

# McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### 18 April 2018

Chairman, Joseph Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1900 Hours in Conference Room 104A, at the McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098.

Secretary, Michael Wisniewski called the roll. A quorum of officers and a quorum of 14 delegates and alternates representing 12 posts or organizations were present.

Officer's present: (\*Appointed)

<b>Chairman</b>	Joseph Kersten	<b>Sr. Vice Chairman</b>	Patrick Conley
<b>Jr. Vice Chairman</b>	Frank Steckelbert		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Harry VanBeetz	<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	Jim Koch
<b>McHenry County Board Rep.</b>	Tom Wilbeck	<b>Parliamentarian*</b>	Harry VanBeetz
<b>Chaplain*</b>	Gene Boxletner	<b>IACVAC Delegate*</b>	Patrick Conley
<b>IACVAC Alternate*</b>	Lee Totman	<b>Secretary*</b>	Excused

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#253 Richmond</b> Del <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#5040 Woodstock</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#12014 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>#11496 Johnsburg</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sad Sacks 0962</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Student Veterans Association</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Marine Corps League</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" 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>	1. Mr. Don Curfman. McHenry County College Student Veteran Liaison.	

**Officers Remarks:** No remarks.

**Routine Reports:**

**The April Minutes:** Copies of the April minutes were made available to all delegates and alternates. The motion to accept the March minutes as presented was made by Donald Stage (AMVETS 269) and seconded by Neal Donner (AMVETS 245). The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**VAC April Financial Report:** Copies of the April, 2018 Year to Date Financial Report and April Financial Report were made available to all delegates and alternates.

The VAC Office addressed 25 requests for financial assistance for a total of \$4,634.36 in Veterans Assistance during April. The office submitted 44 new Claims to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and a year to date total of 155 applications for VA Disability and Pension Claims. Year to Date the VAC has successfully prosecuted 38 outstanding claims for a total benefit to our local veterans of \$874,205. This equates to \$5.91 coming back to McHenry County for each VAC budget dollar spent. The VAC used 22.03% of the allotted funds in the VAC budget up through March. This is less than the 41.67% allotted in the VAC budget up through April. The VAC may need to draw up to \$29,808.25 from the reserve fund as the projected budget usage may exceed the \$325,000.00 tax levy by that amount. Lee Totman (MCL) made the motion to accept the April VAC financial reports as read. Eugene Boxlitner (American Legion Post #192) seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**Public Participation:**

- 1) Mr. Don Curfman reported that the McHenry County College's new Science building is on schedule and really impressive. He recommended that everyone check out the planetarium. He discussed the upcoming Patriot Run. The VAC needs 10 Volunteers on race day to help out. This is a big fundraiser for the VAC, SVA, and TLS. Persons can volunteer on line (<http://mchenrycountypatriotrun.org/volunteer/>) or call 815-459-1773. Be sure to let them know you are with the VAC. Flags will be set up for the race June 21<sup>st</sup>. Don also reminded everyone that education scholarships are available for the seniors in our group.

**Correspondence:**

- 1) The office received a thank you letter from a client that was very pleased with the service he received.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting:* No report.

*By-Laws:* No Report.

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

*Public Relations Committee:* No report.

*Report of IACVAC Delegates:* The IACVAC will be meeting in Peoria September 26-28. Both the IACVAC delegate and alternate plan to attend.

*Superintendents Report:*

- 1) The VAC Superintendent attended the kickoff meeting of a proposed new organization that hopes to unite all State County organizations. The Illinois State Associations of Counties (ISACo) will focus on legislation and training as it impacts the counties. Each affiliate organization (including IACVAC) had been asked to provide a letter of support. The IACVAC will not address the issue until the September meeting. The Superintendent will be attending the second meeting on May 31.
- 2) The VAC Superintendent will meet with the Illinois State Counties Association next week and report the results during the May VAC meeting.
- 3) The VAC Superintendent had a discussion with the United County Counsel of Illinois (UCCI) Executive Director regarding the formation of the new organization. Although the Superintendent and UCCI share common concerns about the creation of the ISACo, both believe that it will likely be approved.
- 4) The VAC Superintendent also met with a staff member for Representative, Randy Hultgren. Discussed were concerns within the veterans' community as seen by the VAC. Concerns included; the new RAMP appeals program, wait time for Veterans to receive GI Bill payments, VBA Bonus for claims processing (volume rather than quality), and restoring ability to use GI Bill benefits to start a business.
- 5) The Marine Corps League will be hosting the State Conference in Crystal Lake this June. The VAC may

be having a table at the event on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

