

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

Minutes of the General Meeting

January 20, 2010

Chairman Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1943 the meeting took place at the Woodstock VFW, 240 N. Throop St Woodstock IL.

Chairman Kersten led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Roger Lasko presented the Invocation

Mike 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	Open	Treasurer	Absent
Judge Advocate	Ray Rigsby	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Ed Dvorak	Parliamentarian*	Ray Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	Open
IACVAC Alternate*	Open	Secretary *	Mike Wisniewski

Posts Represented:

American Legion	#119 Fox River Grove Del <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	#491 McHenry Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#606 Hebron Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#673 Huntley Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#1231 Lake In the Hills Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	
	AMVETS	#245 Cary 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 type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guests		

Officers Remarks –

Routine Reports:

The November Minutes – A copy of the November Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the November minutes was made by Ray Rigsby and seconded by Jim Koch. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

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

Public Participation – None

Correspondence – The Secretary read 3 letters, each thanking VAC Office Staff for the assistance the office gave them with VA Claims.

Ken Kraft and Walter Eichman were named Delegate and Alternate respectively for American Legion Post #606.

Memorial donations for Capt. David Cozad were sent to the VAC for use in the Bus Fund (\$150.00).

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – The Executive Board met in December to discuss a number of issues including; attendance at the VAC Meetings, and the change on how the VAC office provides food assistance, and filing open exec board positions.

By-Laws Committee – Ray Rigsby reported that committee members were present at the County Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting and the County Board Meeting. The VAC By-Laws were accepted by the McHenry County Board and sent to the County Clerk for recording.

Corporate Report – VAC Inc. met prior to the regular VAC meeting.

Public Relations Committee – Nothing to report.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – Mike Iwanicki was present at the IACVAC Meeting in Bloomington. They went over a number of legislative issues, re-elected Mike Iwanicki as Vice President, and asked Mike to head a committee to work on a standardized set of Veterans Assistance Guidelines.

Superintendents Report – The Superintendent discussed the 2009 Annual Report and provided some of the highlights including the amount of successful claims prosecution, and the financial assistance granted. The office finished the year about \$24K to the good.

Joe Kersten discussed the results of the Transportation Survey. 90% of the responses were positive. What few minor problems that were presented Joe called the veterans to try to address the problem. Most were easily resolved, a couple would not return Chairman Kirsten's call. Faith in Action provides volunteers to help some of our veterans get to the Pick Up Points. FIA changed their age requirements for veterans where they can be 58 years old to receive survice instead of 62.

The office is now using Aldi and Wisteds gift cards for food assistance. Since the cards are pre-paid it appears that there is no activity on food assistance for long periods of time until the office supply needs to be replenished. Going to gift cards is easier for the vendor, the veteran, and the office staff.

A new line item was added to the VAC Budget to account for going to expo's and promotional events. The new number for this is 5251.

Chairman Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

Douglas Robinson is still in jail and will be prosecuted for fraud by state and federal. A warrant is out for his wife who is still at large.

Chairman Kersten opened the floor to New Business

Change in Personnel in VAC Office - Earl Videan has left the VAC for another position. Jane Dorfner was offered and accepted the position of Veterans Service Officer Trainee. Jim Koch was offered and accepted the position of Admin Specialist.

Call for Volunteers Drivers - Chairman Kersten made a call for volunteer drivers. Drivers need to have more than the state minimum coverage. Volunteers will be paid 30 cents per mile for their help. Interested persons can call the office at 815-334-4229. We are looking for at least 12 volunteers.

Community Involvement with VAC - Chairman Kersten called for everyone to get the word out about the participating in the VAC meetings.

The Service Academies - Local posts should go to their local high schools to encourage students to apply for entry into the Service Academies. Sr. Vice Chairman Ted Anderson has been on the committee for Representative Bean.

Open Positions - The Chairman is looking for interested persons to fill open positions on the Exec Board. Jim Koch was nominated for Sergeant-at-Arms and was unanimously voted in. Positions still open are; Jr. Vice Chairman, and Delegate/Alternate to the IACVAC.

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

Mike Ruffner of IDES is still looking to put veterans in open job positions. If you are aware of someone hiring please contact Mike at 815-338-7100

The Heart of Marine Valor Ball will be held at the Stonegate Conference & Banquet Center. For details go to www.heartofamarine.org.

There is a scam going around suggesting that you did not report for jury duty and you have to give them personal information. Don't fall for it, the jury commission will send information in writing only.

Chairman Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Kersten at 2030.

Respectfully Submitted
Mike Wisniewski