

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

Minutes of the General Meeting

20 June 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)

Chairman	Joseph Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Patrick Conley
Jr. Vice Chairman	Frank Steckelbert		
Judge Advocate	Harry VanBeetz	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Tom Wilbeck	Parliamentarian*	Harry VanBeetz
Chaplain*	Excused	IACVAC Delegate*	Patrick Conley
IACVAC Alternate*	Lee Totman	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 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 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"/>	#491 McHenry Del <input 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"/>	Cooties Put Tent #79 Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AMVETS	#245 Cary-Grove Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#269 Woodstock Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Of Foreign Wars	#4600 McHenry Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#5040 Woodstock Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	#12014 Crystal Lake Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#11496 Johnsburg Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
Sad Sacks 0962 Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	Student Veterans Association 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	1. Mr. Don Curfman. McHenry County College Student Veteran Liaison. 2. Mr. Kenneth Kaulen, Chicago Charitable Games.	

Officers Remarks: No remarks.

Routine Reports:

The May Minutes: Copies of the May minutes were made available to all delegates and alternates. The motion to accept the May minutes as presented was made by Neil Donner (AMVETS #245) and seconded by Robert Howe Jr. (A.L. #253). The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

VAC May Financial Report: Copies of the May, 2018 Year to Date Financial Report and May 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 May. 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 May. This is less than the 41.67% allotted in the VAC budget up through May. 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 May VAC financial reports as read. Robert Howe Jr. (A. L. Post #253) 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 construction is on schedule and some early science classes are already in session in the new facility. He discussed the upcoming Patriot Run (June 24th, 2018). The race course setups are well underway. This is a big fundraiser for the VAC, SVA, and TLS. Volunteers will be needed as course guides and for post-race cleanups. Volunteer check in start at 0630 Hours. 70 veteran students are taking summer classes. The college is participating in the Crystal Lake Independence Parade on July 7th, 2018.

Correspondence:

- 1) No correspondence.

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 reconvene during September, 2018. The VAC Superintendent will attend his last IACO session.

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 attended the second meeting on May 31.
- 2) The VAC will host the Veterans Round Table on July 27th, 2018. This forum topic is on TBI/PTSD. The forum will meet in the Huntley A. L. Post #673 at 11712 Coral Street, Huntley, Illinois; from 1800 Hours to 2000 Hours.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Representative, Randy Hultgren will host a Veterans Round Table forum to discuss the topics in paragraph 3 on July 9th. 2018. Venue will be at the McHenry County Government Building. The forum kicks off at 1300 Hours.

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 get license plates and a fuel card before being put to use.
- 2) The 2017 Annual Report is approximately 90% complete. The Superintendent plans to have copies available to the commission by the next meeting.
- 3) The VAC Staff Compensation study and Resolution went to the McHenry County Board for discussion. The McHenry County Board voted to table this topic pending further review by comparing staff job descriptions with a 'Rasher Report' guideline.
- 4) The VAC office will participate in the McHenry County Fair. (July 30 through August 7th, 2018) The VAC office has volunteer signup sheets for two hour shifts during the fair.
- 5) Ramp Program Brief:

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 Midwest ROI works with doctors to provide patient medical records to the Veterans Administration for a handling fee. The VA does not compensate Midwest ROI for these medical records and the Midwest ROI has turned to the VAC office for payment.
- 3) The IACVAC Division I Meeting is to convene at Kane County, with the aim to allow the members to learn the latest information on how to file and monitor client VA claims and appeals.
- 4) The VAC Superintendent submitted a VAC budget proposal for the 2019 fiscal year, to the commission for review. This budget proposal is identical to the 2018 VAC budget. Robert Howe Jr. (A.L. Post #253) made the motion for the commission to approve the proposed VAC budget for the 2019 fiscal year and to submit the proposal to the McHenry County Board. Harry Van Beetz (VFW Post #12014) seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

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

- 1) The Huntley American Legion, Huntley Post #673 is hosting a "3rd Annual Vet Fest" event on June 23rd/2018 from 1500 Hours to 2300 Hours. The fun is at the newly remodeled post home at 11712 West Coral Street, in Huntley.
- 2) The National Association of Counties and McHenry County of Illinois is offering a prescription discount program through the CVS Pharmacy. For further information, call 1(800)364-6331.
- 3) Veterans are being preyed upon by shady veteran home loan solicitors, who often rip off loan applicants. The best way is to use the Veterans Administration to help secure a home loan.

