

# Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### October 20, 2010

**Chairman Joe Kersten** called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1930 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, Michael 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 Andersen
<b>Jr. Vice Chairman</b>		<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>	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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#192 Marengo</b> Del <input 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>#482 Union</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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VietNow</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guests</b>		

**Officers Remarks** – No officer remarks given.

**Routine Reports:**

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

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

*The projected VAC budget useage up to the end of September was to be 83.33% of the allotted funds.*

*The actual VAC budget useage at the end of September turned out to be 56.9% of the allotted funds.*

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

**Public Participation** – There was no public participation.

**Correspondence** – 1) A thank-you letter to the superintendant from the McHenry Villa on his presentation on the VA non-disability rated veteran benefit to the resident veterans and family members.  
2) Two thank-you letters to the VAC staff for successfully filing and prosecuting VA disability claims from grateful veteran clients.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting* – The Executive Board met by telephone teleconference to discuss approval of a resolution to expand the VAC outreach program from two days a week to three days a week so the resolution can be acted on at this VAC general 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* – The Northwood Middle School located in Woodstock is hosting a Veterans Day Program on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. The students have painted a replica of the VietNam Wall on the gym walls and all Illinois casualties are marked by a star and McHenry County casualties are marked by two stars.

*Report of IACVAC Delegate* – The IACVAC is to convene a meeting in Bloomington in January.

*Superintendents Report* – 1) VAC transportation is up with 2371 round trip passengers so far this year.

2) The IACVAC Division 1 Superintendants are to meet with the IACO in November.

3) The 2003 VAC bus is coming up to be "retired" before major repairs and problems can occur and the VAC staff need to decide on how to dispose of the vehicle and discuss with the delegates on how to obtain a replacement vehicle. The replacement vehicle can be purchased (\$60,000.00 and up) or the VAC can lease another Pace Bus for \$1000.00 down and \$100.00 per month. Ray Rigsby made a motion for the VAC to investigate leasing another Pace Bus. Robert Howe Jr seconded the motion and the discussion phase covered the requirements on leasing Pace Buses in general and the only sticky point is the fact the Pace Bus Company does not allow the VAC to paint more obvious VAC signage on the Pace Buses. The motion was unaminously approved.

4) The last of the Dental/Eyewear Grant is due to run out and clients have until December to use it.

5) Lake County and McHenry County are to set up a mental health partnership and this partnership is partially funded with a 5 year grant that gives the partnership \$750,000.00 per year.

- 6) The superintendent reported on the dedication and grand opening of the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Center at the remodeled North Chicago VA facility on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the "official" integration of the Great Lakes naval medical staff with the VA medical staff.
- 7) The superintendent assisted in the recent startup of the Champaign County VAC on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 8) Four McHenry County WWII veterans departed from Mitchell Field in Milwaukee in behalf of the Honor Flight Program to visit Washington DC and the war memorials during the weekend of October 1<sup>st</sup>. They returned to Mitchell Field and were welcomed back home at the Tinmans Pub in Fox River Grove on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Mitchell Field airport also got high marks for convenience and less hassles than using the O-Hare airport.
- 9) The VAC will be inspected by the Pace Bus Company on vehicle usage on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) The superintendent will visit the Heartstone facility on Veterans Day.

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

- 1) The superintendent presented an update on the budget proposal and the total increase is 1.6% overall. Much of the proposal has to do with the costs of expanding the VAC outreach program.
- 2) The second year of the Transit Grant will award the VAC \$3000.00 and the VAC plans to use the funding for to defray fuel costs.
- 3) The \$10,000.00 VAC Expand Outreach Grant is still pending and this will allow the program to go from two days a week to three days a week.
- 4) The superintendent has submitted a request to get a grant for \$7000.00 from the McHenry County Community Foundation. This grant would be used to replace ageing office equipment used in the VAC outreach program.
- 5) The state of Illinois is sponsoring a series of Veteran Job Fairs through the state during November and the best bet for the McHenry area is the Veteran Job Fair to be held at the Fox River VFW Post #4600 in McHenry on Thursday, November 4th from 9 AM to 1 PM.

