MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
August 2, 2012 — 10:00 AM
Missouri State Veterans Home – Warrensburg
1300 Veterans Road
Warrensburg, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
B. Roll Call

In attendance: Vice Chairman Emmett Fairfax; Member Paul Connors; Member Scott Englund; Member Victor Callahan; Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher; Ex-Officio Member Jeff Bloemker

Via telephone: Member Chuck Wooten and Member Jason Kander

Absent: Member Nancy Nelson

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: Kristi Eckfeld; Richard Heigert; Charlie Goodin; Bill Thoms; Dave Mudd; Ed Hufford; Ross Chambers; Tony Bamvakais; Marvin Neal; Lowry Finley-Jackson; Robert Crecelios; Sheila Brocaille; Robert Ritter; Stephen Gaither; Sharon McNurray; Glenda Wilcox; Beth Hunt; Deb Brumble; Ann Lossman; Kevin Inkley; Nancy Cowan; Olin Parker; Jessie Jones; Dewey Riehn; Bryan Lee; Angie Giddings; James Whitfield
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Daniel Bell, Public Information; Kim Cleeton, Director Homes Program; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Patty Faenger, Assistant Director Homes Program; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources; Bonnie McNeill Boyt, Workforce Development; Dennis McElroy, Veteran Service Supervisor; Chris Ross, Veteran Service Officer;

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting minutes May 7, 2012
Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2012 and Commissioner Connors seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay, Executive Director.

A. Budget – Reviewing FY 2014 projections

B. Lincoln University Outreach Grant – The Commission was contacted by Lincoln University to partner with them in an outreach effort to assist in Veteran Minority Outreach. Outreach vehicles could target rural and urban areas reaching minority, homeless and underserved Veterans of this state.
The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs paid Missouri's Veterans for compensation/pension benefits $1.2 billion dollars in 2012.

C. SB 470 VETERAN DESIGNATION ON DRIVER LICENSE - Allows a person to apply to the Department of Revenue to obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license or identification card upon providing a United States Department of Defense discharge document, known as a DD Form 214, showing a discharge status of "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions" and the payment of the authorized fees for the license or card. The department may determine the appropriate placement of the designation on a license or card. The Missouri Veterans Commission has been working the Missouri Department of Revenue. Law in effect August 28, 2012.

Welcome new member Chuck Wooten to Commission.

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by the following staff:

Kim Cleeton, Director Homes Program
Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program
Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program

V. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects. Member Pearce recommended the Commission look at the needs study to prioritize and approve future projects while taking in consideration improvements to maintain the life of a facility. The CI Budget request for FY 2013 will be submitted to the Commissioners at the November meeting along with a wide recommendation due to funding.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Member Pearce reported that HB 1731 a critical bill which provides a dedicated funding source for the Missouri Veterans Commission was passed and signed by the Governor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Kent Hill, Director Kansas City VA Medical Center provided the Commission an update. The KCVA Medical Center along with the Kansas City Royals has joined together in the renovation of the Kansas City VA Honor Annex, located in Kansas City, Missouri. The facility will provide special mental health and related services for veterans. This facility will be dedicated to addressing PTSD and a women's clinic. The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs is opening 13 new Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in nine states. Missouri will open one in Marshfield, Platte City and Springfield. The KCVA Medical Center continues to focus to improve patient centered care initiative.

   Introduction of Robert Ritter, newly appointed Associate Director of the Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital.

B. Missouri Association of Veteran's Organizations (MAVO) –Richard Heigert thanked the Commission and the Legislators for their leadership and support on the passage of HB 1731. MAVO plans to meet in September with staff of the Commission to prioritize legislation for next session.

   Dewey Riehn, Legislative Chairman MAVO thanked everyone for getting MAVO legislative agenda passed this session and for attending Veterans Rallies.

   Larry Kay addressed the Commissioners regarding prioritizing the Homes waiting list. Mr. Kay and staff were tasked earlier by the Chairman of the Commission to look at creating a preference system for admission to the Homes in order to align us with other states. Mr. Kay is seeking Commission support in proposing a three tiered priority system to most effectively address those Missouri Veterans with the greatest documented need for care.

   The waiting list applicants will be categorized into Priority Level Groups and offers of admission will be extended to those at Priority Level I first; followed by Priority Level II and then Priority Level III. Priority Levels are defined as:

   Priority Level I

   - The applicant has a singular or combined rating of 70% or more based on one or more service connected disabilities and is need of nursing home care.

- The applicant has been determined to be in need of skilled care for a VA adjudicated service connected disability.
- The applicant has a rating of total disability based on individual un-employability and is in need of nursing home care.

Priority Level II

- Applicants who have wartime service as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Wartime Veterans are those individuals who have a least one day wartime service PLUS a minimum number of days active duty which is 90 days prior to September 7, 1980 or 24 months of continuous service after September 7, 1980. Exclusions to the Minimum Active Duty Requirement are:
- To a person who is released under U.S.C. 1171 or 1173 – convenience of the government or hardship discharge.
- To a person who is released from active duty because of a service connected disability
- To a member of the Guard or Reserve activated under the provisions of U.S.C. 10.

Priority Level III

- All other Veterans

Mr. Kay met with MAVO Leadership to discuss this issue and they are in favor of this change.

Member Englund reported that the Missouri National Guard is also in favor of this change.

Member Callahan asked for a legal clarification and review of any level of complications this may cause. After much discussion, Member Callahan motion a motion to proceed with technical issues involving the database and to seek legal clarification prior to formal adoption at another meeting. Member Connors seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 10:00 AM at the Jefferson State Office Building, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Member Englund requested the following agenda items for the November meeting to include under new business: CI Budget Request, Resident Rate Increases, Election of Officers and Waiting List.

X. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Callahan made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose to discuss personnel issues. Member Pearce seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

XI. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

Member Callahan made a motion to go into open session. Member Pearce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURMENT

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

Larry D. Kay, Secretary