# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the**
**Missouri Veterans Commission**
**Held, pursuant to notice**
**January 31, 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 Paul Connors; Member Scott Englund; Member Victor Callahan; Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher;
Ex-Officio Member Dalton Wright
Via Telephone: Member Nancy Nelson;
Absent: Member Jason Kander

C. Guests and staff present:

1. Guest: Frank Prosser; Andrew Edwards; Michael Elmore; Jay Martin; Robert Wright; Ronald Carr; Tony Bamvakais; Bob Wonnell; Birch Wright; Richard Polk; Lee Smith; Arvid West; Raphael Wahwassuck; Shari Grewe; Leonard Steinman; Louise Komer; Velma Steinman; Janice Howard; Kim Tatham; Lowry Finley-Jackson; Robert Crecelius; Nathan Witt; Sallie House-Hanfelder; Stephen Gaither; Chris Bell; Rich Heigert; Erwin Schultze; Dewey Riehn; James Whitfield; Dick Sanford; Carolyn Sanford; Jessie Jones; Thomas Mundell, Olin parks; Jack Matthews
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; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Bonnie McNeill-Boyt, Training Coordinator; Larry Carmer, Cemetery Director

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting minutes December 7, 2010

Commissioner Connors made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2010 and Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

B. Commission Meeting Special minutes December 30, 2010
Commissioner Fairfax made a motion to approve the Special minutes of December 30, 2010 and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay

A. Welcome Senator Victor Callahan to the Missouri Veterans Commission. Senator Callahan serves as the Minority Floor Leader in the State Senate.
B. Budget Update – Julie Miller gave a report on Governor's Recommendations to the Budget FY 2012. The Commission appears to have funding through FY 2012 without depleting the VCCITF as previously reported at the December meeting due to a $2 million fund switch from Home Fund to GR and a transfer of $4.5 million from the VCCITF into the Home Fund. The Commission continues contact with OA-BAP on budget situation.
C. Commission Calendar

## IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program Reports were delivered (Powerpoint presentation) by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

Bryan Hunt gave an explanation of the Heroes Homecoming in the Homes.

Larry Kay reported that the Grants Program is slated to receive the additional $600,000 in June or July 2010 due to the passage of HB 1893 last year.

Bryan Hunt gave a brief update on the Benefits Task Force and the Outreach Task Force:

Benefits Task Force – Working with the Veterans Organization and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce the time for Veteran in filing and receiving VA benefits. They are also working on developing Best Practices Manual.

Outreach Task Force- Planning stage for May Benefits Fair in Columbia.

## V. STAFF REPORTS

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

Tim Norton advised the new Construction Budget request is $13 million for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Statewide Audit is complete and should be released in March 2011. MVC will invite State Auditors Office to give presentation at next meeting.

Home Rule Change – discussion held regarding qualifications to reside in a state Veterans Home. MVC will work with Legislature in drafting bill language. A motion was put on the table to approve submittal of statutory change as proposed. Commissioner Pearce made a motion to approve submittal of statutory change as proposed and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Melissa Wilding is visiting each general assembly members office to distribute the Missouri Benefits and Resource Guide. She also has distributed to Wounded Warriors Transaction Units and other state agencies.

## VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update was delivered by Commissioner Pearce and Commissioner Callahan.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

MAVO Revenue Enhancement Scenarios

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. U.S. Federal Department of Veterans Affairs – Shari Grewe
MS. Grewe reported on the three major topics that Secretary Shinseki will focus on this year:

1. Five-Year Plan to end Homelessness
2. Expand access to all avenues of services the VA provides
3. Transformation into patient aligned care teams

B. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Jessie Jones, Chairman advised the Commissioners of MAVO's concerns with MVC budget constraints and that MAVO is speaking to legislators regarding long term dedicated funding sources for the Commission. MAVO asked the Commission to avoid increasing cost to Veterans in the Homes Program.

Dewey Riehn gave a brief legislative update to Commissioners.

## IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 10:00 AM Jefferson State Office Building, 205 Jefferson Street, 1st Floor State Board of Education Room, Jefferson City, MO

## X. ADJOURMENT

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

Larry D. Kay, Secretary