

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission

Minutes of the General Meeting

February 17, 2010

Chairman Joe Kersten called the meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission to order at 1935 the meeting took place at the Woodstock VFW, 240 N. Throop St Woodstock IL.

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

Chaplain Roger Lasko presented the Invocation

Secretary Mike Wisniewski called the roll. A quorum of officers and posts were present.

Officer's present: (*Appointed)

Chairman	Joe Kersten	Sr. Vice Chairman	Ted Andersen
Jr. Vice Chairman	Open	VAC Inc Treasurer	Gerald Raske
Judge Advocate	Ray Rigsby	Sergeant At Arms	Jim Koch
McHenry County Board Rep.	Ed Dvorak	Parliamentarian*	Ray Rigsby
Chaplain*	Roger Lasko	IACVAC Delegate*	Bob Howe Jr.
IACVAC Alternate*	Ray Rigsby	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 checked="" 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"/>	#482 Union Del <input type="checkbox"/> Alt <input type="checkbox"/>
	#491 McHenry Del <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guests	Cmdr. Mike Lackey of VFW #5040, Randy Granath of AL #119, Raleigh Showens of Amvets #269.	

Officers Remarks – Chairman Joe Kersten asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Erv Stavatag

Routine Reports:

The January Minutes – A copy of the January Minutes was made available to all Delegates and Alternates. A motion to accept the January minutes was made by Don Stage and seconded by Ken Kraft. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

VAC Financial Report – A copy of the January 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 Wally Eichman. A unanimous vote passed the motion.

Public Participation – The following guests were introduced: 1) Raleigh Showens of AMVETS #269, he declined public participation. 2) Andy Granath of AL #119, he is just visiting the meeting however he will request to be nominated as a post delegate. 3) Cmdr. Mike Lackey of VFW #5040, he remarked that his post is experiencing financial difficulties and asked for support through hall rentals and contributions to the posts "spirit fund" to pay for post programs and expenses.

Correspondence – 1) The VAC Superintendent read a thank-you letter. The letter was from a VietNam era veteran who was awarded 100% service connected disability with an "S" award from the VA with the assistance from the VAC staff, who filed the disability claim in the veterans behalf. A "bravo Zulu" to Cheryl Kirsch for her "outreach work" in behalf of this veteran

Committee Reports:

Executive Board Meeting – Nothing to report.

By-Laws Committee – Ray Rigsby gave the VAC Bylaws Committee report during the VAC Inc meeting

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

Public Relations Committee – Nothing to report.

Report of IACVAC Delegate – Two volunteers stepped up to represent the VAC as IACVAC Representatives and they are: IACVAC Delegate--Robert Howe Jr. and IACVAC Alternate--Ray Rigsby. The next IACVAC meeting will be in May.

Superintendents Report – VAC Superintendent, Mike Iwanicki covered the following items:

- 1) VAC transportation costs and issues during January.
- 2) A comparison study on how effective use of VAC staff salary cost versus clients being awarded VA benefits over the last couple of years of office operation came out to \$17.65 being awarded to clients for every dollar spent on VAC salaries.
- 3) The VAC ran a restorative dental program for three years and treated 26 clients at an average cost of \$3000.00 per veteran. The VAC restorative dental program has ended and VAC clients are now referred to the county housing authority for dental care.
- 4) The VAC Extended Hours Program has cost the county budget less than \$20,000.00 per year yet this outreach program has benefitted homebound veterans and younger veterans who are unable to get off work during the week in filing VA claims and getting other benefits.
- 5) The VAC Superintendent will be out of the VAC office on February 25th and 26th while assisting another VAC office.
- 6) The VAC Superintendent will be taking a vacation day on March 5th.

6) Douglas Robinson is scheduled to go on trial on March 8th through March 10th and the VAC Superintendant may be subpoenaed to testify on the Douglas Robinson case during the trial period

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to Old Business

1) The McHenry County Government was awarded a transportation grant and the grant will greatly assist the county and the Pace Transportation Company in setting up a Pace Paratransit Pilot Program. This program is an enhanced Pace Dial A Ride program that will allow riders to travel between Woodstock, Mchenry, and Crystal Lake. The program began on February 13th and program details are in the attached data sheet.

2) The VAC is recruiting volunteer drivers for to pick up VAC bus riders from the western and northern reaches of Mchenry County and deliver the VAC bus riders to the designated VAC pickup points. The VAC is looking to set up a pool of 12 volunteer drivers and already have 5 volunteer drivers. Contact the VAC office on volunteer driver requirements and benefits.

3) The VAC office workload is presently too heavy for the VAC to attend the upcoming NASA Veterans Stand Down.

Chairman Joe Kersten opened the floor to New Business

There was no new business.

