

Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

Minutes of the General Meeting

July 21, 2010

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1920 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)

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.		Parliamentarian*	Ray Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	
IACVAC Alternate*	Ray Rigsby	Secretary *	Michael Wisniewski

Posts Represented:

American Legion	#119 Fox River Grove Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#171 Crystal Lake Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#192 Marengo Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#253 Richmond Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input 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-Grove 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VietNow Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guests		

Officers Remarks – No officer remarks given

Routine Reports:

The June Minutes – A copy of the June Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the June minutes was made by Dewayne Raney and seconded by Roger Lasko. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

The projected VAC budget useage up to the end of June was to be 58.3% of the alloted funds.

The actual VAC budget useage at the end of June turned out to be 38.96% of the alloted funds.

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

Public Participation – There was no public participation.

Correspondence –

1) The VAC received a grant of \$325.00 from the McHenry County Community Foundation on May 18th. The grant funds are to be used to support the Veterans Baseball Bus Trip.

2) The U.S.Representative, Melissa Bean sent a thank-you letter to the VAC Superintendant for hosting a Federal Agency Open House that was recently held at the Shah Center of the McHenry County College on June 26th.

3) The American Legion Richmond Post #253 named Keith Drive as the Delegate to the VAC and Robert Howe Jr. as the Alternate Delegate to the VAC as of June 17th.

4) The BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center is pleased to announce that Emmy Award Winner, Betty White is to sponsor a BraveHeart Night With Betty White at the University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe Street on Saturday, August 21st at 6:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – The Executive Board and the Board Of Appeals convened at the McHenry County Government Center on July 14th. The meeting was called in order to review the "Handbook" the VAC uses as a guide to providing services and for screening applicants who are requesting VAC assistance. The meeting was primarily meant to have the VAC Superintendant teach the Executive Board/BOA how the VAC staff screens applicants during the initial application interview to determine what assistance to provide to the applicant and how the VAC clients can use the VAC appeals process to contest the VAC Superintendants decision to reduce,suspend,terminate, or otherwise change the amount of assistance to the client. The attendees than reviewed Handbook Sections 400 which covers "Eligibility Standards",followed by Section 300, subsection 304 which covers "Application Interview". This led into the interview process that is used to determine what other agencies can be tapped into to provide assistance and how the clients can contact the other agencies as well to determine what assistance the VAC itself provides.The VAC appeals process was discussed in detail. The attendees than discussed the provided information and decided that the Handbook appeared to be clear enough and sufficient to be used by the VAC staff to assist their clients without any changes at this time. The appeals process also seems to be working as intended and does not need revision at this time. The VAC Executive Board and the VAC Board of Appeals can reconvene to discuss issues that may arise with the Handbook and with the VAC appeals process and than suggest changes to these procedures and guidelines at that time.

By-Laws Committee – The By-Law Committee has completed the revision and filing of the VAC Inc By-Laws and VAC By-Laws however the makeup of the Board of Appeals was discussed with the possibility of dropping the WWII Candidate requirement if no WWII veteran is available to be on the BOA and

whether the BOA should add candidates from the Iraqi Freedom era and from the Afghanistan War. The VAC delegation decided to retain the WWII Candidate requirement.

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

Public Relations Committee – Ted Anderson gave a report on his attendance at the recent BraveHearts Veterans Horse Show and remarked that 300 veterans competing in the riding and carriage driving competitions and watching the event. A great time was had by all who attended.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – The next IACVAC meeting is scheduled for September 3rd and 4th and the agenda is still pending. The venue will be in Springfield, Illinois.

Superintendents Report – VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki will be attending VSO Recertification Classes from August 31st to September 4th at

The use of VAC transportation services are slightly higher than last year.

The VAC and the IDVA will be providing a seminar at the McHenry Villa on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30 PM. Topics are about the VA Pension and the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit.

The state association is planning to host the NACVSO National Conference in 2013 in Chicago and will expect the local VAC's to do the lion's share of the conference preparations.

The University of Illinois is working together with the Health Systems Research Institute to determine what the most pressing needs will be in regards with McHenry County Veterans in the future. A panel from the Veterans Focus Group from the above agencies will meet at the McHenry County Government Building.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

1) Ray Rigsby met with VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki to go over the 2011 VAC Budget Proposal in some detail. Some changes were made to the original draft and the proposed budget increase actually dropped down to a miniscule 0.03% or a couple hundred dollars overall.

2) The VAC will not be able to supply the three staffers needed per day to man the AMVETS/VFW #5040 booth at the McHenry County Fair as some staffers will be on vacation at that time.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business

1) The VAC has two grants in the work and they are: A. The Transit Grant is in it's second year and will provide up to \$3000.00 for fuel costs.

