

Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

Minutes of the General Meeting

March 16, 2011

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1931 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.

Roger Lasko presented the Invocation

Michael Wisniewski called the roll. A quorum of officers and posts were present.

Officer's present: (*Appointed)

Chairman	Joe Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Ted Andersen
Jr. Vice Chairman	Randy Granath	VAC Inc Treasurer	
Judge Advocate	Ray Rigsby	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Mary Donner	Parliamentarian*	Ray Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	Robert Howe Jr.
IACVAC Alternate*	Ray Rigsby	Secretary *	Mike Wisniewski

Posts Represented:

American Legion	#119 Fox River Grove Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Polish Legion Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VietNow Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guests	Mr Thomas Jones, Executive Director of the McHenry County Chapter of the Habitat For Humanity organization. Mrs. Jerry Monica, Assistant to the Executive Director of the McHenry Habitat For Humanity.	

Officers Remarks – There was no officer remarks.

Routine Reports:

The February Minutes – A copy of the February Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the February minutes was made by Pat Conley and seconded by Jay Baker. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

The proposed VAC budget up to the end of February was to be 25% of the allotted funds.

The actual VAC budget useage for February came out to be 17.4% of the allotted funds.

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

Public Participation – Mr. Thomas C. Jones is the Executive Director of the McHenry County Habitat For Humanity Organization, and his assistant, Mrs. Jerry Monica gave a briefing on the Habitat For Humanity programs. Although the organization is best known for building new housing for low-income families; they also offer other programs such as repairing existing housing for elderly and low-income clients including veterans. The flyer handout gives a good summary of the programs and how prospective clients can apply for the programs. The organization has three houses in various stages of construction as well as smaller repair jobs that are in the works. The Habitat For Humanity organization needs volunteers to work on the projects and donation of supplies and cash to expedite the projects.

Correspondence – Several thank-you letters were received by the VAC staff and the correspondence thanked the VAC in the successful prosecution of disability claims to the VA and SSI and for VAC financial assistance and counseling services. One letter was a Christmas card that was sent to Jane Dorfner for being cheery and upbeat (and a patient listener) to a client who calls the VAC office a lot.

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – A copy of the Executive Board Meeting Minutes from the December 8th, 2010 meeting was made available to all delegates and alternates for review. The Executive Board has not convened since that meeting.

By-Laws Committee – Nothing to report.

Corporate Report – The VAC Inc. corporate board held their meeting prior to the VAC General Meeting.

Public Relations Committee – Nothing to report.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – The IACVAC State Association is sponsoring a hospitality room for the first time at the next IACVAC Convention in Springfield and are asking local IACVAC and Posts to contribute funds for refreshments and set-up costs.

Superintendents Report – The VAC has a pending grant for funds to remodel a decommissioned VAC bus into a mobile office for use in the VAC Outreach Program. The VAC is seeing a steady increase in requests for transportation--bus trips and rides for clients to get to pickup

points and office visits. The VAC is expecting a surge in financial and other assistance from veterans whose unemployment benefits will begin to run out.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

- 1) The VAC is still awaiting approval of a grant application to the McHenry Communication Foundation for funds to remodel an old VAC bus into a mobile office for the VAC Outreach Program.
- 2) The VAC is still awaiting approval of a grant for funding to provide dental care and eye care to clients.
- 3) The SSVF Grant for Supportative Services for Veterans Families has been submitted. The VAC's of McHenry County and Lake County have hired the services of a grant writer and our share is \$1250.00. (VAC Budget Line Item 4001 has about \$9000.00) The VAC is requesting a vote of confidence to draw the funds for hiring a grant writer from the delegation. Ray Rigsby made the motion that the VAC can draw upon the VAC budget line item 4001 the funds needed to hire a grant writer, up to no more than \$1250.00 to draft a grant proposal to secure funding for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families proposal. Jim Koch seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.
- 4) The VAC had a booth at the Great Outdoor Expo for to inform the public about the VAC and the two days that the expo ran resulted in 150 visits to the booth by veterans and their families. A lot of information was offered and all of the Federal Benefits For Veteran books were given out. Some 15 potential clients called the VAC offices and more potential clients made office visits as a result of the VAC booth.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business

- 1) A new group has formed in anticipation of the pending SAMHSA grant and it is the "Supportive Services For Veterans' Families". This group will be operating out of the vacant Family Services Building on Route 120 in McHenry. The facility will offer a "drop-in" center where veterans can use the Internet to look for jobs and surf the web. Veterans will be able to get counseling for mental health issues such as PTSD and families of veterans can get counseling as well. A wish list of start-up items, office and lounge furniture and supplies and Internet services were handed out to the delegation.
- 2) The annual review of the proposed standard of need adjustment (VAC poverty guidelines) has resulted in whether the VAC should provide the present level of 135% of the Health & Human Services poverty level guidelines for financial assistance or maybe add to that. The discussion looked at factors (inflation and expected tax revenue decreases) before calling the question. Pat Conley made a motion to keep the VAC assistance standard of need guidelines at 135% of the current HHS levels. Robert Howe Jr. seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 3) The use of the Woodstock VFW #5040 Post as a venue for VAC Inc. and VAC General Meetings has some serious issues---poor climate control, lack of handicapped access to the upstairs hall, and environmental noise. Ray Rigsby made a motion that the VAC holds it's future meetings at the County Government Center, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL. Roger Lasko seconded the motion. The discussion looked at the cons of using the County Government Center (availability of vacant meeting rooms and extending the use of security staff during meeting periods) The motion passed by unanimous vote

4) The VAC and the AMVETS shared a booth at the 2010 McHenry County Fair and had a favorable response--enough that the VAC wants to set up a booth again during the 2011 fair. The booth would be next to the AMVETS booth and would be available to the public from Wednesday, August 3rd through Sunday, August 7th. Booth space rental would be \$275.00. Ted Andersen made the motion that the VAC rent booth space at the 2011 McHenry County Fair for \$275.00, next to the AMVETS space. Ray Rigsby seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

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

None!

