

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

555 Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103 – 815-516-2850 – VAC@wincoil.us

Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: 13 January 2021

I. OPENING – 1730 Hours

- A. Meeting held via Zoom Meetings (internet-based meeting platform).
- B. Roll Call of Commission Officers, Certified Organizations Delegates & Alternates
Officers 3 Delegates 7 Alternates 11 Cert. Org. 9 Quorum YES
- C. Recognition of Guests and or Visitors Guests 2 Visitors 0
Guests: Steve Thomas, Superintendent and Julie Weis, Secretary
- D. Accept the AGENDA: Any additions or changes to be made?
NOTE: Additions can be made. NO MOTIONS or VOTES TAKEN until the following meeting. First Vote taken by Roll Call (R/C). Subsequent votes will be by Show of Hands (S/H) with R/C votes as needed.

**Motion presented by reading agenda. 2nd Nancy Clark*

R/C vote: Y 8 N 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous

- E. Reading and Disposition of October's minutes.

**Motion presented by reading of minutes. 2nd Jim Nelson*

**S/H vote: Y 8 N 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous*

- F. Reading and Disposition of December's minutes.

**Motion presented by reading of minutes. 2nd Nancy Clark*

**S/H vote: Y 8 N 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous*

II. REPORTS

A. VAC-Administration Reports

1. President

- a. 2021 Commission Delegate and Alternate Forms were sent out to all current commissioners via email and mailed to each organization.
- b. Please get the forms back to the VAC office before the end of February 2021.

2. Administrative Coordinator

- a. 01/14 Advisory meeting – Discuss any issues from last Commission meeting and work on Handbook for Services.
- b. 01/21 Advisory meeting – Work on Handbook.
- c. 01/28 Advisory meeting – Finance and Handbook.
- d. 02/04 Advisory meeting – Month end wrap up and Agenda Preparation.

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- e. Please attend any meetings you can.
- f. We are currently working on the assistance portion of the handbook.

3. Services Coordinator

- a. Working on Handbook during Advisory Committee meetings.
- b. We are encouraging everyone to attend
- c. No Personal Issues – No report

4. Appeals Committee – No Appeals – No Report

****Motion presented by VAC-A reports as given. 2nd Theresa Cris-Amos***

****S/H vote: Y 8 N 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

5. Finance Coordinator

- a. See the meeting packet for Financial Reports through the end of December 2020.
- b. End of month financial statements for October and November were sent out in their own respective month's meeting packet.
- c. Steve and Debi are revamping the profit and loss statement so that it mimics the budget better and will act as a template for next year's budgeting process.

****Motion presented by finance report as given. 2nd Theresa Cris-Amos***

****R/C vote: Y 8 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

B. VAC-Operations – See Meeting Packet

1. Superintendent

- a. New Hire – Kathy Doty at the front desk. She is not a veteran but her
- b. An email was sent to our lawyer regarding the IGA

2. Client Assistance – 73 clients

3. Veterans Service Officers – 20 contacts

4. Female veterans served – 21

5. Total 114 – There was a question how total was reached.

6. The office staff will look for the old form that was used in the past since it is less confusing. It was created by a former employee.

- a. Outreach - John, our driver, has been going out and picking up bills and dropping off Dollar Tree cards.

7. Transportation

- a. The numbers for transportation are slowing rising.
- b. Only 2 riders can go to Madison at one time.

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- c. The front license plate of the van was stolen.

****Celestine Anderson, DAV delegate, joined the meeting at 1805 hours.
Numbers reported reflect her presence at the meeting.***

- d. The Van has been dead lined by Steve since an advanced recall notice came out and John Clark our driver has had those problems addressed in the recall. We will try to get it in and serviced before the recall comes out.
- e. The Prius had all the tail lights broken out and Veterans Assistance Commission on the rear end was all scratched up the week before.
- f. The repair cost for the Prius was just over our \$1000.00 insurance deductible. We paid for it out of the vehicle maintenance line from our budget. It was not worth reporting to the insurance company for approximately \$120.00 after the deductible.
- g. We will get police reports for both instances.
- h. KiKi and Julie completed VSO school. They are currently still in training. Most interactions with clients are done by phone and curbside service.

****Motion presented by VAC-A reports as given. 2nd Nancy Clark
*S/H vote: Y 9 N 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

III. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. 8 VMO delegate forms have been turned in. Am Leg #1207, AmVets, DAV, Montford Point Marines, SheVets, USSI, VFW #342, VFW #5149.
- B. Forms can be mailed back, dropped off at office, scanned and emailed back or faxed to us at 815-516-2851.
- C. Need 18 units to validate. We need 50% plus one of the Chartered VMO's of Winnebago County to be a part of the commission or else we will cease to exist.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No Update on new VTS van.
- B. We just found out the engineer in charge of the fleet has been working 2nd shift.
- C. We got his email address and sent him a message. Hopefully he responds tomorrow.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. UIC College of Medicine Rockford Campus Project/Grant
 - 1. A professor from there contacted Theresa about wanting to find out the needs of Veteran's family members.
 - 2. They have grant money available.

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B. Veteran Family Member Survey

1. We do not want to give them the names and addresses of our veterans due to privacy issues.
2. The WCVA Meal program is planning to distribute the surveys and pick them up.
3. The VAC maybe able to help distribute and pick-up surveys to our clients via our driver when he picks up bills and delivers Dollar Tree cards.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. Complaints about outside contractors doing Compensation and Pension Exams.
- B. CoVid Vaccine registration for the VA Hospital and Winnebago County.
- C. Three new presumptive conditions were added to the Agent Orange list.
 1. Hypo-Thyroidism.
 2. Bladder Cancer.
 3. Parkinsonism
 4. Not adding High Blood Pressure. A study says Vietnam Veterans are 3 times more likely to suffer from it.
 5. Desert Storm (1990's) still has no presumptive conditions.
- D. Please let the VA know if you get Vaccine for CoVid through the county.
- E. The NAACP is interested in helping Veteran organizations spread the word of any upcoming events. Contact Terrell Lewis.

VII. CLOSING

- A. Next Meeting is on **February 10, 2021 @ 1730 hours**
****Motion to Adjourn. Nancy Clark 2nd John Kline***
****Voice vote: Ayes 9 Nays 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***
- B. Meeting Adjourned at: 1840 Hours

Meeting recorded; tape filed

J. Weis, VAC-A Secretary