

Minutes

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County, Illinois

Meeting Date: January 15, 2014

➤ Preliminaries

- ❖ Called to Order: 6:58 PM
- ❖ Prayer: Recited by Frank Kurtz
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Don Dahm
- ❖ Meeting dedication: To all veterans in nursing homes
- ❖ Introduction of guests, concerned citizens, and the press:
Cheryl Bullock, VSO and Steve Barrett, VSO – VACKC staff
- ❖ Roll Call:

<u>Commission Members – Superintendent – County Board Liaison</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
• President Jeff Cox – Delegate – American Legion Post 489	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Vice President Don Dahm – Delegate – American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Secretary Norm Meier – Delegate – American Legion Post 459		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Treasurer Ed Kurz – Delegate – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Delegate Frank Kurtz – American Legion Post 395	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Jerry Salois – American Legion Post 395		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Alternate John Schwartz – American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Bob Leonard – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Ted Simpson – American Legion Post 459		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Alternate Sonny Ellen – American Legion Post 489		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Delegate Michael Marcelain – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Michael Donahue – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Superintendent Ed Dixon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Liaison Jeff Wehrli		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

◆ Established quorum: YES

➤ Commission Officer's Reports

❖ President

- Report – Appointed Cheryl Bullock as the recording secretary for this meeting in the absence of Commission Secretary Meier.
- Correspondence – Presented several “thank you” cards and e-mails for the Christmas gift certificates

❖ Vice President

- Report – No report given

❖ Secretary

- Report – Absent – But the minutes from a previous meeting was sent in advance for review and approval – no corrections were made.
- Motion passed to accept the minutes as read and file for record YES

❖ **Treasurer**

- Report – Written report submitted – amount of deposits made and the check written to purchase the Aldi gift certificates for Christmas. Castle Bank Account balance is \$9,262.21.
- Motion passed to accept the report for file and audit YES

➤ **Superintendent's Report:**

- Report: Written report submitted
 - Number of donated burial plots has increased to 20.
 - Resolution submitted to County Board Chairman John Shaw for County Board action that pertains to the processing of burials for indigent veterans.
 - Annual report to the Illinois Governor.
 - Discussed new 2014 insurance deductibles received from Jeff Wilkins.
 - 2013 – Spent \$107,326.91 for assistance claims and \$4,512,336 in spendable income came in to the county from the VA Claims that were processed and resolved.
 - Requested the meeting date for April be moved. Motion was passed to move April meeting from 04-02-14 to 04-09-14 at the same location and time.

➤ **Commission Committee Reports**

- ❖ Bylaws Committee – no changes received - nothing to report.
- ❖ Budget Committee – 2013 Fund Balance Spreadsheet showed a distribution shortage from the County of \$3,889.66. Approved budget was \$389,837 but only received \$385,947.34.
- ❖ Election Committee – nothing to report until nominations open at the September meeting.
- ❖ Legislative Committee – promoting passage of a bill that would restore the retirement pay of veterans.
- ❖ IACVAC Report – nothing to report until after the next IACVAC meeting which will be held on January 17th in Decatur.

➤ **Old Business**

- ❖ Staff and Commission Training – the annual harassment training will be held in January and all staff members are scheduled.
- ❖ The Commission reviewed the bids that were received for new 12 + 2 handicapped bus and recommended their selection to the County Budget and Finance Committee. The following is a synopsis of the review discussions and results:
 1. Southern Bus & Mobility – This bid was for a Diamond conversion on a Ford chassis at \$54,461 minus a \$6,000 trade-in resulting in a \$48,461 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. However, the closest maintenance location for this company was located in Breese, Illinois which is 40 miles east of East St. Louis. This bid was not accepted because the vehicle did not meet the standard desired by the Commission and it would result in exorbitant costs if towing or warrantee work were needed. These costs were not provided for in the VACKC 2014 Budget.
 2. Midwest Transit Equipment – This bid was for an Elkhart Coach conversion on a Ford chassis at \$51,165 minus \$4,500 trade-in resulting in a \$46,865 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. However, the closest maintenance locations for this company were located in Kankakee and Des Plaines, Illinois. This bid was not accepted because the vehicle did not meet the standard desired by the Commission and it would result in exorbitant costs if towing or warrantee work were needed. These costs were not provided for in the VACKC 2014 Budget.

3. Central States Bus – this bid was for a Goshen Bus conversion on a Chevy chassis at \$54,733 minus \$4,500 trade-in resulting in a \$50,233 bid. All of the requested specifications were included in the bid. This bid was preferred and approved because the vehicle standard was met and the closest maintenance location is only 13 miles from the VACKC office. Therefore, a motion was passed to accept this bid and send it to the County Budget and Finance Committee for their recommendation to the County Board.

