

MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
November 4, 2013 — 10:00 AM
Missouri State Capitol Building, House Hearing Room 7,
Jefferson City, Missouri**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
In attendance: Vice Chairman Scott Englund; Member Nancy Nelson;
Member Chuck Wooten; Member Denny Hoskins; Member Stephen
Webber
Via Telephone: Member David Pearce; Member Scott Sifton; Member
Paul Connors; Ex-Officio Member Michael Dunbar

Guests and staff present:
 - 1. Guests: Dewey Riehn; Virginia Riehn; Richard Heigert; David
Kollore; Robert Crecelius; Brandon Bryant; Thomas Mundell; Scott
Adams; Dave Branson; Roy Clark; Michael Elmore; Jessie Jones;
Olin Parks; Nancy Cowan; Jon Sabala; Chris Bell; W. Keith
Neeley; Rudy Pulido; Tony Bamvakais; Dr. William Patterson;
Arvid West; Chris Johnston; Paul Schmidt; George Newell;
Danielle Easter; Wade Vlosic; Robert Ritter; Bobbi Hauptmann;
Stephen Gaither; Jack Matthews
 - 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; Melissa
Wilding, Ombudsman; Kevin Onstott, Capital Improvement
Specialist; Mark Jones, Re-entry Coordinator;

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commission Meeting Minutes August 12, 2013
Member Englund made a motion to approve meeting minutes as written
and Member Wooten 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. Impact of Federal Shutdown – Director Kay thanked the Department of Veterans Affairs for keeping the Commission updated on the status of shutdown. The Commission developed key talking points and were distributed to Commission members. The Commission made no operational changes during the shutdown.
- B. Working on initiative with Dr. David Russell, Commissioner Missouri Department of Higher Education to reach out to student Veteran organizations at Missouri Universities and Colleges.
- C. Thank you letter from Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits regarding continued commitment for Fully Developed Claim program.
- D. Partnership with UMKC - STEM process. Initiative to study how to get Veterans into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics field.

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 and Member Hoskins.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Satisfaction Survey MVC vs Long Term Care – Kim Taddeucci, Director Homes Program reported that the Commission develops its own satisfaction survey with questions specific to MVC Homes. These surveys are looked at year to year and from home to home with the intent to learn and improve.
- B. Letter of Intent for St. Louis Home Land Acquisition – Director Kay advised letter was mailed September 3rd to Missouri Department of Conservation requesting more details on the property. No response has been received to date.
- C. Rules Update – Kevin Hall, General Counsel reported rules were filed with Secretary of State Office and the Joint Committee on Rules. New rules should go into effect December 30, 2013.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Officers - Member Englund opened for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Member Wooten made a motion to elect Scott Englund to serve as the Chairman for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Nelson seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Englund then opened for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Chairman Englund made a motion to elect Paul Connors to serve as the Vice Chairman for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Wooten seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Proposal for rate increase - Director Kay recommend to the Commissioners an increase of \$50 per month for resident effective January 1, 2014. The increase will move from the current rate of \$1,950 to \$2,000 per month. Director Kay provided the Commissioners with an illustration of cost and history of the Commissions rate increases and a comparison with the private sector per their request. He also illustrated the history of social security's cost of living adjustment since 2006. Chairmen Englund made a motion to accept Director Kay's recommend \$50 increase as proposed effective January 1, 2014. Member Wooten seconded the motion. With a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Veterans Courts – Presentation provide by Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; KC Rafferty, Treatment Court Specialist, Office of State Court Administrator; Danielle Easter, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital.
- D. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs- Dr. William Patterson reported the following:
1. Introduction of Wade Vlosic, Interim Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital
 2. Secretary Shinseki priorities - expand access for Veterans, eliminate the claims backlog, and end Veterans' homelessness
 3. Budget update
 4. Recruitment for St. Louis VA Regional Director
 5. New Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital to be announced in December
 6. Working Compensation & Pension Exam backlog
- Interim Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital
Wade Vlosic reported:
1. Construction - Columbia is expanding Patient Centered Care, the emergency department, and looking at expanding ICU. Marshfield CBOC will be completed in December 2013. Replacement/Renovation projects in operating room suite (phase 3 completed) and Sterile Processing Unit.
 2. The Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital was recognized by The Joint Commission as a "Top Performer on Key Quality Measures" for 2012.

Associate Director/COO at Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, Keith Neeley reported on Fayetteville VA Healthcare System:

1. Construction - Mt. Vernon CBOC expanding into Springfield (site selection should be decided in next three months), Branson CBOC expansion, and in the funding process for Joplin CBOC expansion project.
 2. Working Compensation & Pension Exam backlog
 3. Secretary Shinseki recently visited the VA Medical Fayetteville VA Medical Center
 4. Physician recruitment challenges
- E. Missouri Association of Veteran's Organizations (MAVO) – Michael Elmore was elected as Chairmen in August. Dewey Riehn, MAVO Legislative Committee advised the Commission of MAVO's legislative intent to address funding sources for the Commission next session.
- F. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – Director Kay reported that he will be sharing the Veterans Courts presentation at the next MMPEC meeting.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM in Jefferson City.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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



Larry D. Kay, Secretary