6)

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

- 1) The second new minivan has been delivered and is now available for use. The VAC is waiting to hear back from the company that will be applying the decals.
- 2) The 2017 Annual Report is approximately 90% complete. The Superintendent plans to have copies by the next meeting.
- 3) The Superintendent was asked by County Administration to submit a resolution for staff compensation. That has been completed and is awaiting review and correction by County Admin. The resolution will be going before the Human Resources Committee May 22 at 0830.
- 4) The VAC office has participation with the County Fair on hold pending review by the Commission. The office is looking for a commitment from the Post's to assist during the entire event so as not to have the office shoulder the entire burden. After some discussion Frank Steckelburg (American Legion 119) motioned and Lee Totman (MCL) seconded to continue having a booth at the County Fair. The Office will have a schedule available for volunteers to sign up for a 4 hour block. The Superintendent is encouraging Post's to wear their uniforms and/or caps to promote not only the VAC but the Post as well.

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

- 1) The office has been receiving a lot of questions about the VA's new Rapid Appeals program (RAMP). The Superintendent is advising that prior to jumping on board with the program have a VSO review the evidence to determine if it is a good idea. The program does not have an appeals route yet so negative decisions from RAMP will not be eligible for appeal until February 2019. Chances are, if an appeal has been in line for a couple of years the office will not be recommending RAMP.
- 2) The next Veterans Round Table will be July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Huntley American Legion from 6:00 – 8:00pm. The topic will be PTSD and TBI.
- 3) About three years ago the Superintendent looked at taking over organizing the County's participation in the Healthy Communities Program. Currently, County participation is limited to a prescription discount program. Our participation came out of client comments that the VA takes care of them but not the family. The prescription program saves participants over 20% (YTD 2018 the savings have averaged over 25% for the 23 people countywide using the program). This is a program that the VAC can easily incorporate in its existing outreach and promotion efforts. It is hoped that if the program is revitalized that the County Board would be willing to sign on to the Dental and Medical discount program which would further serve our veteran families.
- 4) The VA has restored its veteran's dental insurance program. For veterans who use the VA Health Care system, the VA had negotiated and funded a discounted insurance plan from Delta Dental and MetLife. Both are very reasonably priced. Delta appears to be of lower cost for a single veteran where MetLife appears to offer insurance for the veterans spouse as well. Details and applications can be found on line (<https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/VADIP/>) or through the VAC Office.

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

- 1) The traveling wall is going to be at McHenry Township. All are encouraged to visit and/or volunteer.
- 2) The flag display honoring all of Illinois' fallen from Desert Shield forward will be at Lake Julian in Algonquin this weekend.

**The Benediction:** Chaplain, Eugene Boxletner gave the Benediction.

The Colors were saluted.

Chairman, Joseph Kersten adjourned the meeting at 1950 Hours.

*Michael A. Swanicki*

Respectfully Submitted

*(Electronically Signed)*

# Superintendents Financial Report – May 16, 2018

April 2018 Financials

## Financial Report Highlights for the Month of April 2018

### Veterans Assistance Expenditures

Auditor

	Month		Year To Date	
	Financial Granted	Requests	Financial Granted	Requests
Food	\$ 225.00	9	\$ 1,275.00	51
Housing	\$ 1,975.55	5	\$ 14,667.35	31
Utilities	\$ 1,663.81	8	\$ 7,482.60	54
Indp Living	\$ 770.00	3	\$ 3,423.29	11
Gasoline	\$ -	0	\$ -	0
Transportation	\$ -	0	\$ 27.30	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,634.36</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>\$ 26,875.54</b>	<b>150</b>
Total Requests Denied		<b>0</b>		<b>8</b>
Total Requests		<b>25</b>		<b>155</b>
Unique Clients		<b>15</b>		<b>78</b>

