

Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

Minutes of the General Meeting

September 15, 2010

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 2007 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, Michael Wisniewski called the roll. A quorum of officers and posts were present.

Officer's present: (*Appointed)

Chairman	Joe Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Ted Anderson
Jr. Vice Chairman		VAC Inc Treasurer	Gerald Raske
Judge Advocate	Ray Rigsby	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Ed Dvorak	Parliamentarian*	Ray Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	Robert Howe Jr.
IACVAC Alternate*	Ray 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 checked="" 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"/>	#482 Union Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#491 McHenry Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#606 Hebron Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	#673 Huntley Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#1231 Lake In the Hills Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	AMVETS	#245 Cary Del <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	Polish Legion Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VietNow Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guests	Jeanine Hill-Soldner and Mike Ruffner	

Officers Remarks – No officer remarks given.

Routine Reports:

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

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

The projected VAC budget useage up to the end of August was to be 75% of the allotted funds.

The actual VAC budget useage at the end of August turned out to be 51.49% of the allotted funds.

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

Public Participation – 1) The first guest who spoke to the assembly was Jeanine Hill-Soldner. She is an artist who spoke in behalf of the "Veterans Art Project" and how she decided to spend full-time on interviewing and painting portraits of McHenry County area veterans. She exhibited some of her art to the assembly and discussed her upcoming plans with this project and where she has her studio and where she exhibits her works.

Correspondence – 1) A thank-you letter from Jim Powers of the University of Illinois to VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki and to VAC Staffer, Jim Cook for assistance in selecting a group of local veterans covering the WWII period to the present and having this "focus group" participate in a study by the university and the Health Systems Research Institute to determine the most pressing future needs of McHenry County veterans.

2) The Department of Veterans Affairs sent a letter to the VAC that recognizes VAC Employee, Ms. Jane D. Dorfner as an accredited representative of the VAC and who is qualified to prepare, present, and prosecute VA disability claims in behalf of veterans.

3) The National Veterans Legal Services Program sent a letter to the VAC acknowledging that Mr. James Koch has passed the final exam in the agency's Basic Training Course in Veterans Benefits. This will qualify Mr. James Cook to advice veterans on veterans benefits.

4) Commander, Dan Lisi of the PLAV Post #188 informed the VAC that Mr. Roy Allsup as their delegate to the VAC board. This becomes effective as of September 14th 2010.

5) The Veterans Network Committee is hosting a Welcome Home Party for four WWII Veterans who will be returning home from their Honor Flight trip on Sunday, October 3rd. The event will be at the Tinmans Pub in Fox River Grove from 3 to 8 PM.

6) The MCC Student Veterans Organization and the Veterans Network Committee are hosting the 1st McHenry County Veterans Forum at the McHenry County College Conference Center on Wednesday, October 13th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for the forum followed by a question and answer session from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – The Executive Board did not meet since the last VAC meeting.

By-Laws Committee – The By-Laws Committee did not meet since the last meeting.

Corporate Report – The VAC Inc. held their meeting prior to the VAC general meeting.

Public Relations Committee – There was no public relations topics that were brought up at this meeting.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – Mr. Robert Howe Jr. attended the IACVAC Seminar at Bloomington and reported that no new legislation related to veterans issues were brought up and veteran related legislation going through the state house and in committee prior to the seminar is still pending. Two VAC offices

were recently started up in Illinois---one in Champaign County and the other in Marin County. The VA has made some changes to the Aid and Attendance Pension rules. Non-service connected disability veterans now require assets to be declared as part of filing for this benefit. The IACVAC is planning to set up a hospitality room at the next IACO/IACVAC Seminar at Springfield in May of 2011 and the IACVAC will be soliciting donation from the military organizations to cover the costs of refreshments.

Superintendents Report – 1) VAC transportation is up considerably---the VAC may need to hire another part-time driver and operate another vehicle to cover demand. The pick-up point system was reviewed with emphasis on how to get clients to and from the pickup points.

2) The VAC eye grant is coming to a close as the service is now available through other organizations.

3) The VAC staff attended the VA Aid and Attention and Pension Seminar at the McHenry Villa on September 14th.

4) The Veterans Focus Group study done by the University of Illinois and the Health Systems Research Institute on August 25th was discussed.