➤ **New Business**

- ❖ President Cox received a summons for Grundy County Case Number 13-L-73. This case involves a complaint for “wrongful termination” and the plaintiff is suing for \$247,844.49 for wages and reimbursements and \$100,000,000 in punitive damages. The substance of this case was discussed. The discussion led to a motion to retain Attorney which was unanimously passed. Tim Rathbun is a municipal law attorney and will be representing the VAC of Kendall County, the Illinois Association of Veteran Assistance Commissions, six Grundy County veteran organizations, the Grundy County VAC, the superintendent of the Grundy County VAC, and the President of the Grundy County VAC. The expenses will be divided.

➤ **Good of the Commission** – To promote special community and Post events

- ❖ Plano American Legion Post 395 – nothing to report
- ❖ Newark American Legion Post 459 – Pig roast and gun raffle in February
- ❖ Yorkville American Legion Post 489 – discontinued Friday Night Fish Fry until Lent
- ❖ Oswego American Legion Post 675 – Friday Night Fish Fry
- ❖ Yorkville VFW Post 8234 – reported on the Christmas activities at the LaSalle Veterans Home
- ❖ Tri-County Chapter of VietNow – nothing to report

➤ **Closing Prayer** Recited by Frank Kurtz

➤ **Salute The Flag**

➤ **Adjournment** Motion passed at 7:50 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Cheryl Bullock who served as the recording secretary for this meeting at the request of President Cox because of the absence of Commission Secretary Meier. They will be presented for review and approval at the April 9, 2014 VACKC meeting.

Minutes

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County, Illinois

Meeting Date: April 9, 2014

➤ Preliminaries

- ❖ Called to Order: 7:00 PM
- ❖ Prayer: Recited by Frank Kurtz
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Jeff Cox
- ❖ Meeting dedication: To all the soldiers that were killed or injured in the latest Fort Hood shootings.
- ❖ Introduction of guests, concerned citizens, and the press:
Chad Lockman, VA Work Study Aid, Cheryl Bullock, VSO and Steve Barrett, VSO – VACKC staff

❖ Roll Call:

<u>Commission Members – Superintendent – County Board Liaison</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
• President Jeff Cox – Delegate – American Legion Post 489	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Vice President Don Dahm – Delegate – American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Secretary Norm Meier – Delegate – American Legion Post 459	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Treasurer Ed Kurz – Delegate – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Delegate Frank Kurtz – American Legion Post 395	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Jerry Salois – American Legion Post 395		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Alternate John Schwartz – American Legion Post 675	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Bob Leonard – VFW Post 8234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Ted Simpson – American Legion Post 459	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Sonny Ellen – American Legion Post 489	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Delegate Bob Tracy – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Alternate Michael Donahue – Tri-County Chapter of VietNow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Superintendent Ed Dixon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
• Liaison Jeff Wehrli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

◆ Established quorum: YES

➤ Commission Officer's Reports

❖ President

- Report – None
- Correspondence – Norm Reynolds, vet that was helped out by KCVAC wanted to express his appreciation for the help he received from our VAC office.

❖ Vice President

- Report – No report given

❖ Secretary

- Motion passed to accept the January 15, 2014 minutes as read and file for record

- ❖ Treasurer Report – Written report submitted, including donations of \$200 from Kendall County Republican Women and \$1000 from Mr. and Mrs. Funfsinn. Castle Bank Account balance is \$10,369.41.

- Motion passed to accept the report for file and audit.

➤ **Superintendent's Report:**

- Report: Written report submitted
 - Submitted: April Year to Date Expenditures Report, Fund Balances Reports, and Veterans Assistance Statistics Report, indicating that the number of vets we serve that receive assistance has increased from 24 to 33.
 - Passed out 2014 schedule including VACKC, IACVAC, and NACVSO meetings and training sessions.
 - Distributed updated VAC Directory.
 - Ed discussed his pending November retirement from the KCVAC Superintendent position and the ongoing process of interviews being held for his replacement. The schedule for training new staff to be accredited was discussed.

➤ **Commission Committee Reports**

- ❖ Bylaws Committee – no changes received - nothing to report.
- ❖ Budget Committee – Reviewed 2014 budget and approved amendments to budget. Roll call vote to approve the changes was unanimous. Reviewed 2015 budget proposal including revised staff salaries and the addition of a line item for training new staff. This will be voted on at the June meeting. Ed submitted a five year Capital Expense Forecast summary.
- ❖ Election Committee – nothing to report until nominations open at the September meeting.
- ❖ Legislative Committee – no report.
- ❖ IACVAC Report – Reviewed the proposed legislation and items for the April IACVAC Legislative Conference in Springfield.

