# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the**
**Missouri Veterans Commission**
**Held, pursuant to notice**
**April 11, 2011 — 10:00 AM**
**Jefferson State Office Building, 205 Jefferson Street,**
**1st Floor State Board of Education Room,**
**Jefferson City, MO**

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## I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call
In attendance: Chair John Comerford; Vice Chairman Emmett Fairfax; Member Scott Englund; Member Nancy Nelson; Member Victor Callahan; Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher; Member Jason Kander
Absent: Member Paul Connors

C. Guests and staff present:
1. Guest: Richard Heigert, David Unterwagner, Jessie Jones, Dave Morgan, Bob Wonnell, Bruce Pearre, Frank Barnitz, James Mueller, Robert Murphy, Glenn Costie, Neal Lang, Jack Matthews, George Newell, William Smith, Tom Goodin, Lee Smith, Raphael Wahwassuck, Michael Elmore, Robert Crecelius, Lowry Finley-Jackson, Kevin Inkley, George Biswell, Frank Prosser, Sallie Houser-Hanfedler, Stephen Gaither, Lynn Dorrell, Jim Whitfield, Ernie Lee, Harry McLane, Dewey Riehn, Arvid West, Jim Ringland
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Omar Davis, General Counsel; Kim Cleeton, Director Homes Program; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manger; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Daniel Bell, Public Relation Office; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting minutes January 31, 2011
Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2011 and Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Chairman Comerford presented Senator Frank Barnitz with a plaque of appreciation for his service and commitment to Missouri's Veterans.

## III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay

A. Budget Update –The House Budget Committee added the $2 million fund switch from Home Fund to GR in HB 8, however the Senate Budget Committee switched the $2 million back. After much discussion, Commissioner Callahan made a motion to take an official position to support HB 8 House Budget version. Commissioners Fairfax seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously. The Commission continues contact with OA-BAP on budget situation. Veterans may also wish to contact their elected officials regarding this issue.

B. Strategic Direction 2012 focus:

1. Promote a Veteran centered culture within the Missouri Veterans Commission
2. Develop and implement mechanisms with our service partners to communicate, coordinate, cooperate and collaborate (C4)
3. Expand our Veteran Outreach Horizon

Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the Strategic Direction 2012 as presented. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

C. Commission Calendar

## IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Homes Program- Kim Cleeton, Director
Cemetery Program- Stan Baughn, Director
Grants
Veterans Services Program- Doug Meyer, Director
Incarcerated Veterans
Minority Veterans
Women Veterans
Outreach

## V. STAFF REPORTS

Staff Reports were delivered by Tim Norton, Julie Miller, Omar Davis and Melissa Wilding

Julie Miller gave overview on completion of Statewide Audit:

1. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) – This was a statewide financial statement audit. The Home Fund was audited as part of this audit. No MVC findings were reported.

2. Single Audit – This was a statewide audit of federal programs. The federal VA per diem and construction grants were included in this audit. The VA per diem was the only major program for MVC, so it was the only MVC federal program audited. No current year

findings for MVC were reported in this audit. The report includes a follow up to an FY2009 finding, which has been corrected.

## VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update was delivered by Commissioners Callahan, Pearce, Fisher and Kander.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs- David Unterwagner, Director St. Louis VA Regional Office reported on the Veterans Benefits Taskforce. He explained fully developed claims and identified other issues that slow claims processing and ways to resolve.

   Mr. Unterwagner also gave a brief overview of the VA-IDES Program. The Integrated Disability Evaluation System provides a seamless and transparent disability evaluation process that is administered jointly by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Service members complete both the military and Veterans Affairs processes in an average of nine and a half months while receiving military pay and benefits. They require just one set of physical examinations instead of two, receive disability ratings that are accepted by both departments, and leave the service with completed Veterans Affairs disability benefit claims in place. The St. Louis VA Regional Office will target active duty service members at Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base starting July 2011.

B. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Jessie Jones, Chairman advised the Commissioners of MAVO's concerns with MVC budget and legislation they are actively pursuing.

C. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Sallie Houser-Hanfelder, Director, Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital gave a brief update on current activities at the VA Medical Center.

## IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 1, 2011 at 10:00 AM Missouri State Veterans Home – St. Louis.

## X. ADJOURMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Kay, Secretary