5) The VAC office will be closed on October 6th while the VAC staff and drivers attend mandatory First Aid and CPR training.

6) Four local WWII veterans are departing on an Honor Flight to Washington DC on October 1st out of Milwaukee's Mitchell Field and are slated to visit the war memorials on the second before returning on October 3rd. They are to be welcomed home at the Tinmans Pub in Fox River Grove on October 3rd.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

1) The VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki and Chairman, Joe Kersten met with the Public Health & Human Services Committee of the County Board to discuss the 2011 Budget. Afterwards they had a meeting with the Associate County Administrator to discuss some issues and changes to the proposed VAC budget. The Committee approved the proposed budget for review by the Finance Committee. Only the portion of the budget that does not represent an increase has been approved. Requested increases will be addressed later in the budget process.

2) The VAC put in a request to get a grant for \$10,000.00 to help fund the VAC outreach program by allowing an extra day per week to visit clients at home. The grant is still pending.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business

There was no new business.

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 2035.

Michael F. Wisniewski

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Wisniewski
Electronically signed.

Object Lvl 3	Object Lvl 3 Title	Appn Budget	Enc/Preenc	Expend	Balance	% of Budget
3010	Regular Salaries	\$111,680.00	\$0.00	\$80,172.88	\$31,507.12	71.79%
3020	Part Time Salaries	\$18,514.00	\$0.00	\$15,526.64	\$2,987.36	83.86%
3030	Per Diems	\$56,996.00	\$0.00	\$37,047.60	\$19,948.40	65.00%
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	\$9,957.16	\$4,562.84	68.58%
3110	Ill. Municipal Retirement F	\$11,577.00	\$0.00	\$7,952.90	\$3,624.10	68.70%
3146	HCP Premium	\$23,116.00	\$0.00	\$12,283.56	\$10,832.44	53.14%
4001	Contractual Services	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$6,596.25	(\$4,196.25)	274.84%
4005	Association Dues/Membe	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$370.00	7.50%
4006	Training	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,424.95	(\$24.95)	101.78%
4008	Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$160.68	\$39.32	80.34%
4055	Contractual Printing	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$753.70	(\$153.70)	125.62%
4060	Legal Notices & Advertise	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$54.49	\$1,745.51	3.03%
4096	Telecommunications	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,721.78	\$2,278.22	43.04%
4200	Veterans Assistance	\$293,022.00	\$0.00	\$117,453.06	\$175,568.94	40.08%
4246	Medical Services	\$32,593.90	\$0.00	\$9,533.79	\$23,060.11	29.25%
4306	Repair & Maint - Vehicles	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,559.75	\$5,940.25	20.80%
4321	Computer Program Maint	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$633.00	\$117.00	84.40%
5010	Office Supplies	\$1,052.50	\$0.00	\$624.63	\$427.87	59.35%
5020	Office Equipment Less Th	\$2,153.95	\$0.00	\$1,599.99	\$553.96	74.28%
5040	Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$449.50	\$550.50	44.95%
5050	Meeting Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,592.39	\$3,407.61	43.21%
5115	Computer Components U	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,996.93)	\$2,996.93	-199.69%
5125	Computer software Unde	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
5160	Fuel, Oil, and Grease	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$6,731.13	\$4,968.87	57.53%
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	\$0.00	\$312,875.90	\$294,803.45	51.49%

YTD
75%

Print Date: 10/1/2010

Assistance Summary
8/1/2010 Thru 8/31/2010

Page Number

Total Requested: \$44630.59
Total Assisted: \$44615.27

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	3	\$5034.00	\$5034.00
Food	56	\$3000.00	\$3000.00
Gasoline	2	\$78.99	\$63.67
Housing Mortgage	9	\$4327.04	\$4327.04
Housing Rent	15	\$5871.90	\$5871.90
Independent Living	9	\$1235.00	\$1235.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	1	\$-10.00	\$-10.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	7	\$1407.16	\$1407.16
Utilities Gas	5	\$1448.75	\$1448.75
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Telephone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Trash	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Water	2	\$110.54	\$110.54
VAC Bus Service	21	\$7987.72	\$7987.72
VAC Office	19	\$14139.49	\$14139.49