

MINUTES OF THE

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

2/18/15

(DATE)

Forrestal Village

(LOCATION)

The regular meeting for the Veterans Assistance Commission was brought to order by President Norm Arnswald at 10:30 A.M. with 19 members attending

Superintendent Peck announced that a quorum was present

Colors were presented by Delegate Nickerson, Delegate Kozar offered prayer with President Norm Arnswald leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the January 2015 meeting were presented to the delegates. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Risley. A unanimous vote passed the motion. Superintendent Peck reviewed performance measurements and stated that the transportation program we have right now for veterans is working very well.

The V.A.C. monthly report for January 2015 was read, a motion to accept the VAC monthly report was made by Delegate Risley and seconded by Delegate Patterson. A unanimous vote passed the motion

Special guest announced was Scott Lizetow from Congressman Dold's office, who again passed around a sheet requesting everybody sign in and he will contact each delegate individually to see if he can assist with any problems that arise.

Mary Carmody, Midwestern Veterans Closet was also in attendance, and she stated that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the closet. They have served approximately 300 veterans since they opened up with over 3000 items, All items are free, location is 2323 Green Bay Road, North Chicago and hours of operation are 9:00-4:00 daily and Saturday 12:00-4:00, they are closed on Sundays. She also stated that the veteran drop in center which was moved from the VAC premises is also up and running and they are also using storage space across the street from their facility. Delegate Johnson question if they accept donations, and Mary stated she a doing this as a volunteer and doesn't take a salary.

Delegate Patterson stated that there is room at Lovell, and he was advised we do not currently have an office on the facilities at Lovell, bldg. 133.

Delegate Early stated that VSO's are important and the American Legion and other organizations need younger members and urged Scott (Dold's office) to apply

Delegate Villarreal again stated that the veteran's court needs more volunteers, program is going great and they have 2 veterans who will be graduating but mentioned that they requested that it not be a public graduation... Mary Carmody also mentioned that they can dress them with used clothing for their graduation if need be.

Delegate Ayres mentioned that to date, he has spoken to 37 veterans seeking employment

Superintendent Peck stated he will be doing a presentation at Abvee on 2/25/15

Superintendent Peck commended Sherry on her work with getting our veterans tax exemptions if they have not already applied. A list was supplied and she is diligently going through and checking the website if they have or have not applied.

Superintendent Peck also stated that we currently have an office in Bldg. 133, Room 1D 112 and Delegate Risley is (wo)manning the office in the am and he goes there after lunch.

The VAC will attend annual certification school. Sherry Kruse and Mike Hiley will be going to Nebraska in April and Mary Ann Kornau Bandurski and Mike Peck will attend classes in Appleton, Wi in June 2015. Both offices will be able to be kept open during April training and June training.

New business was discussed regarding the veterans closet,. Mary Carmrody stated that the front part of the office is \$1500.00/month rent, \$18,000.00 per year, and the VAC money may be able to pay part of the rent – there are three suites there and possibly breaking it up as follows: VAC takes one suite, clothing takes another and the vet center takes the third. Delegate Patterson questioned parking. Delegate Kozar mentioned that IT and communications is speaking to the facility manager regarding these items

A motion was taken up for the county to look into moving the VAC office to the Veterans Closet., Motion was given by Delegate Risley and seconded by Delegate Frangquist. Motion passes

Delegate Marciciak suggested real estate requirements and amortizations be passed. Motion was given by Delegate Marciciak and seconded by Delegate Risley

Delegate Gallagher stated that post posts, from Grayslake, American Legion and VFW will support Veterans Closet

Delegate Early stated that Wauconda Post 911, American Legion will try to increase dollars for vets programs

Delegate Johnson stated that Lake Zurich American Legion post will be holding a Texas Hold Em on Saturday

Delegate Marciciak stated there will be an American Legion 10th district meeting Friday

Delegate Nickerson stated on 2/11/15 there was a spaghetti dinner – it turned out to be a lot of fun and it seems that they are getting more membership turnouts

Delegate Kolas stated that there will be a fundraiser on 2/10/15 in big 206 for the greenhouses

Delegate Patterson stated that VFW Post 7448 Winthrop Harbor supports the veterans Closet

Delegate Shebenik stated that on 2/22/15 in Burke Hall, there will be Bingo

Delegate Mulvaey – stated that for Valentine's Day, roses in vases and cards were delivered to two (2) floors at the Lovell Facility

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday March 18, 2015 at the Forrestal Village starting at 10:30 am

Thank you

Stan Villarreal
Secretary