

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
December 7, 2010 — 10:00 AM  
Liberty Memorial, 2001 W. 26<sup>th</sup>, Kansas 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 Nancy Nelson;  
Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher; Member Jason Kander;  
Ex-Officio Member Dalton Wright
- C. Guests and staff present:
  - 1. Guest: James Whitfield; Doris Cassidy; Judi Hemphill; Stan Skorniak; Michael Elmore; Lynn Dorrell; Frank Prosser; Buster McCall; Shari Grewe; Bob Welling; Senator Bill Stouffer, Bob Wonnell; Jessie Jones; George Biswell; Joe Frank; Randall Barnett; Chuck Lear; Richard Heigert
  - 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 Manager; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Daniel Bell, Public Relation Office; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Pat Behen, Assistant Director Home Program; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources; Jamie Reed, Outreach Coordinator; Rebecca Bradley, Minority Veterans Coordinator

Welcome address from Mr. Carl Dicappo representing the Liberty Memorial.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commission Meeting minutes September 13, 2010  
Commissioner Fairfax made a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2010 and Commissioner Kander seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Commission Meeting Closed minutes September 13, 2010  
Commissioner Pearce made a motion to approve the Closed minutes of September 13, 2010 and Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- C. Commission Meeting Special Teleconference minutes November 3, 2010

Commissioner Fisher made a motion to approve the Special Teleconference minutes of November 3, 2010 and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

- D. Commission Meeting Special Teleconference Closed minutes November 3, 2010  
Commissioner Fisher made a motion to approve the Special Teleconference Closed minutes of November 3, 2010 and Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written

### **III. INTRODUCTION**

Larry Kay, Executive Director

- A. Senator Frank Barnitz resigned from the Missouri Veterans Commission effective November 18, 2010. Chairman Comerford submitted a letter on behalf of the Commission to Senator Callahan regarding resignation.
- B. Chairman Comerford presented Joe Frank with a plaque of appreciation for his service and commitment to Missouri's Veterans.

### **IV. REVIEW OF POWER POINT HANDOUT**

- A. Program Reports Questions & Answers were delivered (Powerpoint previously distributed) by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director
- B. Legislative Update – delivered by Senator David Pearce, Representative Barney Fisher and Representative Jason Kander.

### **V. STRATEGIC GOALS PRESENTATION**

Larry Kay, Executive Director updated the Commissioners on the semiannual progress of our strategic goals for FY 2011.

1. Complete Missouri Guide to Veterans Benefits (booklet distributed) – delivered by Daniel Bell. Recommendation Mr. Bell contact House Publications so print can be available to members of the General Assembly.
2. Establish Outreach Task Force – delivered by Bryan Hunt. Recommendation to display pull-up banner in USO areas of airports and to explore other opportunities with other Organizations.
3. Establish Benefits Task Force – delivered by Doug Meyer. Task Force goal is to have ready to rate claims process within 125 days.

4. Formalize GWOT Outreach – Yellow Ribbon  
MVC is participating and distributing information at these events.
5. Call for Action – Home Fund/VCCITF – delivered by Julie Miller and Larry Kay. Since FY2009 the MVC General Revenue core budget in HB 8 has decreased from \$31 million down to \$17.7 million (a \$13.30 million decrease). The sourcing of these funds has switched from General Revenue to the MVC Home Fund. With no action, MVC Home Fund will be depleted by end of FY 2012.

Course of Action:

1. Fund Switch reversal of \$12.5 million from Fund back to GR
2. Reduce benefits and increase revenues to Home Fund
3. Deplete the VCCITF to maintain the solvency of the Home Fund

MVC is working closely with Linda Luebbering at OA-BAP on this issue. Ms. Luebbering stated that her office will “do everything it can to minimize the fiscal impact to Veterans and to work with the Missouri Commission to successfully formulate its FY 2012 budget”. Commissioner Wright recommended the Commission also look at external efficiencies to support funding. Commissioners Fisher made a motion to eliminate course of action item number three (3) as this is not acceptable. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion to eliminate depleting the VCCITF to maintain the solvency of the Home Fund passed unanimously. After much discussion, Chairman Comerford requested staff to formulate a plan to address issue and present at the January Commission meeting.

6. Establish processes to synchronize with VISN 15, 16, VBA & VCA
7. Three Joint Key Messages – Finalize poster & distribute after buy-in from partners

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Code of State Regulations – delivered by Omar Davis  
Commissioner Fisher made a motion to approve the proposed amendments as previously discussed at the September Commission meeting. Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The proposed amendments to the Code of State Regulations were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Grants Review – delivered by Bryan Hunt

## VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, January 31, 2010 at the Jefferson State Office Building., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor State Board Education Room, Jefferson City, Missouri.

VIII. ADJOURMENT

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.D. Kay", written in a cursive style.

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Larry D. Kay, Secretary