

# McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### 20 February 2019

called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1920 Hours in Conference Room 209I, at the McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

Secretary, **Michael Wisniewski called the roll.** A quorum of officers and a quorum of 13 delegates and alternates representing 13 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 Steckleberg		
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Harry Van Beetz	<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	Jim Koch
<b>McHenry County Board Rep.</b>	Excused	<b>Parliamentarian*</b>	Harry Van Beetz
<b>Chaplain*</b>	Eugene Boxlietner	<b>IACVAC Delegate*</b>	Patrick Conley
<b>IACVAC Alternate*</b>	Lee Totman	<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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>#245 Cary-Grove</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Veterans Of Foreign Wars</b>	<b>#4600 McHenry</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#5040 Woodstock</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#12014 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input 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 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>	Mr. Don Curfman, McHenry County College Veteran Student Liaison. 2. Mr. Don Kalbach, MCC Student Veteran Association Member.	

**Officers Remarks:**

There were no officer's remarks.

**Routine Reports:**

**The January Minutes:** Copies of the January minutes were made available to all delegates and alternates. The motion to accept the January minutes as presented was made by Harry Van Beetz (VFW Post #12014) and seconded by Lee Totman (MCL Post #1009). The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

**VAC January Financial Report:** Copies of the January 2019 Year to Date Financial Report and January Financial Report were made available to all delegates and alternates.

The VAC Office addressed 36 requests for financial assistance to 9 unique clients for a total of \$3,299.42 in Veterans Assistance during January. The office submitted 22 new Claims to the US Department of Veterans Affairs during January. Year to Date the VAC has successfully prosecuted 17 outstanding claims for a total benefit to our local veterans of \$324,120. This equates to \$4.34 coming back to our veterans for each VAC budget dollar spent. The VAC used 12.47% of the allotted funds in the VAC budget up through January. This is less than the 16.67% allotted in the VAC budget up through January. The allotted budget is \$598,909.00 and the 2018 tax levy was \$400,000.00. The VAC may need to draw up to \$48,047.84 from the reserve fund as the projected budget usage may exceed the \$400,000.00 tax levy by that amount. Lee Totman (MCL Post #1009) made the motion to accept the January VAC financial reports as read. John Widmayer (VFW Post #5040) seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Public Participation:**

Mr. Don Curfman (MCC Veteran Student Liaison) reported that McHenry County College spring class enrollment amount appears to be flat. The college is hosting a 'Human 5 Kilometer Race' to benefit local children, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The upcoming '2019 Patriot's Run' will be a 5 Mile run on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The change in the race length will require extra course guides to accommodate the course length changes. Two VAC funded Vista Center workers are working at the college. Some student veterans at the college are receiving instruction on business job interviews and even are being issued proper business clothing from the "Purple Closet Agency". Mr. Mike Split received an award on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The college is conducting an election to vote on five trustees and two candidates on that slate of candidates (Mary Beth and Tom Allen) are considered to be the best of the bunch. Student Veteran, Dan Kalbach was introduced to the commission. He is a Marine Corps veteran who is working on his teaching certification and is eager to learn about what veterans benefits can be accessed by fellow veteran students.

### **Correspondence:**

- 1) A check for \$1,000.00 was donated by the "McHenry Veterans Help Corps" to be used in the VAC Bus Fund.
2. A check for \$600.00 was donated by the American Legion McHenry Post #491 Ladies Auxiliary, to be used in the VAC Bus Fund.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting:* No Report up through January, 2019.

*By-Laws:* No Report.

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

*Public Relations Committee:* No report..

*Report of IACVAC Delegates:* The IACVAC will convene in April at Springfield, Illinois. The leading topics of discussion will be a batch of bills in committee relating to veterans issues such as HB#34 (Amendments to the wording on the VA Disabled Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption Law) and HB1133 (Gives the County Board Chairman Executive Veto Powers to override the County Board actions); amongst other issues.