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

1) A "Surviving The Recession" seminar is being hosted by the St. Mary's Church of Huntley on March 16th.

2) The VAC will be attending the "Great Outdoor Expo" at the Woodstock High School North Campus on March 27th and March 28th. The VAC can use volunteers to help man their booth-contact the VAC office for information. The expo opens to the public from 9 AM to 4 PM both days and the admission is \$5.00.

3) Randy Granath of AL #119 is seeking to set up a local chapter of the Honor Flight Program so to expedite the ability of local veterans to access the Honor Flight Program. He is asking to have local posts designate a delegate to form a committee to set up the local Honor Flight program and run it. Contact Randy Granath at 1(847)875-0159 for more information.

4) The McHenry Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Business Expo on February 20th from 10 AM to 4 PM. at the Mchenry High School West Campus. Admission is free.

5) The VAC is asking for better post participation at the VAC general meetings. Letters requesting this action are being sent to all post commanders. The VAC still has vacancies in the Junior Vice Commander and a board of appeals positions and posts need to participate in the selections.

6) The PLAV #188 is hosting a Casimir Polaski Ceremony at the Veterans Park in McHenry on March 7th at 1 PM followed by a luncheon at the post.

7) The VFW #5040 is hosting a Turkey Fry on February 23rd from 5 PM to 7PM and the cost is \$6.00 per person.

8) The delegates asked if there is a better way to informing local newly discharged veterans about local veterans groups and VAC's. The state government already sends out "welcome home" letters with assorted brochures.

9) The VAC general meeting minutes and the VAC Inc meeting minutes for the last year or so are now available on the VAC website and the VAC superintendant is looking for feedback on how the website works. <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/vac/Pages/index.aspx> Please report website glitches to the VAC office.

Chaplain Roger Lasko presented the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Joe Kersten at 2036.

Respectfully Submitted
Mike Wisniewski

Print Date: 2/16/2010

**Assistance Summary
1/1/2010 Thru 1/31/2010**

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**Total Requested: \$29119.45
Total Assisted: \$29119.45**

Financial Aid Type	Total Entries	Requested	Assisted
Dental	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eyeglasses	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
Food - 27 vouchers	54	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gasoline	1	\$30.09	\$30.09
Housing Mortgage	6	\$3165.47	\$3165.47
Housing Rent	9	\$3937.67	\$3937.67
Independent Living	13	\$1867.84	\$1867.84
Medical	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	1	\$253.32	\$253.32
Reimbursement of Financial Assistance	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transportation Bus Ticket	1	\$17.50	\$17.50
Transportation Cab	9	\$406.00	\$406.00
Transportation Train	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Electric	10	\$1439.32	\$1439.32
Utilities Gas	6	\$1002.07	\$1002.07
Utilities Propane or Fuel Oil	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Sewer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities Telephone	1	\$39.99	\$39.99
Utilities Trash	2	\$176.43	\$176.43
Utilities Water	1	\$53.70	\$53.70
VAC Bus Service	15	\$4827.88	\$4827.88
VAC Office	19	\$11602.17	\$11602.17

Requestor: MAIWANIC
 Performance Accounting

County of McHenry
 Expenditure Financial Analysis Inquiry
 Fiscal Period: Month 02 2010 Appn Yr: 2010
 Act/Bal: Year Activity

Style: Tabular

Dept: 22

Org:

Summarize by: OCA 220005 Veterans Assistance Commission Secondary Summarize by: (None)

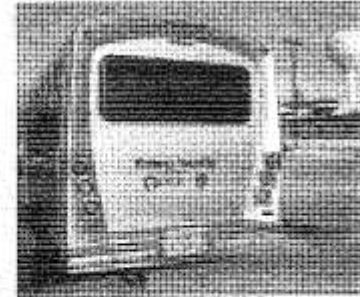
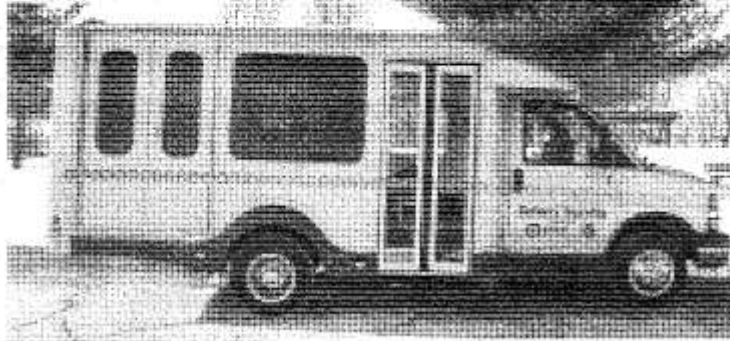
Primary Detail by: Object Lvl 3 Secondary Detail by: (None)

