service to get severely handicapped clients to and from VA appointments. This motion indicates that the VAC transportation system needs an occasional adjustment to be able to transport clients and reexamine and revise disability criteria in transporting clients. When the request came to call the question, the motion did not pass by vote.

2) Ray Rigsby made a motion that the VAC review and readdress the VAC transportation guidelines on how disabled veteran clients are transported to and from the VA facilities. Don Conley second the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

3) Chairman, Joe Kersten opened the floor to hold election for VAC officer and Board Of Appeals positions for the 2012 to 2013 term of office IAW the VAC By-Laws. Mary Donner made the motion for the two candidates that were nominated to be approved to be voted intier respective offices and Jim Koch sended the motion and the motion was passed by unanimous vote to elect Raymond Rigsby as the VAC Judge Advocate and Eugene Boxlietner as the Board Of Appeals VietNam Era Veteran Representative. The Senior Vice Chairman office position is still vacant and nominations will be reopened during the next VAC general meeting in January.

4) Chairman, Joe Kersten asked VAC Superintendant to recuse himself from the meeting and made a motion for the assembly to vote on whether to reappoint Mike Iwanicki as VAC Superintendant for the 2012 year. The motion was seconded by Don Conley and passed by unanimous vote. Paper ballots were passed out and the vote tally resulted in 11 ayes to reinstate versus 1 nay against reinstatement. The vote tally means that Mike Iwanicki will be VAC Superintendant for 2012.

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

1) The Fox River VFW Post #4600 of McHenry are hosting a Dinner to honor and recognize Korean War Era Veterans on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM with the meal being served at 11.30. The Korean War Era Vets get to dine on the house while other participants pay \$10.00 to chow down.

2) The Fox River VFW Post #4600 is hosting a blood drive on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> with the Heartland Blood Center from 8 AM to Noon. You can donate blood and eat chow ot one place!

3) The Fox River VFW Post #4600 is hosting a raffle ticket fundraiser to help raise money to pay for ongoing repairs at the post. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 apiece and you get a chance to win cash prizes of \$1000.00, \$500.00 or \$250.00 at the drawing on December 31<sup>st</sup>,2011 at 3 PM.

4) The Fox River VFW Post #4600 is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner and Party for 300 or so Sailor-Trainees from the Naval Base at Great Lakes on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

5) The McHenry American Legion Post #491 is hosting a USO Dance at the VFW #4600 on December 10<sup>th</sup> with the doors opening at 6 PM and the McHenry High School Jazz Band playing those old favorites beginning at 7 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door.

6) The VAC office is collecting the names of needy families who need to get food for the holidays so the various agencies such as the Tober Christmas Basket Program by the VietNow can provide assistance to those families in need.

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

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2048.

*Michael Wisniewski*

Respectfully Submitted  
 Mike Wisniewski  
 Electronically Signed

## October Financial Report – Month

Print Date: 11/2/2011	Assistance Summary 10/1/2011 Thru 10/31/2011		Page Number
Total Requested:	\$44876.19	<i>55,280.04</i>	
Total Assisted:	\$44867.19	<i>55,269.04</i>	
Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	3	\$738.00	\$738.00
Food	53	\$4275.00	\$4275.00
Gasoline	8	\$312.00	\$273.00
Housing Mortgage	6	\$3465.77	\$3465.77
Housing Rent	18	\$10280.90	\$10280.90
Independent Living	6	\$1820.00	\$1820.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	1	\$309.27	\$309.27
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	2	\$236.00	\$236.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	15	\$2761.61	\$2761.61
Utilities Gas	12	\$1137.29	\$1167.29
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	1	\$63.68	\$63.68
Utilities Telephone	8	\$355.55	\$355.55
Utilities Trash	3	\$193.20	\$193.20
Utilities Water	10	\$652.63	\$652.63
VAC Bus Service	16	<del>\$3474.27</del>	<del>\$3474.27</del>
VAC Office	25	<del>\$14801.02</del>	<del>\$14801.02</del>
		<i>\$23,707.19</i>	
		<i>\$4969.95</i>	