### *Superintendents Report:*

- 1) The McHenry County College is hosting a People In Need Forum on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The event begins at 8 AM and runs to 1 PM.

- 2) The VAC Office is planning to set up an informative table or booth at the upcoming McHenry Expo.
- 3) The VAC VSO staff and the VAC Superintendent will be attending General Assistance Training sessions (to convene during various dates from March through May) on a rotational basis to minimize disruption to regular VAC Office staff duties.
- 4) The VAC Office will set up three signs along the five mile race course during the upcoming 'Patriot's Run' at McHenry County College. The signs will serve to advertise VAC functions and services to the public

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

- 1) The McHenry County Board has not acted on the VAC Compensation Study.
- 2) There was no change on the VAC Staff Compensation Study, by the Commission. The Commission will convene an Executive Meeting soon to decide on what course of actions are available to resolve the issue with the McHenry County Board.
- 3) VAC VSO Victor Samoza will be working at McHenry County College with two work study personnel to assist student veterans in filing for VA veteran education benefits and on accessing other veterans' benefits that are available to them.
- 4) The Scouting Blackhawk Council is hosting a "Legacy of Service" Awards Dinner on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn. (800 South Route 31). The VAC Inc. has purchased a table at the event.
- 5) VAC Survey Update: More responses are still flowing in and the data are being tabulated. Interest is high on using the VAC transportation service to go to medical appointments at the McHenry CBOC and to attend medical appointments to VA assigned civilian clinics. An observation was noted by the survey tabulators for a need to better inform both VAC using veterans and veterans at large on how to access veterans' benefits that are available to them.
- 6) The IDVA has a new director (Mrs. Linda Chapa LaVia). The IDVA is causing issues with the VAC' ability to assist veteran clients requesting VAC services after working with IDVA field reps in the past as the IDVA requires veterans who ask the IDVA for benefits have to file a power of attorney document-which blocks future VAC assistance to the veteran.

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

- 1) The two newest VAC VSO staffers are now fully qualified as fully trained and experienced veteran service officers after completing their Phase III training certifications.
- 2) The Superintendent suggested alternative meeting locations should the Commission desire. The Commission choose to continue using the County Conference rooms.

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

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

The Colors were saluted.

Chairman, Joseph Kersten adjourned the meeting at 2020 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael F Wisniewski*

Michael F. Wisniewski

(Electronically Signed)

# Superintendents February 2019 Financial Report

## Financial Report Highlights for the Month of January 2019

### Veterans Assistance Expenditures

Worksheet

	Month		Year To Date	
	Financial Granted	Requests	Financial Granted	Requests
Emergency Shelter	\$ -	0	\$ -	0
Indp Living	\$ 1,501.00	4	\$ 3,178.13	8
Utilities	\$ 720.00	2	\$ 1,270.26	15
Gasoline	\$ 628.22	7	\$ 1,176.71	15
Transportation	\$ -	0	\$ -	0
Food	\$ 300.20	17	\$ 300.20	17
Total	\$ 150.00	6	\$ 225.00	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,299.42</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$ 6,150.30</b>	<b>64</b>
Total Requests Denied		0		1
Total Requests		36		65
Unique Clients		9		19

#### Utilities Granted

	Month		Year to Date	
	Financial Granted	Requests	Financial Granted	Requests
Electric	\$ 7.57	1	\$ 137.37	2
Gas Heat	\$ 148.43	2	\$ 347.92	2
Phone	\$ 40.00	1	\$ 80.00	1
Trash	\$ 184.13	2	\$ 197.63	1
Water / Sewer	\$ 248.09	1	\$ 413.79	2
<b>Total Utility</b>	<b>\$ 628.22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$ 1,176.71</b>	<b>8</b>

#### Total Expenditures

	Month	Year to Date
	\$ 38,365.92	\$ 74,674.64
Projected Annual		\$ 448,047.84
Less: Funded by Levy		\$ 400,000.00
Projected Reserve Add (Use)		<b>\$ (48,047.84)</b>

