

MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

3/18/15
(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 20 members attending

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

Superintendent Peck announced that a quorum was present

The minutes from the February 18, 2015 meeting were presented to the delegates. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Nickerson. 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 February 18, 2015 was read. A motion to accept the VAC monthly report was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Risley. A unanimous vote passed the motion

Guest list consisted of John Michel, MOPH and Mary Carmody of Veterans Closet. Mary stated the MVC (Midwest Veterans Closet) made a presentation to Sally Potter School, all classes. The entire school is making blanks as a school community service. Also made a presentation to the Grayslake VFW. Congressman Robert Dold and Senator Mark Kirk's aid Edward Kelly toured the MVC and applauded it's work. Heart of a Marine Foundation donated over 250 Navy logo reversible jackets to the closet. A collaboration with IDES is in force. The closet is mentioned as a resource for veterans in the state handbook. On 3/17/15 MVC and Camping world distributed 55 blankets to wheelchair bound vets at the Lovell FHCC. To Date 195 Men – 30 women – total 225 veterans have been serviced with 3,499 men's items and 608 women's items for a total of 4,107 (This does not include furniture. Volunteers from MVC are volunteering at Winthrop Harbor VFW Fish Fry and Honor Flight Pancake Breakfast. Boogie Woogie was a huge success – received News-Sun coverage Thursday 3-12-15 and Friday 3-13-15 and made the front page Monday 3/16/15

Superintendent Peck stated that the State of Illinois has approved our grant application for \$10,000.00. He also stated that the Performance Measurements show that the VAC currently has 11,030 clients in their database. He also stated that the Lovell office is working out good. Delegate Risley in manning the office in the am while he stays at the Waukegan office. Sherry and Mary Ann and a volunteer are left at the office in the afternoon while he heads over the Lovell office during lunch so he is available there for afternoon, by appointment only clients, usually he has a lot of walk in's though.

Superintendent Peck stated that the VAC was continuing it's pursuit of State Accreditation for County Veterans Service Officers. Currently, the VAC is accredited by American Legion, VFW, VVA, MOPH, DAV and NACVSO

Delegate Villarreal briefly mentioned the Veterans Treatment Court. There will be no graduation set date as of today. Delegate Villarreal was nominated and appointed by Judge Phillips to head to Washington for a summit on The Veterans Treatment Court. Way to go Stan

Vice President Konz again mentioned the volunteer hours. The VAC will be offering lifetime achievement awards instead of the gold, silver and bronze pins in the past due to the cost of the pins. The Johnnie Allen award will still go to the top 5 posts.

Superintendent Peck mentioned that Delegate Ayres had knee surgery (both knees) and is due back in the office sometime next month based on his recuperation but he is doing well

Delegate Derue had nothing to mention regarding the IJF (Illinois Joining Forces)

House bill 159 was addressed as a tax exemption for veterans who are receiving compensation lower than 50%. More info to follow at a later time

Superintendent Peck reviewed his Superintendent Report and he stated that the Veterans Closet and the move to a Lovell office are working out better than expected. A motion was brought to the floor to accept the report as written by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Nickerson. A unanimous vote approved the Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Peck also stated that the Executive Board has agreed to have bricks ordered and installed at the CLC Foundation in honor of SGT Daniel Nerstrom, US Army OEF/OIF, and suicide victim and for LCPL Anthony DuBeau, USMC, OEF/OIF, killed in an aircraft accident from Yuma Arizona, his family lives in Round Lake.

Superintendent Peck also mentioned that Mary Carmody, Veterans Closet will be looking for MOU (Memo of Understanding) from the Lake County Board. Advisory met on 3/9/15 and plan on keeping Veterans Closet going.

Superintendent Peck mentioned the date for the Annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon will be held December 13, 2015 at Dover Straits. Invitation will be mailed September/October 2015. Please mark your calendars.

The VAC urges that the Illinois General Assembly pass the House Bill 159 that a tax exemption for honorably discharged veterans be changed to 30% to 50%, allowance would be \$2500.00 and 50% to 70%, allowance would be \$5,000.00 and 70% or above be exempt from property taxes

President Arnswald suggested that a motion be brought to the floor to have the bill passed. A motion was passed by Delegate Risley and seconded by Delegate Franquist. A unanimous vote passed the motion

Delegate John DeRue stated that he met with Scott in Congressman Dold's office. Items covered were the implications of the defense budget on active personnel, dependents, retirees and veterans. He also asked Cong Dold to co-sponsor some key bills, including concurrent receipt. On local issues, VA blueprints and history of the VAC move to Lovell FHCC.

Delegate Franquist visited LaSalle nursing home on Saturday. The home has a short list, 3 empty beds and no waiting and there is on site therapy. Maximum costs to veterans are \$1429.00/mo. He also mentioned that a color guard and rifle squad is needed for Memorial Day and he was talking to the Boy Scouts of America to have some of the older boys volunteer to be color guards. More info to follow

Delegate Johnson mentioned that the American Legion would be holding a 10th District meeting Friday at the American Legion hall in Round Lake

Delegate Marciciak mentioned that the 10th District meeting at Round Lake commences at 7:00 (No meal) He also mentioned that on Sunday, 3/22/15, 2nd Division Spring Meetings at Leaf River, Small Town 13th District between Dixon and Byron (Not a post) this is a community center. He also mentioned at 10:00 Service officers meeting to discuss finance and poppy's. and at 1:00 there will be a division meeting with combined meets of the Auxiliary and Legion.

Delegate Patterson stated that the VFW Winthrop Harbor Post 7448 would be holding a Fish Fry from 5-7pm every Friday until the end of the month

Delegate Villarreal stated that since Sgt Daniel Nerstrom was located, there would be flag presented to the family from the Patriot Guards which Delegate Villarreal is a member. Services are Friday from 1:30 pm to 8:00 PM at Date Barnett Funeral Home. Funeral will be held Saturday

A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Nickerson. A unanimous vote brought the meeting to a close.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday April 15, 2015 at the Forrestal Village starting at 10:30 am

Thank you

Stan Villarreal
Secretary