*Change is For Payroll recorded in November*

VAC Bus Fund - \$6,765.43

## VAC Financial Report Year to Date

Personnel					Goal	91.7%	Projected
Line No.	Line Item	Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	Annual
3010	Salaries	\$ 112,149.00	\$ 107,476.11	\$ 4,672.89	95.8%	4.2%	\$ 117,246.67
3020	Part Time	\$ 25,802.00	\$ 23,747.94	\$ 2,054.06	92.0%	8.0%	\$ 25,906.84
3030	Per Diem	\$ 56,995.00	\$ 39,380.57	\$ 17,614.43	69.1%	30.9%	\$ 42,960.62
3050	Merit Pool	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
3100	Uniform All	\$ 350.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 263.00	24.9%	75.1%	\$ 94.91
3105	SS/Co. Share	\$ 14,914.00	\$ 12,903.29	\$ 2,010.71	86.5%	13.5%	\$ 14,076.32
3110	IMRF	\$ 14,182.00	\$ 13,061.34	\$ 1,120.66	92.1%	7.9%	\$ 14,248.73
3146	Hlth. Ins.	\$ 25,511.00	\$ 20,837.38	\$ 4,673.62	81.7%	18.3%	\$ 22,731.69
<b>Personnel</b>		<b>\$249,903.00</b>	<b>\$ 217,493.63</b>	<b>\$ 32,409.37</b>	<b>87.03%</b>	<b>12.97%</b>	<b>\$ 237,265.78</b>
<b>Contractual &amp; Assistance</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
4001	Contract Service	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 9,487.11	\$ 712.89	93.0%	7.0%	\$ 10,349.57
4005	Dues/Mbrshps	\$ 500.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 90.00	82.0%	18.0%	\$ 447.27
4006	Training	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,105.00	\$ 495.00	69.1%	30.9%	\$ 1,205.45
4008	Subscriptions	\$ 300.00	\$ 187.72	\$ 112.28	62.6%	37.4%	\$ 204.79
4055	Contract Printing	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,260.17	\$ (460.17)	157.5%	-57.5%	\$ 1,374.73
4060	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4096	Telecomm.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,068.46	\$ 1,931.54	51.7%	48.3%	\$ 2,256.50
4200	Vets Assist	\$290,962.00	\$ 191,828.74	\$ 99,133.26	65.9%	34.1%	\$ 209,267.72
4246	Medical Service	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 2,265.10	\$ 32,734.90	6.5%	93.5%	\$ 2,471.02
4306	Vehicle Maint.	\$ 16,700.00	\$ 9,919.64	\$ 6,780.36	59.4%	40.6%	\$ 10,821.43
4321	VIMS Maint	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
<b>Contractual</b>		<b>\$326,412.00</b>	<b>\$ 210,266.84</b>	<b>\$ 142,880.06</b>	<b>64.42%</b>	<b>43.77%</b>	<b>\$ 229,382.01</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
5010	Off. Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 782.93	\$ 1,017.07	43.5%	56.5%	\$ 854.11
5020	Off. Equip.	\$ 2,229.00	\$ 621.90	\$ 1,607.10	27.9%	72.1%	\$ 678.44
5040	Mileage	\$ 900.00	\$ 327.92	\$ 572.08	36.4%	63.6%	\$ 357.73
5050	Mtg. Exp.	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,566.87	\$ 1,433.13	76.1%	23.9%	\$ 4,982.04
5115	Comp. Hardware	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 294.00	\$ 706.00	29.4%	70.6%	
5125	Comp. Software	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5160	POL	\$ 12,520.00	\$ 8,831.76	\$ 3,688.24	70.5%	29.5%	\$ 9,634.65
5210	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5251	Promo Events	\$ 600.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 50.00	92%	8%	\$ 600.00
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>\$ 25,649.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,155.38</b>	<b>\$ 9,623.62</b>	<b>55.19%</b>	<b>37.52%</b>	<b>\$ 15,442.23</b>
<b>Other</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
6020	Vehicle	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
6810	Fund Bal. Enh.	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$601,964.00</b>	<b>\$ 441,915.85</b>	<b>\$ 184,913.05</b>	<b>73.41%</b>	<b>30.72%</b>	<b>\$ 482,090.02</b>