# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the**
**Missouri Veterans Commission**
**Held, pursuant to notice**
**November 10, 2009 — 10:00 AM**
**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: Chairman Joseph Frank; Vice Chair John Comerford; Member Paul Connors; Member Emmett Fairfax; Member Nancy Nelson; Member Frank Barnitz; Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher; Member Jason Kander

C. Introductions

Guests and staff present:

1. Guest: Jack Matthews; Richard Heigert; Mike Bruns; John Puckett; George Newell; Robert Osborn; Dewey Riehn; Charles Goodin; Frank Prosser; Kathleen Fogarty; Birch Wright; Rick Pettit; Bob Wonnell; James Whitfield; Sallie Houser-Hanfelder; Antheny Wilson; Stephen Gaither; Jessie Jones; James Harker; Dave Morgan; Rita Dongas; Steve Walsh; Robert Jones; Harold Menzel; Larry Daniels; Chris Blank; Tony Messenger, Shari Grewe; Raphael Wahwassuck; James Klahr; Joe Lawrence; Adam Grisham; John Eckhoff; Kathy Sturgeon; Stanley Brown; Representative Chris Kelly; Deborah Halter;
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Omar Davis, General Counsel; Anne Payne, Superintendent of Homes; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manger; Pat Rowe-Kerr, Senior Advisor Veterans Outreach; Daniel Bell, Public Relation Office; Jamie Reed, Operation Outreach; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources;

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting minutes August 11, 2009

Commissioner Comerford made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2009 and Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

B. Closed Teleconference Meeting minutes September 24, 2009
Commissioner Fairfax made a motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2009 and Commissioner Comerford seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written

## III. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

A. Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay

1. Listening Post – Completed 21 Veteran Listening Post across the state.
2. Budget – Discussed the situation of current budget withholdings
3. Karen Etzler – Appointed on the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
4. Missouri Commission on Human Rights – Thank you letter to Commission in support and commitment of grant application for Education and Outreach Initiative Program.
5. Troops To Teachers – Write letter in support of program
6. Senator Claire McCaskill held a conference call on Monday, November 9th for statewide Veteran group leaders to discuss a range of issues and topics to include new benefits available via the Post 9/11 GI Bill, upcoming 2010 funding for Veteran's Affairs, Rural Veterans Healthcare Initiatives, Advance Appropriations for the VA, and a host of other important Congressional Bills and initiatives.

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

C. Staff Reports were delivered by Tim Norton, Julie Miller, Omar Davis

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Listening Post Task Force Report – Larry Kay reported that the projected date of completion should be the end of November. Chair Comerford asked to review the report prior to presenting to the Governor's office.

B. Veterans Court – Omar Davis reported on his meeting with Chief Justice William Ray Price, Jr. Supreme Court of Missouri. Will continue to work with courts system regarding developing Veterans Court.

C. Budget – Julie Miller reported MVC has $1.1 million less budget authority than in July. Member Barnitz requested copy of MVC submitted budget to OA.

D. Election of Chair – Chairman Frank stepped down from his position as Chair and turned the meeting over to Member Nelson. Member Nelson then opened for nominations for Chair of the Commission. Member Frank made a motion to elect Member Comerford to serve as the Chair for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Nelson seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

E. Election of Vice-Chair – Member Nelson then opened for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Commission. Member Connors made a motion to elect

Member Emmett Fairfax to serve as the Vice-Chair for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Barnitz seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Appreciation Plaque George Newell, Past President MAVO
B. Commission History – James Whitfield
C. Presentation – Stan Brown, President Gateway Paralyzed Veterans of America

## VI. GUEST REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Osborn, KWVA; Lacey Riley; Regina Furr; Sally Houser-Hanfelder, Director VAMC Columbia; Jessie Jones, President MAVO

## VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, February 1, 2010 in Jefferson City.

## VIII. ADJOURMENT

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

Larry D. Kay, Secretary