### Utilities Granted

	Month		Year to Date	
	Financial	Requests	Financial	Requests
Gas	\$ 155.96	2	\$ 1,675.06	13
Electric	\$ 1,383.78	3	\$ 4,226.62	19
Phone	\$ 80.00	2	\$ 433.62	11
Water / Sewer	\$ 44.07	1	\$ 809.51	6
Garbage	\$ -	0	\$ 337.79	5
<b>Total Utility</b>	<b>\$ 1,663.81</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$ 7,482.60</b>	<b>54</b>

### Total Expenditures

	Month	Year to Date
	\$ 57,675.56	\$ 147,836.77
Projected Annual		\$ 354,808.25
Less: Funded by Levy		\$ 325,000.00
Projected Reserve Add (Use)		\$ (29,808.25)

### VA Disability and Pension Claims

	Month	Year to Date
New VA Claims	44	155
VA Paperwork Processed	319	1185
VA Claims Awarded 2018		38
New Claims \$\$ Awarded 2018		\$ 874,205
VA Award Ratio to VAC Total Expense (per \$1)		\$ 5.91
4 Year Cummulative Awards 2018 Value		\$ 8,890,833

VetraSpec

Applicants Township		
Township	Monthly Total	YTD Total
Alden	\$ -	\$ -
Algonquin	\$ 1,372.21	\$ 5,660.64
Burton	\$ -	\$ 622.72
Chemung	\$ 837.42	\$ 2,841.42
Coral	\$ -	\$ -
Dorr	\$ 322.13	\$ 3,325.09
Dunham	\$ -	\$ -
Grafton	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00
Greenwood	\$ -	\$ 1,778.00
Hartland	\$ -	\$ -
Hebron	\$ 1,227.19	\$ 5,031.15
Marengo	\$ -	\$ -
McHenry	\$ 646.76	\$ 4,359.30
Nunda	\$ -	\$ 0.00
Richmond	\$ -	\$ 1,551.27
Riley	\$ -	\$ -
Seneca	\$ 564.12	\$ 564.12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 5,269.83</b>	<b>\$ 26,633.71</b>
<b>Total Townships</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

Total Townships

### VAC Lovell FHCC Transportation Service

VA Hospital Applications Year to Date

37

	Month	Annual
Miles	2332	11065
Passengers	237	998
Driver Cost	\$ 3,560.44	\$ 17,592.71
Dispatch-Adm	\$ 2,302.34	\$ 11,511.73
Vehicle Cost	\$ 818.55	\$ 3,356.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,681.33</b>	<b>\$ 32,460.96</b>
Cost per Rider	\$ 28.19	\$ 32.53
Goal Cost per Rider is <	\$ 35.00	
Bus Fund	\$ 3,671.29	