The Benediction: Acting Chaplain, Frank Steckelberg gave the Benediction.

The Colors were saluted.

Chairman, Joseph Kersten adjourned the meeting at 2012 Hours.

Michael F Wisniewski

Respectfully Submitted

Michael F. Wisniewski

(Electronically Signed)

Superintendents May Financial Report – June 20, 2018

Financial Report Highlights for the Month of May 2018

Veterans Assistance Expenditures

Auditor

VetraSpec

	Month		Year To Date	
	Financial Granted	Requests	Fiannical Granted	Requests
Food	\$ 200.00	8	\$ 1,475.00	59
Housing	\$ 3,888.92	7	\$ 18,556.27	38
Utilities	\$ 458.60	7	\$ 7,941.20	61
Indp Living	\$ -	0	\$ 3,423.29	11
Gasoline	\$ -	0	\$ -	0
Transportation	\$ 118.38	40	\$ 145.68	43
Total	\$ 4,665.90	62	\$ 31,541.44	212
Total Requests Denied		1		9
Total Requests		23		178
Unique Clients		13		91

Applicants Township		
Township	Monthly Total	YTD Total
Alden	\$ -	\$ -
Algonquin	\$ 939.73	\$ 6,600.37
Burton	\$ -	\$ 622.72
Chemung	\$ 664.08	\$ 3,505.50
Coral	\$ -	\$ -
Dorr	\$ 835.92	\$ 4,161.01
Dunham	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Grafton	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Greenwood	\$ -	\$ 1,778.00
Hartland	\$ -	\$ -
Hebron	\$ 450.00	\$ 5,481.15
Marengo	\$ -	\$ -
McHenry	\$ 1,264.40	\$ 5,623.70
Nunda	\$ -	\$ 0.00
Richmond	\$ -	\$ 1,551.27
Riley	\$ -	\$ -
Seneca	\$ -	\$ 564.12
Totals	\$ 4,504.13	\$ 31,137.84
Total Townships	7	12

Utilities Granted

	Month		Year to Date	
	Requests	Requests	Requests	Requests
Gas	\$ 124.48	2	\$ 1,799.54	15
Electric	\$ 230.59	2	\$ 4,457.21	21
Phone	\$ 80.00	2	\$ 513.62	13
Water / Sewer	\$ 23.53	1	\$ 833.04	7
Garbage	\$ -	0	\$ 337.79	5
Total Utility	\$ 458.60	7	\$ 7,941.20	61

Total Expenditures

Month	Year to Date
\$ 34,273.95	\$ 156,922.48
Projected Annual	\$ 313,844.96
Less: Funded by Levy	\$ 325,000.00
Projected Reserve Add (Use)	\$ 11,155.04

VAC Lovell FHCC Transportation Service

VA Hospital Applications Year to Date

45

	Month	Annual
Miles	2814	13879
Passengers	265	1263
Driver Cost	\$ 3,429.87	\$ 21,022.58
Dispatch-Adm	\$ 2,302.23	\$ 13,813.43
Vehicle Cost	\$ 2,000.30	\$ 5,308.36
Total	\$ 7,732.40	\$ 40,144.37
Cost per Rider	\$ 29.18	\$ 31.78
Goal Cost per Rider is <	\$ 35.00	
Bus Fund	\$ 5,681.72	

VA Disability and Pension Claims

	Month	Year to Date
New VA Claims	51	206
VA Paperwork Processed	444	1629
VA Claims Awarded 2018		50
New Claims \$\$ Awarded 2018		\$ 1,114,500
VA Award Ratio to VAC Total Expense (per \$1)		\$ 7.10
4 Year Cummulative Awards 2018 Value		\$ 9,131,128