Chaplain, Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2045.

Michael Wisniewski

Mike Wisniewski, Electronically Signed

February Financial Report – Year to Month End

Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 2010-2011 Financial Report

Personnel							
Line No.	Line Item	Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
3010	Salaries	\$ 112,149.00	\$ 26,618.52	\$ 85,530.48	23.7%	76.3%	\$ 106,474.08
3020	Part Time	\$ 25,802.00	\$ 4,959.67	\$ 20,842.33	19.2%	80.8%	\$ 19,838.68
3030	Per Diem	\$ 56,995.00	\$ 8,922.40	\$ 48,072.60	15.7%	84.3%	\$ 35,689.60
3050	Merit Pool	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
3100	Uniform All.	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
3105	SS/Co. Share	\$ 14,914.00	\$ 3,015.31	\$ 11,898.69	20.2%	79.8%	\$ 12,061.24
3110	IMRF	\$ 14,182.00	\$ 2,817.52	\$ 11,364.48	19.9%	80.1%	\$ 11,270.08
3146	Hlth. Ins.	\$ 25,511.00	\$ 4,081.76	\$ 21,429.24	16.0%	84.0%	\$ 16,327.04
Personnel		\$ 249,903.00	\$ 50,415.18	\$ 199,487.82	20.17%	79.83%	\$ 201,660.72
Contractual & Assistance							
		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
4001	Contract Service	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 1,155.18	\$ 9,044.82	11.3%	88.7%	\$ 4,620.72
4005	Dues/Mbrshps	\$ 500.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 440.00	12.0%	88.0%	\$ 240.00
4006	Training	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 735.00	\$ 865.00	45.9%	54.1%	\$ 2,940.00
4008	Subscriptions	\$ 300.00	\$ 187.72	\$ 112.28	62.6%	37.4%	\$ 750.88
4055	Contract Printing	\$ 800.00	\$ 299.71	\$ 500.29	37.5%	62.5%	\$ 1,198.84
4060	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4096	Telecomm.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 390.96	\$ 3,609.04	9.8%	90.2%	\$ 1,563.84
4200	Vets Assist	\$ 290,962.00	\$ 45,205.88	\$ 245,756.12	15.5%	84.5%	\$ 180,823.52
4246	Medical Service	\$ -	\$ 810.00	\$ (810.00)	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ 3,240.00
4306	Vehicle Maint.	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 63.23	\$ 6,636.77	0.9%	99.1%	\$ 252.92
4321	VIMS Maint	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
Contractual		\$ 316,412.00	\$ 48,907.68	\$ 267,504.32	15.46%	84.54%	\$ 195,630.72
Supplies & Equipment							
		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
5010	Off. Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 229.79	\$ 1,570.21	12.8%	87.2%	\$ 919.16
5020	Off. Equip.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5040	Mileage	\$ 900.00	\$ 67.18	\$ 832.82	7.5%	92.5%	\$ 268.72
5050	Mtg. Exp.	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 820.08	\$ 5,179.92	13.7%	86.3%	\$ 3,280.32
5115	Comp. Hardware	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5125	Comp. Software	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5160	POL	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 1,940.40	\$ 8,759.60	18.1%	81.9%	\$ 7,761.60
5210	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5251	Promo Events	\$ 600.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00	13%	88%	\$ 300.00
Equipment		\$ 22,600.00	\$ 3,132.45	\$ 18,942.55	13.86%	83.82%	\$ 12,529.80
Other							
		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
6020	Vehicle	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
6810	Fund Bal. Enh.	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
Totals		\$ 588,915.00	\$ 102,455.31	\$ 485,934.69	17.40%	82.51%	\$ 409,821.24

February 2011 Monthly Financial Summary

Print Date: 3/28/2011

Assistance Summary
2/1/2011 Thru 2/28/2011

Page Number

Total Requested: \$34246.91
Total Assisted: \$34207.84

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	1	\$241.00	\$241.00
Food	34	\$850.00	\$850.00
Gasoline	7	\$273.00	\$233.93
Housing Mortgage	5	\$2225.01	\$2225.01
Housing Rent	13	\$5411.06	\$5411.06
Independent Living	12	\$1560.00	\$1560.00
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	2	\$211.41	\$211.41
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Cab	3	\$289.52	\$289.52
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	9	\$1660.27	\$1660.27
Utilities Gas	8	\$1835.18	\$1835.18
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	2	\$152.25	\$152.25
Utilities Water	1	\$55.97	\$55.97
VAC Bus Service	17	\$3879.29	\$3879.29
VAC Office	35	\$15577.95	\$15577.95