# Superintendents Financial Report – May 16, 2018

April 2018 Financials

## Year to Date

Personnel		41.67%					
Line No.	Line Item	Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	Projected
3010	Salaries	\$ 211,283.00	\$ 44,668.61	\$ 166,614.39	21.1%	78.9%	\$ 107,204.66
3020	Part Time	\$ -	\$ 7,801.78	\$ (7,801.78)	0.0%	0.0%	\$ 18,724.27
3025	Holiday Pay	\$ 11,120.00	\$ 2,609.26	\$ 8,510.74	23.5%	76.5%	\$ 6,262.22
3030	Per Diem	\$ 55,003.00	\$ 8,127.55	\$ 46,875.45	14.8%	85.2%	\$ 19,506.12
3040	Over Time Salaries	\$ 500.00	\$ 99.96	\$ 400.04	20.0%	80.0%	\$ 239.90
3050	Merit Pool	\$ 6,242.00	\$ -	\$ 6,242.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
3100	Uniform All.	\$ 350.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 321.00	8.3%	91.7%	\$ 69.60
3105	SS/Co. Share	\$ 21,737.00	\$ 4,843.90	\$ 16,893.10	22.3%	77.7%	\$ 11,625.36
3110	IMRF	\$ 22,829.00	\$ 3,961.43	\$ 18,867.57	17.4%	82.6%	\$ 9,507.43
3146	Hlth. Ins.	\$ 72,463.00	\$ 6,049.45	\$ 66,413.55	8.3%	91.7%	\$ 14,518.68
<b>Personnel</b>		<b>\$ 401,527.00</b>	<b>\$ 78,190.94</b>	<b>\$ 323,336.06</b>	<b>19.47%</b>	<b>80.53%</b>	<b>\$ 187,658.26</b>
Contractural & Assistance		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
4001	Contract Service	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	37.5%	62.5%	\$ 3,600.00
4005	Dues/Mbrshps	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 724.00	\$ 276.00	72.4%	27.6%	\$ 1,737.60
4006	Training	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 1,240.00	31.1%	68.9%	\$ 1,344.00
4008	Subscriptions	\$ 250.00	\$ 174.20	\$ 75.80	69.7%	30.3%	\$ 418.08
4034	Specific Insurance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 4,333.80	\$ 6,666.20	39.4%	60.6%	\$ 10,401.12
4045	Directors Insurance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,280.00	\$ 1,220.00	77.8%	22.2%	\$ 10,272.00
4055	Contract Printing	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4060	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 55.75	\$ 2,444.25	2.2%	97.8%	\$ 133.80
4096	Telecomm.	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 436.33	\$ 1,163.67	27.3%	72.7%	\$ 1,047.19
4200	Vets Assist	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 26,850.54	\$ 153,149.46	14.9%	85.1%	\$ 64,441.30
4246	Medical Service	\$ 750.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 545.00	27.3%	72.7%	\$ 492.00
4251	PreEmp Physical	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
4306	Vehicle Maint. *	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 300.29	\$ 7,199.71	4.0%	96.0%	\$ 720.70
4321	Software Maint.	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4370	Legal Services	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 96.25	\$ 903.75	9.6%	90.4%	\$ 231.00
<b>Contractural</b>		<b>\$ 221,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 39,419.91</b>	<b>\$ 180,780.09</b>	<b>17.82%</b>	<b>81.73%</b>	<b>\$ 94,607.78</b>
Supplies & Equipment		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
5010	Off. Supplies	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 327.40	\$ 972.60	25.2%	74.8%	\$ 785.76
5020	Off. Equip.	\$ 750.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 664.00	11.5%	88.5%	\$ 206.40
5040	Mileage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 960.24	\$ 1,039.76	48.0%	52.0%	\$ 2,304.58
5050	Mtg. Exp.	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 3,253.05	\$ 6,246.95	34.2%	65.8%	\$ 7,807.32
5071	Promo Items	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5115	Comp. Hardware	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
5125	Comp. Software	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5160	POL *	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,556.23	\$ 4,943.77	23.9%	76.1%	\$ 3,734.95
5210	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5251	Promo Events	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,225.00	18%	82%	\$ 660.00
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>\$ 23,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,457.92</b>	<b>\$ 16,692.08</b>	<b>27.90%</b>	<b>72.10%</b>	<b>\$ 15,499.01</b>
Other		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
6020	Vehicle	\$ 24,600.00	\$ 23,768.00	\$ 832.00	96.6%	3.4%	\$ 57,043.20
6810	Fund Bal. Enh.	\$ 560.00	\$ -	\$ 560.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 671,037.00</b>	<b>\$ 147,836.77</b>	<b>\$ 523,200.23</b>	<b>22.03%</b>	<b>77.82%</b>	<b>\$ 354,808.25</b>

\*Transit Grant \$2,500 added to budget

### April 2018 Reconciliation

April Auditor *				\$ 4,409.36
Less				
Volunteer / Taxi Transportation			\$ -	
Food Vouchers			\$ -	
March Assistance	I6379-25		\$ (50.00)	\$ (50.00)
				\$ 4,359.36
Add:				
Food Issued			\$ 225.00	
Outstanding Fuel			\$ -	
Awaiting Payment	G1781-20		\$ 613.00	
	F8139-31		\$ 32.47	
	F8139-32		\$ 40.00	\$ 910.47
				\$ 5,269.83
April 4200 VetraSpec				
* Total does not include food vouchers issued.				