Superintendents May Financial Report – June 20, 2018

Year to Date

Personnel					50.00%		
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%	\$ 89,337.22
3020	Part Time	\$ -	\$ 7,801.78	\$ (7,801.78)	0.0%	0.0%	\$ 15,603.56
3025	Holiday Pay	\$ 11,120.00	\$ 2,609.26	\$ 8,510.74	23.5%	76.5%	\$ 5,218.52
3030	Per Diem	\$ 55,003.00	\$ 8,127.55	\$ 46,875.45	14.8%	85.2%	\$ 16,255.10
3040	Over Time Salaries	\$ 500.00	\$ 99.96	\$ 400.04	20.0%	80.0%	\$ 199.92
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%	\$ 58.00
3105	SS/Co. Share	\$ 21,737.00	\$ 4,843.90	\$ 16,893.10	22.3%	77.7%	\$ 9,687.80
3110	IMRF	\$ 22,829.00	\$ 3,961.43	\$ 18,867.57	17.4%	82.6%	\$ 7,922.86
3146	Hlth. Ins.	\$ 72,463.00	\$ 6,049.45	\$ 66,413.55	8.3%	91.7%	\$ 12,098.90
Personnel		\$ 401,527.00	\$ 78,190.94	\$ 323,336.06	19.47%	80.53%	\$ 156,381.88
Contractual & Assistance		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
4001	Contract Service	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,200.00	45.0%	55.0%	\$ 3,600.00
4005	Dues/Mbrshps	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 724.00	\$ 276.00	72.4%	27.6%	\$ 1,448.00
4006	Training	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 1,240.00	31.1%	68.9%	\$ 1,120.00
4008	Subscriptions	\$ 250.00	\$ 174.20	\$ 75.80	69.7%	30.3%	\$ 348.40
4034	Specific Insurance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 6,050.20	\$ 4,949.80	55.0%	45.0%	\$ 12,100.40
4045	Directors Insurance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,280.00	\$ 1,220.00	77.8%	22.2%	\$ 8,560.00
4055	Contract Printing	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
4060	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 555.75	\$ 1,944.25	22.2%	77.8%	\$ 1,111.50
4096	Telecomm.	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 522.95	\$ 1,077.05	32.7%	67.3%	\$ 1,045.90
4200	Vets Assist	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 31,539.44	\$ 148,460.56	17.5%	82.5%	\$ 63,078.88
4246	Medical Service	\$ 750.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 420.00	44.0%	56.0%	\$ 660.00
4251	PreEmp Physical	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	\$ -
4306	Vehicle Maint. *	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,948.13	\$ 5,551.87	26.0%	74.0%	\$ 3,896.26
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%	\$ 192.50
Contractual		\$ 221,200.00	\$ 48,484.67	\$ 171,715.33	21.92%	77.63%	\$ 96,969.34
Supplies & Equipment		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
5010	Off. Supplies	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 344.35	\$ 955.65	26.5%	73.5%	\$ 688.70
5020	Off. Equip.	\$ 750.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 664.00	11.5%	88.5%	\$ 172.00
5040	Mileage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 960.24	\$ 1,039.76	48.0%	52.0%	\$ 1,920.48
5050	Mtg. Exp.	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 3,253.05	\$ 6,246.95	34.2%	65.8%	\$ 6,506.10
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	\$ 1,560.23	\$ 4,939.77	24.0%	76.0%	\$ 3,120.46
5210	Publications	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
5251	Promo Events	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,225.00	18%	82%	\$ 550.00
Equipment		\$ 23,150.00	\$ 6,478.87	\$ 16,671.13	27.99%	72.01%	\$ 12,957.74
Other		Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	
6020	Vehicle	\$ 24,600.00	\$ 23,768.00	\$ 832.00	96.6%	3.4%	\$ 47,536.00
6810	Fund Bal. Enh.	\$ 560.00	\$ -	\$ 560.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
Totals		\$ 671,037.00	\$ 156,922.48	\$ 513,114.52	23.39%	76.47%	\$ 313,844.96

*Transit Grant \$2,500 added to budget

May 2018 Reconciliation

May Auditor *				\$ 4,688.90
Less				
Volunteer / Taxi Transportation			\$ (118.38)	
Food Vouchers			\$ (250.00)	
April Assistance	G1781-20		\$ (613.00)	
	F8139-31		\$ (32.47)	
	F8139-32		\$ (40.00)	\$ (1,053.85)
				\$ 3,635.05
Add:				
Food Issued			\$ 200.00	
Outstanding Fuel			\$ -	
Awaiting Payment	L2389-20		\$ 162.08	
	A1360-25		\$ 360.00	
	A1360-32		\$ 40.00	
	F8139-34		\$ 58.25	
	F8139-31		\$ 8.75	
	F8139-32		\$ 40.00	\$ 869.08
May 4200 VetraSpec				\$ 4,504.13
* Total does not include food vouchers issued.				