#### VA Disability and Pension Claims

	Month	Year to Date
New VA Claims	22	50
VA Paperwork Processed	236	479
VA Claims Awarded 2019		17
New Claims \$\$ Awarded 2019		\$ 324,120
VA Award Ratio to VAC Total Expense (per \$1)		\$ 4.34
4 Year Cumulative Awards 2019 Value		\$ 8,403,508

VetraSpec

Total Assistance Granted By Applicants Township		
Township	Monthly Total	YTD Total
Alden	\$ -	\$ -
Algonquin	\$ 244.08	\$ 1,162.00
Burton	\$ -	\$ -
Chemung	\$ 258.50	\$ 520.63
Coral	\$ -	\$ -
Dorr	\$ -	\$ -
Dunham	\$ -	\$ -
Grafton	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Greenwood	\$ -	\$ -
Hartland	\$ -	\$ -
Hebron	\$ 1,254.14	\$ 2,122.62
Marengo	\$ -	\$ -
McHenry	\$ -	\$ 0.00
Nunda	\$ 440.50	\$ 440.50
Richmond	\$ 502.00	\$ 1,004.00
Riley	\$ -	\$ -
Seneca	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,999.22</b>	<b>\$ 5,849.75</b>
<b>Total Townships</b>	6	7

Total Townships

#### VAC Lovell FHCC Transportation Service

VA Hospital Applications Year to Date 9

	Month	Annual
Miles	2083	2802
Passengers	186	370
Driver Cost	\$ 3,327.27	\$ 7,106.89
Dispatch-Adm	\$ 2,255.28	\$ 4,510.56
Vehicle Cost	\$ 1,039.20	\$ 1,789.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,621.75</b>	<b>\$ 13,406.65</b>
Cost per Rider	\$ 35.60	\$ 36.23
Goal Cost per Rider is <	\$ 35.00	
Bus Fund	\$ 6,763.18	