2) A Medical Opinion Grant will provide the VAC with funds for two years for McHenry County based VSO's to obtain medical opinions from outside sources in assisting in filing disability claims with the VA.

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

1) The State Of Illinois has recently passed legislation that allows the Illinois Department of Revenue Lottery Program to expand the Veterans Scratchoff Game to the sale of lottery tickets year round and will also allow local veterans organizations to obtain a Lottery Sales License . The rules pertaining to the sales of Veterans Scratchoff Game Tickets were covered by powerpoint display.

2) The 1st McHenry County Veterans Forum is a seminar that is open to All Veterans, their families, and friends to learn about the Veterans Administration, VA Medical, the Veterans Assistance Commission, MCC Financial Aid, Employment Assistance, and Womens Veteran Issues. The seminar

will be held at the MCC Conference Center on Wednesday, October 13th, 2010 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the forum followed by a Q & A Session from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

3) Faculty Advisor, Don Curfman is asking for funding from the VAC Inc. to offset some of the costs incurred by the McHenry County College Student Veterans Organization to host the 1st McHenry County Veterans Forum. The amount of the funding is \$300.00 and there is enough time to place this request under "New Business" at the VAC Inc. meeting in August.

4) Veterans Representative, Mike Ruffner is still seeking job openings for unemployed veterans--call him at the Illinois Department of Employment Security at 1(815)338-2578 ext243 or e-mail him at Michael.Ruffner@illinois.gov .

Chaplain, Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2015.

Mike Wisniewski

Respectfully Submitted
Mike Wisniewski
Electronically Signed

Total Assisted: \$34997.33

JUNE 1-30 2010

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food	40	\$50.00	\$50.00
Gasoline	3	\$486.50	\$486.50
Housing Mortgage	4	\$1852.91	\$1852.91
Housing Rent	13	\$5609.50	\$5609.50
Independent Living	5	\$1162.66	\$1162.66
Medical	1	\$657.00	\$657.00
Other	2	\$-50.00	\$-50.00
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	1	\$-10.00	\$-10.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	2	\$164.00	\$164.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	5	\$592.86	\$592.86
Utilities Gas	6	\$1814.03	\$1814.03
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	1	\$206.94	\$206.94
Utilities Telephone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Trash	2	\$205.98	\$205.98
Utilities Water	2	\$332.10	\$332.10
VAC Bus Service	18	\$5665.21	\$5665.21
VAC Office	23	\$16257.64	\$16257.64

Summarize by: OCA 220005 Veterans Assistance Commission Secondary Summarize by: (None)

Primary Detail by: Object Lvl 3 Secondary Detail by: (None) YEAR TO DATE GOAL 58.3%

Object Lvl 3	Object Lvl 3 Title	Appn Budget	Enc/Preenc	Expend	Balance	% of Budget
3010	Regular Salaries	\$111,680.00	\$0.00	\$62,919.20	\$48,760.80	56.34%
3020	Part Time Salaries	\$18,514.00	\$0.00	\$12,057.60	\$6,456.40	65.13%
3030	Per Diems	\$56,996.00	\$0.00	\$29,384.39	\$27,611.61	51.56%
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	\$7,299.43	\$7,220.57	50.27%
3110	Ill. Municipal Retirement F	\$11,577.00	\$0.00	\$5,780.54	\$5,796.46	49.93%
3146	HCP Premium	\$23,116.00	\$0.00	\$8,335.34	\$14,780.66	36.06%
4001	Contractual Services	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$5,028.27	(\$2,628.27)	209.51%
4005	Association Dues/Membe	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$370.00	7.50%
4006	Training	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,194.95	\$205.05	85.35%
4008	Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$160.68	\$39.32	80.34%
4055	Contractual Printing	\$600.00	\$382.31	\$701.20	(\$483.51)	180.59%
4060	Legal Notices & Advertise	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$54.49	\$1,745.51	3.03%
4096	Telecommunications	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,295.32	\$2,704.68	32.38%
4200	Veterans Assistance	\$293,022.00	\$0.00	\$85,552.63	\$207,469.37	29.20%
4246	Medical Services	\$32,593.90	\$0.00	\$6,803.79	\$25,790.11	20.87%
4306	Repair & Maint - Vehicles	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$965.32	\$6,534.68	12.87%
4321	Computer Program Maint	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$633.00	\$117.00	84.40%
5010	Office Supplies	\$1,052.50	\$52.50	\$487.03	\$512.97	51.26%
5020	Office Equipment Less Th	\$2,153.95	\$1,500.00	\$99.99	\$553.96	74.28%
5040	Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$408.50	\$591.50	40.85%
5050	Meeting Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,532.88	\$3,467.12	42.21%
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	\$5,086.79	\$6,613.21	43.48%
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	\$1,934.81	\$234,827.41	\$370,917.13	38.96%