

# Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County

## Minutes of the General Meeting

### April 21, 2011

**Chairman Joe Kersten** called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1910 the meeting took place at the County Government Center, 667 Ware Rd Woodstock IL.

**Chairman Joe Kersten** led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chaplain, Roger Lasko** presented the Invocation

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

**Officer's present:** (\*Appointed)

<b>Chairman</b>	Joe Kersten	<b>Sr. Vice Chairman</b>	Ted Anderson
<b>Jr. Vice Chairman</b>		<b>VAC Inc Treasurer</b>	Gerald Raske
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	Ray Rigsby	<b>Sergeant At Arms</b>	Jim Koch
<b>McHenry County Board Rep.</b>	Edward Dvorak	<b>Parliamentarian*</b>	Ray Rigsby
<b>Chaplain*</b>	Roger Lasko	<b>IACVAC Delegate*</b>	Robert Howe Jr.
<b>IACVAC Alternate*</b>	Ray Rigsby	<b>Secretary *</b>	Michael Wisniewski

**Posts Represented:**

<b>American Legion</b>	<b>#119 Fox River Grove</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#171 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>#276 Cary</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#412 Woodstock</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#482 Union</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#491 McHenry</b> Del <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<b>#1231 Lake In the Hills</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>#245 Cary</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Veterans Of Foreign Wars</b>	<b>#4600 McHenry</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>#5040 Woodstock</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>#8249 Harvard</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>#11496 Crystal Lake</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Marine Corps League</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polish Legion</b> Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VietNow</b> Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guests</b>	Frank Delatorre as the IDVA Veterans Educational Specialist; William Richards of VFW Post #4600; Three visitors from New Horizons-Otha Evans; Thomas Wright; and Noel Jackson.	

**Officers Remarks** – No officer's remarks.

**Routine Reports:**

**The March Minutes** – A copy of the March Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Robert Howe and seconded by Ed Dvorak. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

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

A motion to accept the Superintendent's report was made by Dwayne Raney and seconded by Tom Aellig. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

**Public Participation** – IDVA Veterans Educational Specialist, Frank Delatorre gave a presentation on the college apprentice programs available and how prospective veteran students can get educational funds while in the classroom and while working as an apprentice. The veteran can use the various GI Bills from the VA and the state veteran education grants. Many businesses and trades that offer these apprentice programs can get credit and money from the government once the apprentice programs are certified. Frank Delatorre has information on approved apprentice training programs and how to tap into educational benefits and he can be contacted at 1(312)814-2460 or at 1(217)782-7839 or visit the United States Department Of Veterans Affairs website. His office phone is 1(312)814-7258.

**Correspondence** – No correspondence.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Board Meeting* – Nothing to report.

*By-Laws Committee* – Nothing to report.

*Corporate Report* – Nothing to report.

*Public Relations Committee* – Nothing to report.

*Report of IACVAC Delegate* – Nothing to report.

*Superintendents Report* – The transportation report has trip information listed by round trip and will be changed to show trip information using one way trip data.

The VAC will be involved in the following outreach programs:

A Senior Fair is hosted by the Family Services & Community Mental Health Center on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to Noon at 4100 Veterans Parkway, McHenry.

The Rotary Club is hosting a presentation on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 am and the topic was on services offered by the VAC.

The unemployment benefits were extended to June 5th by the US Congress while legislation authorizing unemployment benefits to be extended to the end of the year is being worked on.

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

1) A delegation consisting of VAC Superintendent, Mike Iwanicki and the IACVAC Delegate, Robert Howe and IACVAC Alternate Delegate, Ray Rigsby will be attending the IACVAC/IACO Meeting in Springfield. The meetings will run from May 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 5<sup>th</sup>.

2) The Illinois Senate Republicans is hosting a Veterans Legislative Day at the Howlett Building Auditorium in Springfield, Illinois on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until 4 pm. See attached form for more information and to register to attend the event.

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

1) VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki worked on a VWIP Grant recently. From this Mike Iwanicki was able to extract labor statistics on McHenry County area unemployed veterans who are in the IDES system to upgrade their job skills and find work. The IDES system has 477 McHenryCounty veterans who are in this category. McHenry County unemployment levels are still above 10% and do not look to improve soon and many unemployed veterans may have to relocate to where the jobs are.

2) A proclamation has been issued by the County Board of McHenry County, Illinois as follows: That May 1<sup>st</sup> shall be the SILVER STAR BANNER DAY to honor the wounded and ill Soldiers of the County of McHenry. This proclamation also honors the Silver Star Families of America and their commitment to the our wounded Armed Forces members.

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

1) IDES Veterans Representative, Mike Ruffner ran some numbers on his case file of 488 unemployed veterans in McHenry County in his pool of 1188 unemployed veterans in several counties and came across a problem. The problem is that a lot of military personnel are being released from active service and are returning to civilian life and dropping off the radar instead of being assisted by the social networks, veteran assistance agencies and IDES to get employment and get help in returning to a non-military lifestyle. IDES also shows that 75% of veterans seeking IDES services are 40 years old or older.

2) The Transitional Living System is hosting a Veterans Stand-Down at Elgin Community College on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 4:30 pm. This event is a good source of information for veterans to obtain help in getting employment services, VA health care advice, and access to other veterans services.

3) VAC Superintendant, Mike Iwanicki is seeking information on upcoming post events to post on the VAC website calendar. Please do not send in events of a political nature i/e Tea Partry Antitax Rallys.

**Chaplain, Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.**

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2024.

*Michael Wisniewski*

Respectfully Submitted  
Mike Wisniewski