➤ **Unfinished Business**

- ❖ Ed reported the current status of Grundy County Case Number 13-L-73. This case involves a complaint for “wrongful termination” and the plaintiff is suing for \$247,844.49 for wages.
- ❖ Discussed need for an additional bus driver for the daily dialysis run to Oswego.
- ❖ The new Goshen handicapped bus from Central States should be delivered in mid May.

➤ **New Business**

1. The County Board unanimously passed a resolution to let the KCVAC handle the gravesite and burial needs for indigent vets in the county by working with the Kendall County Coroner.
2. The Gene White Scholarship Committee will meet soon to decide on a scholarship winner. Sonny Ellen will replace Norm Meier on this year's committee.

➤ **Good of the Commission** – To promote special community and Post events

- ❖ Plano American Legion Post 395 – nothing to report
- ❖ Newark American Legion Post 459 – Pig roast and gun raffle in February was very successful.
- ❖ Yorkville American Legion Post 489 – May 17th, National Commander will speak at a dinner on Armed Forces Day. Fish Fry is back. Wounded Warrior fundraiser raised over \$8000.
- ❖ Oswego American Legion Post 675 – Hosts Comedy Club twice a month. Fish fry will close for the summer. Memorial Day Parade.
- ❖ Yorkville VFW Post 8234 – Two Memorial Day cemetery services held.

❖ Tri-County Chapter of VietNow – National VietNow Convention in Madison, Wisconsin on May 1st.

- **Closing Prayer** Recited by Frank Kurtz
- **Salute The Flag**
- **Adjournment** Motion passed to adjourn at 7:58 PM.

Submitted by Norm Meier, KCVAC Secretary, May 2, 2014.

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County
"Serving America's Finest"

Minutes

Date: 06/04/2014

➤ Preliminaries:

- ❖ Called to Order: 7:12PM
- ❖ Prayer: Recited by Jeff Cox
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Jeff Cox
- ❖ Meeting dedication: All servicemen around the world.
- ❖ Roll Call:
12 Member Commission Board - Present: President Cox; Secretary Meier; Treasurer Kurz; Frank Kurtz; Jerry Salois; John Schwartz; Bob Leonard; Ted Simpson; Robert Tracy; Mike Donahue; Absent: Board Members VP Dahm and Sonny Ellen

VACKC Staff: Ed Dixon, Steve Barrett, Chad Lockman, Cheryl Bullock.

County Board Liaison: Jeff Wehrli
- ❖ Concerned Citizens - Introduction of guests:
Nathan Hill from Joliet Slammers Baseball Team explained their July 4th Vets fundraiser for Friends of the Fisher House.

➤ Commission Officer's Reports:

- ❖ President's Report: (Jeff Cox)
 - No Report
- ❖ Secretary's Report: (Norm Meier):
 - Motion passed to accept April 9, 2014 minutes.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report (Ed Kurz):
 - Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report of \$9,369.41 checking account balance after deducting \$1000.00 for Gene White Scholarship recipient.

➤ VAC Superintendent's Report: (Ed Dixon)

- Written Superintendents Report for August was submitted along with the following attachments:
 - Updated VACKC Board Directory.
 - Updated VACKC FY-2013 budget expenditure spreadsheet.
 - Gave board members a tour of the new KCVAC Goshen handicapped bus.

VAC Committee Reports:

- BUDGET COMMITTEE - Reviewed, discussed, and passed (by roll call vote) the 2015 VACKC Budget Proposal.
 - ELECTION COMMITTEE - Nothing to report until September 3rd meeting.
 - IACVAC REPORT - Steve Barrett reported on the April Conference.
- Unfinished Business:
- Update given on Grundy County Case # 13-L-73 for wrongful termination.
- New Business:
- The \$1,000 Gene White Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a Yorkville High School student.
 - After expressing dissatisfaction with the VACKC Superintendent, Jerry Salois resigned from his VAC Board position as the alternate from the Plano American Legion.
- Good of the Commission:
- Plano American Legion - July 20 car show.
 - Oswego American Legion - Memorial Day parade and Prairie Fest Parade.
 - Newark American Legion - Ted and Norm attended Newark Memorial Day Service. Norm was the guest speaker.
 - Yorkville American Legion - July 4th Parade.
 - Yorkville VFW - Selling Poppies July 12th at Walmart and in August at Jewel.
 - Tri County Vietnow -
 - Kendall County American Legion posts will have a booth at the county fair July 31, Aug.1-3.
- Closing Prayer - by Frank.
- Salute the Flag
- Adjournment: 8:26pm
- Minutes prepared by Norm Meier, VACKC Secretary.