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

- 1) Nominations for candidates to run for VAC officers for the 2011 term was opened by Chairman, Joe Kersten and the resulting slate of candidates resulted: Chairman--Joe Kersten; Senior Vice Chairman--Ted Andersen; Junior Vice Chairman--Robert DePaul; Sergeant-At-Arms--Jim Koch; WWII Representative--Ken Kraft; Korean War Representative--Gerald Raske; Member At Large Representative--Randy Granath. Chairman, Joe Kersten than closed the nomination process and the nominations process will be reopened during the November general meeting prior to the elections.
- 2) The SAMHSA Grant for Mental Health Services will provide McHenry County and Lake County with \$750,000.00 per year over five years for veterans and service members and their families with mental health care services. A Board of Governors needs to be established to oversee the program.
- 3) A veteran's resource guide titled "In Touch" is being assembled and published by the MCC Student Veterans Organization and information is being solicited from local veterans' posts. The goal of the booklet is to inform veterans about the service organizations in the County.
- 4) The VAC superintendent is applying for a \$7500.00 MCCF Grant for to convert a VAC bus into a mobile office with two workstations to be used for the VAC Outreach Program.

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

- 1) The Institute of Medicine is holding a forum on Agent Orange issues with Agent Orange clients at the Hotel Allegro at 1 PM on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

2) The VFW #4600 in McHenry is hosting a WWII Veteran Luncheon on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to 3 PM. WWII veterans eat free and other guests pay \$10.00. The public is invited to view the actual WWII Memorial model that was used to build the actual memorial in Washington DC.

3) The American Legion, McHenry County Council will convene at the Lake-In-The-Hills Legion Post #1231 on Thursday, October 28th at 7:330 PM.

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

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2046.

*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	\$88,799.72	\$22,880.28	79.51%
3020	Part Time Salaries	\$18,514.00	\$0.00	\$17,227.72	\$1,286.28	93.05%
3030	Per Diems	\$56,996.00	\$0.00	\$41,038.34	\$15,957.66	72.00%
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	\$11,020.98	\$3,499.02	75.90%
3110	Ill. Municipal Retirement F	\$11,577.00	\$0.00	\$8,826.82	\$2,750.18	76.24%
3146	HCP Premium	\$23,116.00	\$0.00	\$14,324.44	\$8,791.56	61.97%
4001	Contractual Services	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$7,520.49	(\$5,120.49)	313.35%
4005	Association Dues/Member	\$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	\$1,935.94	\$2,064.06	48.40%
4200	Veterans Assistance	\$293,022.00	\$0.00	\$126,740.45	\$166,281.55	43.25%
4246	Medical Services	\$32,593.90	\$0.00	\$12,527.77	\$20,066.13	38.44%
4306	Repair & Maint - Vehicles	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,633.75	\$6,866.25	19.22%
4321	Computer Program Maint	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$633.00	\$117.00	84.40%
5010	Office Supplies	\$1,602.50	\$0.00	\$676.27	\$926.23	42.20%
5020	Office Equipment Less Th	\$2,153.95	\$0.00	\$1,599.99	\$553.96	74.28%
5040	Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$626.50	\$373.50	62.65%
5050	Meeting Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,370.65	\$2,629.35	56.18%
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	\$7,437.65	\$4,262.35	63.57%
5210	Publications	\$250.00	\$0.00	(\$182.06)	\$432.06	-72.82%
5251	Promotional Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$325.00	(\$325.00)	0.00%
		<b>\$609,229.35</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$346,626.31</b>	<b>\$262,603.04</b>	<b>56.90%</b>

YTD  
83,33%

Print Date: 10/1/2010

Assistance Summary  
9/1/2010 Thru 9/30/2010

Page Number

Total Requested: \$35402.40  
Total Assisted: \$35402.40

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	2	\$2993.98	\$2993.98
Food	69	\$175.00	\$175.00
Gasoline	1	\$39.99	\$39.99
Housing Mortgage	5	\$2459.00	\$2459.00
Housing Rent	12	\$3452.25	\$3452.25
Independent Living	7	\$2080.00	\$2080.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	1	\$437.50	\$437.50
Transportation Cab	7	\$479.00	\$479.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	5	\$1199.24	\$1199.24
Utilities Gas	4	\$605.76	\$605.76
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Telephone	1	\$60.00	\$60.00
Utilities Trash	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Water	2	\$192.62	\$192.62
VAC Bus Service	17	\$5484.77	\$5484.77
VAC Office	26	\$15727.29	\$15727.29