

MINUTES OF THE  
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

6/17/15  
(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 17 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

Superintendent Peck briefly mentioned that we will be filing for more dental grants soon. Also mentioned was the Performance Measurements and how many phone inquiries the VAC office receives and with the help of the volunteers we are able to handle all inquiries

The minutes from the May 20, 2015 meeting were presented to the delegates. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Frangquist. A unanimous vote passed the motion

The V.A.C. monthly report for May 20 2015 was read. A motion to accept the VAC monthly report was made by Delegate Frangquist and seconded by Delegate Patterson. A unanimous vote passed the motion

Mary Carmody, directory of Midwest Veterans Closet gave a brief report (see attached copy)

Scot Litso from Congressman Dold's office was also in attendance and he stated that May is marked as Military Appreciation Month. If anyone needs help with DD214's or medals – they can assist. He also stated that the Gurnee gym had a Suicide Awareness program scheduled.

Superintendent Peck requested that Mr. Litso look into the VA Accountability Act HR1994  
Mr Peck was told that HR at the VA have a difficult process to go through to eliminate employees.  
Conduct and performance on VA employees is reviewed

Superintendent Peck again mentioned that Sherry Kruse has been working diligently with processing and advising veterans of the current Homestead Act for Tax Exempt. We received a list of approximately 2500 names of veterans which we have tried to contact and advise of the Homestead Act. There is also a senate bill waiting to get passed that would change the allowance for the Homestead Act.

Superintendent Peck also mentioned that since he opened an office at Lovell, our database has increased by about 250 clients. Lisabeth Risley is volunteering in that office and he and Lisabeth are now notary public. He also mentioned that Vice President Nick Konz has been very active at the VA

Delegate Villarreal gave a brief review about Veterans Court. The last graduating class had 6 active participants. Graduation usually occurs every 3 months. Veterans Court is a 24 month program. They also have a shorter program which is 12 months. Mentors attempt to help the veterans but unfortunately the courts had a few veterans drop out of the program.

Vice President Konz again mentioned the fact that each post should be turning volunteer hours from their posts so we can report the hours to the governor in our annual report. This is simple request but an important request.

Superintendent Peck again mentioned SB107 – This is going before the House and Senate He also stated that 70%-100% will be exempt, 50-60% should receive \$5000.00 off of their taxes and veterans that are rated at 30-40% would be eligible to receive \$2500.00 off of their homestead taxes. These are off of the assessed value of the home, not the appraised value.

Superintendent Peck reviewed his Report (see attached)

The superintendent report was reviewed and presented to the delegates. A motion to accept the superintendent report was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Frangquist. A unanimous vote passed the motion

Mundelein American Legion donated \$4,426.00 from the poppy fund to the VAC NFP  
Donations also received were \$100.00 each from VFW Post 1943 and Post 25

Superintendent Peck stated that a used car was purchased with dollars split between the VAC and Allen J Lynch Foundation for a veteran

Superintendent Peck also stated that effective July 1, 2015, state drivers license will have the word "veteran" on them. Carl Sorenson stated that the DMV told him he must have his DD214 stamped by the Illinois Dept of Veterans Affairs and then taken to DMV.

Superintendent Peck mentioned that on Sept 25, 2015 Al Lynch is holding a golf outing

Delegate Report was given as:

Delegate Ayres, Employment rep for VAC, stated that he has connected new veterans with job contacts. Also working on integrating facebook with our newsletter – first attempt has been made. Also in contact with College of Lake County for them to donate 3 laptops to CLC veterans – Also in the works is to set up a link between a veteran and a used car

Delegate Frangquist stated that American Legion Post 771, Gurnee that the grade school has a Great American Program. After school program covering material not presented in class (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, etc). At present 107 students have completed the program

Delegate Geary, American Legion Post 911, Wauconda wrote that Wauconda has a great Memorial Day Parade lasting about 1 hour and 45 minutes followed by a Memorial Service at Wauconda's Memorial Park. After that, Post 911 American Legion color guard held brief memorial service and rifle salutes at each of our two cemeteries. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, the Village of Wauconda will have their annual fireworks. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Village of Island Lake will have motor parade and will end at Veterans Memorial Park with a village picnic and games for the kids. Wauconda American Legion Post 911 also held a flag retirement ceremony and respectfully disposed of about 1000 tattered American flags by burning them

Delegate Early VFW mentioned that Post 4551 will march in the Antioch 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. They will pass out 4,000 or more small American Flags during the parade route. They will have 2 floats in the parade. All are invited.

Delegate Kozar, VFW Post 11020 of Lake Zurich will host a cookout for vets from Lovell FHCC on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Paulus Park in Lake Zurich. The Village of Lake Zurich will donate a shelter free of charge veterans admission (verbatim)

Delegate Shebenik PLAV Post 25 announced that on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the Polish Legion will host Polish dinner for the patients at the James A Lovell FHCC at 11:30 am in Bourke Hall

Delegate Villarreal reiterated that Vets court frequency of graduation varies – it could be on average of 3 months – depends on the nature of the offense. He also stated that Marine Corps League 1395 marched in the Wauconda Parade.

Delegate Johnson stated that Lake Zurich Post 964 will be retiring flags

President Arnswald also stated that American Legion Libertyville will be holding a parade for Memorial Day. He so stated that a Captain in Air Corp who was a pilot in Irag and Afghanistan will be the speaker. Ceremony will go to Lakeside Cemetery for a short service and refreshments will be served.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Delegate Patterson and seconded by Delegate Nickerson  
A unanimous vote passed the motion

Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2015 starting at 10:30 am. There will not be any meetings during the month of July and August as summer hiatus is acknowledged.

Thank you

Stan Villarreal  
Secretary