Object Lvl 3	Object Lvl 3 Title	Appn Budget	Enc/Preenc	Expend	Balance	% of Budget
3010	Regular Salaries	\$111,680.00	\$0.00	\$16,912.48	\$94,767.52	15.14%
3020	Part Time Salaries	\$18,514.00	\$0.00	\$2,892.84	\$15,621.16	15.63%
3030	Per Diems	\$56,996.00	\$0.00	\$7,349.57	\$49,646.43	12.89%
3050	Merit Pool	\$2,604.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,604.00	0.00%
3100	Uniform Allowance	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	0.00%
3105	Social Security/Co. Share	\$14,520.00	\$0.00	\$2,044.22	\$12,475.78	14.08%
3110	Ill. Municipal Retirement F	\$11,577.00	\$0.00	\$1,544.35	\$10,032.65	13.34%
3146	HCP Premium	\$23,116.00	\$0.00	\$1,814.54	\$21,301.46	7.85%
4001	Contractual Services	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$944.32	(\$944.32)	139.35%
4005	Association Dues/Membe	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%
4006	Training	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	0.00%
4008	Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$160.68	\$39.32	80.34%
4055	Contractual Printing	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	0.00%
4060	Legal Notices & Advertise	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$777.49	\$1,022.51	43.19%
4096	Telecommunications	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$218.89	\$3,781.11	5.47%
4200	Veterans Assistance	\$293,022.00	\$0.00	\$25,952.49	\$267,069.51	8.86%
4246	Medical Services	\$32,593.90	\$17,593.90	\$365.00	\$14,635.00	55.10%
4306	Repair & Maint - Vehicles	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$27.68	\$7,472.32	0.37%
4321	Computer Program Maint	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	0.00%
5010	Office Supplies	\$1,052.50	\$52.50	\$234.19	\$765.81	27.24%
5020	Office Equipment Less Th	\$2,153.95	\$1,153.95	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	53.57%
5040	Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
5050	Meeting Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$114.67	\$5,885.33	1.91%
5115	Computer Components Ur	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
5125	Computer software Unde	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
5160	Fuel, Oil, and Grease	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$760.42	\$10,939.58	6.50%
5210	Publications	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$47.00	\$203.00	18.80%
5251	Promotional Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	(\$150.00)	0.00%
		\$607,679.35	\$21,200.35	\$62,310.83	\$524,168.17	13.74%

McHenry Township's Transportation Program

McHenry Township is happy to announce a program that gives us the opportunity to lease rolling stock from Pace Suburban Bus.

A typical wheelchair accessible 15 passenger bus costs from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Because of the miles put on these vehicles, their useful life is approximately 5 years. We are now able to lease vehicles from Pace for a \$1000 deposit and \$100 per month. The township is responsible for the fuel, maintenance, driver and insurance.



This program is one way for Pace to provide partnership opportunities in communities not served by regular Pace Dial-A-Ride service. In McHenry Township, only the city of McHenry offers a Pace Dial-A-Ride program.

This vehicle lease program is offered to governments and non-for-profit organizations.

PACE DIAL-A-RIDE TRIPS MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY BETWEEN CRYSTAL LAKE, MCHENRY, AND WOODSTOCK

In February, the long awaited and much anticipated Pace Paratransit Pilot Program went into operation. This program provides paratransit opportunities to travel from community to community and is a partnership of Pace Suburban Bus, McHenry County, the cities of McHenry, Woodstock and Crystal Lake, McHenry and Dorr townships and Pioneer Center for Human Services.

This pilot project was developed as an implementation step of the McHenry County Transit Plan. Funding for this program comes from the additional RTA tax imposed last year and the McHenry County Senior Services Grant.

How does this program affect the McHenry Township Senior Express?

The township's senior transportation program will continue for inter-township trips however to schedule, seniors will no longer call the township. To schedule Senior Express call 800-451-4599.

Who can access this program? All residents of McHenry Township who are seniors or disabled may utilize Pace's expanded service.

How do I sign up for this program? To participate in this program, all riders MUST register. You register online at www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/dot/Pages/PaceService.aspx If you require assistance with the form please contact the McHenry County Division of Transportation at 815-334-4985. Or call the township at 815-385-5605 to get assistance with registration.

Cost? All one-way trips on the new service are \$3.00. There are no discounted or multi-ride fares with this program. (McHenry Township Senior Express will remain at \$1 per ride.)

What are the hours of service? The Expanded Pace Service will be Mondays through Fridays from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Schedule rides at least one day in advance.

To reserve a ride: Registered riders for the new expanded Pace Program and McHenry Township Senior Express riders, call 800-451-4599 (TTY) 888-454-4724, Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to schedule a ride.

