

MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION
Held, pursuant to notice
Thursday, April 17, 2008 — 10:00 AM
First Evangelical Free Church
5500 S. Southwood, Springfield, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
In attendance: **Chairman Joseph Frank; Vice Chairmen Bernadette Miller; Member John Comerford; Member Carson Ross**
Absent: **Member S. Lee Kling**
- C. Introductions
Guests and staff present.
Guest: **Richard Heigert**, MAVO; **James Whitfield**, Western Area Supervisor, MO Military Funeral Honors Program; **Michael Moyer**, Niche Productions; **Jimmy Young**, Military Order Purple Heart; **Kevin Inkley**, VAMC- Kansas City; **Lee Smith**, Disabled American Veterans; **Bill McCoy**, DED-MMPEC; Adam Gresham, Governor's Office; **Calvin Miller**, MMFHP
Staff: **Hal Dulle**, Executive Director; **Jill Talken**, Executive Secretary; **Bryan Hunt**, Interim Deputy Director; **Kim Cleeton**, Interim Assistant Superintendent; **Stan Baughn**, Director Veterans Service Program; **Tim Norton**, Director of Planning and Property Management; **Steve Maples**, Director Springfield Cemetery; **Julie Miller**, Fiscal & Admin. Manager; **Daniel Bell**, Public Information Officer; **James Dennis**, Asst. Administrator MVH- Mt. Vernon; **Chuck Wooten**, Springfield Cemetery

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of January 28th & 29th Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ross made a motion to adopt minutes of the January 28th & 29th meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- B. Approval of March 7th Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ross made a motion to adopt minutes of the March 7th meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman Frank welcomed John Comerford, recently appointed Commissioner to the meeting.

III. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Executive Director Comments: Hal Dulle

- MVC Budget passed out of the House. SCS for HB 1008 should be taken up on Senate floor today.
- HJR 71 House floor debate today, MVC recommendations not filed.
- NASDVA – Key policy objectives:

GI Bill, Outreach, State Veterans Home Funding, State Veterans Cemeteries Burial Plot Allowance, State Veterans Home Loan Program, DVOPs/LVERs, State Benefits Coordinators, Gulf War Illnesses Research, Homeless Veterans, Homeless Provider Grants, Eye Injury Center and Mandatory Funding.

2. Financial Report: Julie Miller Fiscal & Administrative Manager

- Distributed Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for Home Fund, Veterans Trust Fund, Federal Fund, VCCITF and General Revenue Fund.

3. Homes Program: Bryan Hunt, Interim Deputy Director

- The Homes Program continues to receive both positive clinical and regulatory compliance outcomes based upon a very comprehensive quality assurance program and peer review process which has been very successful.
- Homes currently at 98% occupancy with 1,333 beds filled
- 837 Veterans on Homes waiting list

4. Construction: Tim Norton, Director of Planning & Property Management

- Ft. Leonard Wood Veterans Cemetery: Waiting to receive VA comments and anticipate beginning construction in August.
- Cameron Veterans Home Roof: design review should be complete next week and ready to begin construction in July.
- Emergency Generators & Fire Lane: design for St. Louis emergency generator will be complete by May 2008, with construction beginning in July. The remaining six emergency generators and the Cape Girardeau fire lane

were approved in the year's supplemental budget. Funds should be available within the next few weeks and design consultant selection will begin as soon as funds are available.

- ESCO Projects; St. Louis Cape Girardeau, Mexico and St. James: St. Louis, Mexico and St. James are currently under construction. Cameron energy upgrade project is currently on hold till possibly August or September. Mt. Vernon and Warrensburg upgrades will cost the least and are also on hold due to OA changes in funding till additional fund sources are available.
- Cameron Veterans Home, pavement repairs: OA has awarded job order contract and project should begin next week.

5. Veterans Service Program: Stan Baughn, Director

- As of April 1, 2008 the compensation and pension dollars being paid to Missouri Veterans topped \$700,000,000.
- Continue to implement the Virtual Veterans Software program. Service Officers are nearly finished updating the database with information that was added with the new system. The IT department is currently visiting each region to update the program and add additional security. Reports should be available soon.
- Minority Benefits Program – attending town hall meetings, job fairs, health screenings and other initiatives. Diabetes/PSA screening scheduled for April 25 in KC.
- Women Veterans Program – Statewide Women Veterans Conference to be held on Friday, April 18 in Moberly.
- Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Program - Met with Deputy Circuit Judges this week to discuss incarcerated veterans VA benefits. Currently over 2500 veterans incarcerated in Missouri. Of these approximately 25 are women.

6. Cemetery Program and Special Programs: Bryan Hunt, Interim Deputy Director

- As of March 31st 5,555 burials have been conducted and they have 16,890 pre-certifications.
- Distribution of MVC 2008 Communication Guide and Marketing Plan.

7. VSO Grants: Stan Baughn, Director Veterans Service Program

- Notice sent to grant recipients to start preparing their requests for FY 09 due by July. AMVETS has not submitted grant request for several years. A letter will be sent to them asking if they wish to continue participating in grant program.
- No funds have been disbursed to organizations that are delinquent in their reports.
- 75% of claims filed in Missouri are taken by Service Organizations.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Executive Director: Hal Dulle

- Arvid West had been appointed the ex-officio member from the Commission to serve on the Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission. Due to his recent term expiration the Commission will appoint a new member.

B. Bill McCoy, DED-MMPEC

- The MMPEC is making Missouri military friendly. Briefed the Commissioners of current MMPEC news and legislative updates.

Mike Moyer, Niche Productions

- Update on “Missouri Veterans First” Program

Jim Whitfield, MMFHP

- Introduced the new Director of the MO Military Funeral Honors Program Sgt. Major Calvin Taylor

Calvin Taylor, MMFHP

- MMFHP coordinated 883 services in January, 874 in February and set record in March with 927 services coordinated.

Richard Heigert, MAVO

- Legislative report update
- MAVO meeting scheduled June 11th, 1:00 p.m. at DAV-JC

Jim Young, MOPH

- Provided positive feedback on State Veterans Cemeteries.

Kevin Inkley, VAMC Kansas City

- KC CBOC update
- New services provided at VAMC-KC: shuttle, greeter program, opened new CT scan department

James Dennis, Asst. Administrator MVH-Mt. Vernon

- Mt. Vernon Veterans Home is celebrating 25 years this year.

Steve Maples, Director Springfield Veterans Cemetery

- May 26th Memorial Day Ceremony Springfield Veterans Cemetery

C. Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting will be held in Jefferson City on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Ross made a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Section 610.021 (2) RSMo. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion to close the meeting was passed unanimously.

The meeting was re-opened.

With no further business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.



Hal J. Dulle, Secretary