

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
May 6, 2013 — 10:00 AM  
Jefferson State Office Building,  
205 Jefferson Street, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Emmett Fairfax; Vice Chairman Scott Englund; Member Nancy Nelson; Member Chuck Wooten; Member David Pearce; Member Scott Sifton; Member Denny Hoskins  
Absent: Member Paul Connors; Member Stephen Webber; Ex-Officio Member Jeff Bloemker

Guests and staff present:

- 1. Guests: Robert Crecelius; Megan Westenberger; David Kollore; Carl Niewoehner; Jessie Jones; James Whitfield; Jack Matthews; Sallie Houser-Hanfelder; Dr. William Patterson; Stephen Gaither; Tom Mundell; Dewey Riehn; Virginia Riehn; Michael Elmore; Lowry Finley-Jackson; Chief Wahwassuck; Lee Smith; Arvid West; Representative Charlie Davis; Tracy Davis
- 2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Daniel Bell, Public Information; Kim Taddeucci, Director Homes Program; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manager; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources; Melissa Skinner, Research Analyst; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Mark Jones, Re-entry Coordinator;

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commission Meeting CLOSED Minutes January 28, 2013
- B. Commission Meeting Minutes January 28, 2013  
Member Wooten made a motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes as written and Member Pearce 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 Update – Staff will continue to work with Office of Administration/Budget and Planning and both the House and Senate Budget Analysts. In addition Mr. Kay will meet with the elected officials on the Commission to go over FY15 budget plan prior to the next quarterly meeting in August.
- B. Rule Change Update – Mr. Kay advised the Commissioners that the Department of Public Safety will most likely file Rules changes with the Secretary of State Office at the end of May. This includes the 70% or more service connected disability Veteran in need of skilled nursing care.
- C. Veteran Survey – Staff met with MAVO on April 16 to unveil a Veterans survey. The Missouri Veterans Commission has partnered with the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) to distribute this survey to Missouri's Veterans and those interested in Veteran's benefits. The intent of this survey is to determine the awareness of Missouri's Veterans, their dependents and interested parties regarding benefits available through the Missouri Veterans Commission. Each Veteran Service Organization has agreed to forward this survey to their members. The survey began, April 16 and will end July 31, 2013. Tabulations of survey results will begin in August. As of May 6 a total of 309 surveys have been completed. The link to the survey is located on MVC website. Also will be available to Veterans attending State Conventions. Target audience – all Missouri Veterans.

#### **IV. PROGRAM REPORTS**

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

#### **V. STAFF REPORTS**

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects.

Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manager reported on MVC Operating Appropriations by Fund.

#### **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Legislative Update was delivered by Members Pearce, Sifton and Hoskins.

Member Pearce introduced Representative Charlie Davis, House Veterans Committee Chair.

Budget due May 10<sup>th</sup> - Legislative session ends May 17<sup>th</sup>

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Dr. William Patterson, VA Heartland Veterans Health Network VISN 15 reported that VISN 15 provides health care services to veterans in Kansas and Missouri, as well as parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Arkansas. Working on FY 14- FY 17 Strategic Plan: Marketing; Access; and Customer Service. Dr. Patterson stated the VA is focusing on working the disability evaluations backlog (oldest claims and expedited claims first). The VA received a 4% budget increase.

Sallie Houser-Hanfelder, Director VAMC-Columbia reported the following:

1. New Community Based Outpatient Clinic – Marshfield MO
2. Change in Beneficiary Travel Payments
3. Construction Update
4. Awards for Truman VA
5. VA2K Event on May 15 Welcome Home Event
6. Welcome Home Event On June 8<sup>th</sup>

- B. Missouri Association of Veteran's Organizations (MAVO) – Dewey Riehn, MAVO Legislative Committee explained that MAVO is a voice for Veterans and they establish legislative priorities each year that will help to improve benefits for Veterans.

MAVO's bills of interest to veterans and military:

1. SB 118 - Veterans Treatment Courts
2. HJR 8 – Veterans Lottery Ticket
3. HB 114 – Educational Credits for Veterans

Frank Prosser, State Adjutant American Legion announced his retirement and congratulated the Commission on its involvement with the legislature, MAVO and its Veterans. His replacement is will be Lowry Finley-Jackson.

- C. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – BRAC Assessment distributed.

## IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM at the Missouri State Veterans Home – Mt. Vernon.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "L. D. Kay".

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Larry D. Kay, Secretary