VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

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

MINUTES OF VAC MONTHLY MEETING

Date: 11 September 2019 @ 1730 hours

I. GUEST SPEAKER

A. Rachel Springate from OSF Hospice Care for Veterans

1. Looking for Veterans to volunteer with Honor and Pinning Ceremonies.

2. Salute hospice Veteran, Present them with an American Flag pin and branch of service pins.

3. Listen to whatever is bothering their hearts and or minds

4. Thank them for their service

5. Present them with a donated blanket

6. Part of the Local No Veteran will die Alone programs

II. OPENING

A. Salute the Flag, Pledge, Moment of Silence for POW/MIA and 911

B. Roll Call of Commission Officers, Certified Organizations Delegates & Alternates
Officers: 5 Delegates: 11 Alternates: 2 Cert. Org. 13 Quorum: Yes

C. Recognition of Guests and or Visitors Guests: 3 Visitors: 0
Names: Racheal Springate, Julie Weis, Steve Thomas

D. Accept the AGENDA: Any additions or changes to be made?
NOTE: Additions may be made. NO MOTIONS or VOTES TAKEN until next meeting. First Vote 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 of minutes. 2nd Celestine Anderson
R/C vote: Y 13 N 0 ***Result of Vote:*** UNANIMOUS

E. Reading and Disposition of 14 AUG 2019 minutes. ***Motion presented by reading.***
2nd John Guler ***R/C vote:*** Y 13 N 0 AB 0 ***Result of Vote:*** UNANIMOUS

III. REPORTS

A. VAC-Administration Reports

1. President: Dave Davis

a. Advertising on the Honey Bees Vehicles.

b. Steve Thomas said the cost is $700.00 per month for advertising on 7 vehicles. The commission gets 20 ride passes equaling $200.00. Give them to assistance clients without transportation so they can get to next appointment. There is no contract. It is on a trial bases until end of September. The commission gained one client so far from the signs.

c. The signs are approximately 81/2 by 11 inches. Might be good to make up extra signs giving commission members willing to put on their POV's.

d. Todd Burton thinks signs are unreadable all he could make out was VAC and the telephone number.

e. Program to be discontinued as of 01 October per commissioner discussion.

2. **Administrative Committee:** Nancy Clark
   a. Reminded everyone of the Advisory Committee meetings are every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm in the meeting room of the American Legion on South Alpine. Everyone is invited to attend as the meetings are open to the public. Topics discussed include Finance/Budget, New By-laws/Policies and Procedures to govern the VAC, Services, creating agenda for monthly meeting.
   b. Add our meetings to the County Website for greater visibility.
3. **Services:** No Report
4. **Personnel Committee:** Commissioner not present
   a. Jackie Hull got email from Jeff Keho saying they only had 3 members show up including himself for last meeting of the Military Officers Association, not enough for a quorum so they are unable to vote on anything.
   b. They have no list of current members. NO idea how many members are still involved. MOA has gone below the 15 active members needed which will exclude them from having delegates to vote at monthly commission meetings.
   c. Need validation by 01 March 2020 – after yearly letters are sent out.
5. **Appeals Committee:**
   a. Received a letter of complaint from a Veteran about a bill that was not paid on time**.** VAC office told them we have no control over the check being cut. The county cuts them. Steve told us his appointment was after the cut off date for that cycle for the check to be cut. The veteran was swearing and very vulgar to the staff. Dave Davis called the veteran to get him to come present his side of the story. The vet swore at him and hung up. He was so irate the staff almost had to get an order of protection against him. He is going to be notified about not being assisted by our office any longer.
   b. Ray Hughes asked about talking to the county and letting them know how problematic it has become. He mentioned they brought back having the checks cut by VAC office in the past. Dave and Nancy said that is a direction we want to pursue. Good to have that history.

      ***Motion presented by reports given*.** 2nd Dick Martin
      S/H vote: 13 Hands Raised ***Result of Vote***: UNANIMOUS - APPROVED
6. **Finance Committee**
   a. John Guler: As of August 31st we have $64,263.18 in Checking account and $97,630.02 in Savings account for a total of $161,893.20. We are still owed our 4th quarter draw of approximately $102,000.
   b. Todd Burton went to the County Board Meeting Thursday, 05 September. Where he was briefed on the county budget and their inability to come up

with a balanced budget on the General Fund for 2020 fiscal year. Our budget is not impacted as we are funded by a tax levy. We will end the year with $134K in reserve money that is unspent and will carry over to next year. Our budget is $540K for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year. Nancy asked about having $210K/$220K in reserve. Todd says that has gone down and didn't know why. Our budget request from the county was $635K. The county is to give us $674K which is $38,950 higher than we asked for. Some of that money will roll into the higher reserve required for next year (163K) which leaves us with an additional $18K to spend. These numbers are from current draft of the county budget. Nancy asked about the $70K used for purchasing the VAC vehicles and it was agreed it must of came from the excess reserve money. We are going to ask that the VAC has control of dispensing the VAC assistance money after the Auditor comes in once the final budget is approved. They have not given us a decision when the audit will happen.