# Superintendents February 2019 Financial Report

## Year to Date

Personnel					16.67%		
Line No.	Line Item	Budgeted	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.	% Rem.	Projected
301010	Salaries	\$ 215,130.00	\$ 34,611.55	\$ 180,518.45	16.1%	83.9%	\$ 207,669.30
302010	Part Time	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
302510	Holiday Pay	\$ 11,323.00	\$ 1,244.04	\$ 10,078.96	11.0%	89.0%	\$ 7,464.24
303010	Per Diem	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,570.48	\$ 44,429.52	11.1%	88.9%	\$ 33,422.88
304010	Over Time Salaries	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
305010	Merit Pool	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
310010	Uniform All.	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
310510	Social Security	\$ 17,598.00	\$ 2,479.99	\$ 15,118.01	14.1%	85.9%	\$ 14,879.94
310610	Medicare	\$ 4,116.00	\$ 550.02	\$ 3,565.98	13.4%	86.6%	\$ 3,300.12
311010	IMRF	\$ 17,998.00	\$ 3,139.49	\$ 14,858.51	17.4%	82.6%	\$ 18,836.94
314610	Health Insurance	\$ 37,584.00	\$ 12,527.76	\$ 25,056.24	33.3%	66.7%	\$ 75,166.56
<b>Personnel</b>		<b>\$ 354,849.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,123.33</b>	<b>\$ 294,725.67</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>83.06%</b>	<b>\$ 360,739.98</b>
<b>Contractural &amp; Assistance</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
400100	Contract Service	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,550.00	5.3%	94.7%	\$ 1,200.00
400500	Dues/Memberships	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 700.00	30.0%	70.0%	\$ 1,800.00
400600	Training	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 1,955.00	2.3%	97.8%	\$ 270.00
400800	Subscriptions	\$ 250.00	\$ 174.20	\$ 75.80	69.7%	30.3%	\$ 1,045.20
402300	Professional Services	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
403034	Specific Insurance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 1,435.00	\$ 9,565.00	13.0%	87.0%	\$ 8,610.00
403050	Directors Insurance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,280.00	\$ 1,220.00	77.8%	22.2%	\$ 25,680.00
404915	PreEmp Physical	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
405500	Contract Printing	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
406000	Legal Note/Adv.	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
409600	Telecommunications	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 80.40	\$ 1,169.60	6.4%	93.6%	\$ 482.40
420000	Veterans Assistance	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 6,174.95	\$ 173,825.05	3.4%	96.6%	\$ 37,049.70
420010	Vets Asst - Emergency	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
420020	Vets Asst - Shelter	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 3,178.13	\$ 98,821.87	3.1%	96.9%	\$ 19,068.78
420025	Vets Asst - Indp Living	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 1,270.26	\$ 12,429.74	9.3%	90.7%	\$ 7,621.56
420030	Vets Asst - Electric	\$ 14,200.00	\$ 137.37	\$ 14,062.63	1.0%	99.0%	\$ 824.22
420031	Vets Asst - Heat	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 347.92	\$ 8,852.08	3.8%	96.2%	\$ 2,087.52
420032	Vets Asst - Telephone	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 2,120.00	3.6%	96.4%	\$ 480.00
420033	Vets Asst - Trash	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 197.28	\$ 1,052.72	15.8%	84.2%	\$ 1,183.68
420034	Vets Asst - Water/Sewer	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 413.79	\$ 7,386.21	5.3%	94.7%	\$ 2,482.74
420040	Vets Asst - Gasoline	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
420041	Vets Asst - Transportation	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 300.20	\$ 3,899.80	7.1%	92.9%	\$ 1,801.20
420045	Vets Asst - Food	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 7,200.00	3.4%	96.6%	\$ 1,500.00
424800	Medical Service	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
430600	Vehicle Maint	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 654.90	\$ 6,845.10	8.7%	91.3%	\$ 3,929.40
432100	Software Support	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
437000	Legal Services	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
<b>Contractural</b>		<b>\$ 221,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,344.45</b>	<b>\$ 208,605.55</b>	<b>6.01%</b>	<b>93.99%</b>	<b>\$ 80,066.70</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
501000	Office Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 172.32	\$ 1,027.68	14.4%	85.6%	\$ 1,033.92
501010	Promotional Items	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
504000	Mileage	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 78.18	\$ 2,421.82	3.1%	96.9%	\$ 469.08
505000	Meeting Expense	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 222.06	\$ 8,277.94	2.6%	97.4%	\$ 1,332.36
511400	Office Equipment	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
512000	Computer Software	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
516000	Fuel, Oil, Grease	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 734.30	\$ 4,265.70	14.7%	85.3%	\$ 4,405.80
521000	Publications	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
525100	Promotional Events	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	0%	100%	\$ -
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>\$ 21,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,206.86</b>	<b>\$ 20,093.14</b>	<b>5.67%</b>	<b>94.33%</b>	<b>\$ 7,241.16</b>
<b>Other</b>		<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Exp.</b>	<b>% Rem.</b>	
602000	Vehicle	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
681000	Fund Bal. Enhancement	\$ 810.00	\$ -	\$ 810.00	0.0%	100.0%	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 598,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,674.64</b>	<b>\$ 524,234.36</b>	<b>12.47%</b>	<b>87.53%</b>	<b>\$ 448,047.84</b>

### January 2019 Reconciliation

Assistance Worksheet				\$ 3,299.42
Less				
Volunteer / Taxi Transportation			\$ (300.20)	
			\$ -	\$ (300.20)
January 4200 VetraSpec				\$ 2,999.22
	Awaiting Payment at Month End		K8473-20	\$ 440.50
			S3502-20	\$ 502.00
			L4812-25	\$ 360.00
				\$ 1,302.50