***Motion presented by reports*.** 2nd Celestine Anderson
R/C vote: Y 13 N 0 AB 0 ***Result of Vote***: UNANIMOUS - APPROVED

B. VAC-Operations

1. **Superintendent Report with Handouts.**
   - **a.** See handouts
   - **b.** Cutting costs by having our Letterhead with logo going on forms put into VETRO spec (no longer need to use our printed letterhead paper.)
   - **c.** Gary is now the Assistant Superintendent and will be handling more of the day to day Operations so Steve can do more with Community Outreach programs.
   - **d.** We are going to experiment with having someone in the office until 5:00pm starting 01 October.
2. **Client Assistance**
   - **a.** Seeing about 135 clients a month for VSO and Financial Assistance.
   - **b.** The numbers are rising because we are getting more referrals from the clinic and the brochures we made.
3. **Veterans Service Officers**
   - **a.** We are very close to having VSO's out at the clinic 2 days a week (Mon. and Wed.)
   - **b.** Been working on it for 8 months
   - **c.** On last document to get services out there
4. **Outreach**
   - **a.** IDES and TLS coming every Friday from 9:00am to 11:00am helping veterans looking for employment.

b. Starting Friday 13th of September we are looking to get employers out here as well to take applications and do interviews.

5. Transportation

a. See log book hand outs
b. We are getting Municipal Plates for the Sienna and the Prius ($8.00 vs. $130.00 for plates)
c. John Guler brought up a discrepancy on Log Sheet
d. Driver name needs to be on the vehicle logs
e. Julie Weis has a Motor Vehicle Trip Log that they use for the Veterans Transportation Services of Winnebago County Van.
f. We will implement the VTSWC form as of 01 October in both VAC Vehicles.

Motion presented by reports. 2nd Darrell Gilgan
S/H vote: 13 Hands Raised ***Result of Vote***: UNANIMOUS - APPROVED

C. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Jeff Keho - See Personnel section

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Julie Weis, VTSWC Coordinator, is interested in the appointed VAC Secretary position
2. We gave her copy of Job description and is coming in tomorrow for Advisory Committee meeting

E. ELECTIONS – Meeting Suspended at 1836 hours for elections

1. Elections John Kline is Not Present so Ray Hughes will conduct elections
2. All Positions good for 2 years
a. President Dave Davis: Accepted - No Other Nominees
b. Vice President Nancy Clark Accepted - No Other Nominees
c. Treasurer Todd Burton Accepted - No Other Nominees
d. Secretary Jackie Hull Accepted - No Other Nominees
e. Sergeant of Arms John Guler Accepted - No Other Nominees

Motion to Vote in Officers by Acclamation Darrell Gilgan 2nd John Scott
S/H vote: 13 Hands Raised ***Result of Vote***: UNANIMOUS – APPROVED

S/H Vote to Elect these officers into those positions: 13 Hands Raised
Result of Vote: UNANIMOUS – APPROVED

3. Elections Concluded Meeting back in session: 1842 hours

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update regarding Veterans Transportation Service of Winnebago County, VTSWC, will be transferred to VAC
2. Julie Weis has taken over for John Kline and she will remain as the coordinator

3. The VTSWC has been funded by WCVA through September 30, 2020
4. The Office for the WCVTS will remain at Veterans Memorial Hall
5. John Kline got phone transferred to a county phone which cut costs from approximately $180.00/month to $7.00/month
6. DAV Van Grant as another Van to run 2 shifts to Madison
7. No Longer need to ask VMO's for money to run the Van by transferring it to the VAC
8. More options for transporting Vets with VTSWC moving to VAC control
9. Advisory Committee meetings are open to anyone and a list of meetings will be posted on the front window of the VAC along with the monthly meetings.
10. Mission Act allows us to see specialty clinics locally since we are more than 60 minutes away from Madison VA Hospital

G. GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. Vet with special needs child was finally able to get assistance with help of our office. The ARC should also be able to help out too.
2. Support Sergeant P's Lapgans by donating yarn or money to buy yarn
3. POW/MIA recognition 3rd Friday in September at Loves Park City Hall
4. Operation Red Sleigh
5. Friday Sept 27 DAV National Service Officers will be at Keagal's Harley Davidson
6. Shelter Care Ministries Harvest Fest 10 October
7. Veterans Day Dinner at Golden Corral 11 November
8. Veteran's Dinner 02 November at Giovanni's with Angel Pilato guest speaker
9. Penny Marshall and daughter at Barr's Stadium 11:30 this Saturday 14 September with as many Female Veterans as possible to be honored
10. Loves Park VFW Steak Fry this Saturday 14 September
11. Renaming Ceremony Ogilvie American on South Main to Homer Hempstead 11:00 am 14 September

H. CLOSING

1. Next Meeting OCTOBER 14, 2019 @ 1730 hours

Motion to Adjourn* by** Dick Martin 2nd Jean Henning ***Voice Vote: 13 Ayes ***Result:*** PASSED

2. Stand and Salute Flag
3. Meeting Adjourned at: 1906 hours

Typed by J. Weis for J. Hull / Secretary for the VAC **Meeting Recorded and Filed**