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County
"Serving America's Finest"

Minutes

Date: 09/3/2014

➤ Preliminaries:

- ❖ Called to Order: 7:00PM
- ❖ Prayer: Recited by Jeff Cox
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Jeff Cox
- ❖ Meeting dedication: Veterans who are physically or mentally disabled.
- ❖ Roll Call:
12 Member Commission Board - Present: President Cox; Secretary Meier; Treasurer Kurz;
John Schwartz; Bob Leonard; Ted Simpson; Robert Tracy; Mike Donahue
KCVAC Staff: Steve Barrett and Chad Lockman,
County Board Liaison Jeff Wehrli;
Absent: Board Members Frank Kurtz and Sonny Ellen and Superintendent Ed Dixon
- ❖ Concerned Citizens - Introduction of guests:
Ken Kueffler from the Dano Open Golf Tournament that raised \$2000 to be used by
the KCVAC for veterans .

➤ Commission Officer's Reports:

- ❖ President's Report: (Jeff Cox)
 - No Report
- ❖ Secretary's Report: (Norm Meier):
 - Motion passed to accept June 4, 2014 minutes.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report (Ed Kurz):
 - Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report of \$9,369.41.

➤ VAC Superintendent's Report: (by Steve Barrett)

- Written Superintendents Report for August was submitted along with the following attachments:
 - Updated VACKC Board Directory.
 - VACKC FY-2014 budget expenditure sheet.
 - Overall Veterans Assistance Statistic sheet. (All time high)
 - KAT is now transporting Veteran dialysis patients.
 - Steve reported that he and Chad attended the National Conference in Grand Rapids. Chad is now certified to do claims and health care education.

- \$330 was donated to the KCVAC by the widow of one of our veterans that we transported.

VAC Committee Reports:

- BUDGET COMMITTEE - KCVAC members attended the County Finance Committee hearing concerning the 2015 VAC budget. No questions were asked by the committee.
- ELECTION COMMITTEE - The following were nominated to positions for 2015. Voting will take place at the November meeting: President, John Schwartz; VP, Don Dahm; Secretary, Norm Meier; Treasurer, Ed Kurz, Superintendent, Steve Barrett.
- IACVAC REPORT - September 12th meeting is in Decatur.

➤ Unfinished Business:

- Update given on Grundy County Case # 13-L-73 for wrongful termination. At the August 28th hearing, Mr. Monson made a motion for recusal of the judge.

➤ New Business:

- The Plano Menards distribution center wants to hire veterans.
- Motion was passed to donate \$100 for the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Darien. (requested by Robert Tracy.)
- Chad has been working with the MMU (Hines Mobile Medical Unit) when it is in the area. He is also attempting to publicize the times and locations it will be available and working with veteran's claims at those times.

➤ Good of the Commission:

- Plano American Legion -
- Oswego American Legion - fish fry on Friday nights.
- Newark American Legion - Bingo on Tuesday nights.
- Yorkville American Legion - Working Nov 13 bingo at LaSalle Vets Home.
- Yorkville VFW - Morris Corn Festival booth.
- Tri County VietNow -

➤ Closing Prayer - by Jeff.

➤ Salute the Flag

➤ Adjournment: 7:50pm

- Minutes prepared by Norm Meier, VACKC Secretary.

Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County
"Serving America's Finest"

Minutes

Date: 11/5/2014

➤ **Preliminaries:**

- ❖ **Called to Order:** 7:04PM
- ❖ **Prayer:** Recited by Frank Kurtz
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Jeff Cox
- ❖ **Meeting dedication:** All veterans who are physically or mentally disabled.
- ❖ **Roll Call:**
12 Member Commission Board - **Present:** President Cox; Secretary Meier; Treasurer Kurz; Frank Kurtz; Art McGava; John Schwartz; Bob Leonard; Robert Tracy; Mike Donahue; KCVAC Staff: Ed Dixon, Steve Barrett, Chad Lockman, Cheryl Bullock. County Board Liaison Jeff Wehrli;
Absent: Board Members Ted Simpson and Sonny Ellen; Jeff Wehrli, County Board Liaison.
- ❖ **Concerned Citizens - Introduction of guests:**
New board member, Art McGava; KCVAC Staff members: Ed Dixon, Steve Barrett, Chad Lockman, Cheryl Bullock.

➤ **Commission Officer's Reports:**

- ❖ President's Report: (Jeff Cox)
 - No Report
- ❖ Secretary's Report: (Norm Meier):
 - Motion passed to accept September 3, 2014 minutes, with corrections of post's activities.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report (Ed Kurz):
 - Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report of \$11,852.41 checking account balance after depositing donations of \$525.00 .

➤ **VAC Superintendent's Report:** (Ed Dixon)(last report as superintendent)

- Written Superintendents Report for August was submitted along with the following attachments:
 - Overall Veterans Assistance Statistics for October.
 - Updated VACKC FY-2014 Fund Balance spreadsheet.
 - Gave update on Grundy County Case # 13-L-73 for wrongful termination.
 - FY-2014 VACKC Budget Status

- Discussed revalidation of veterans being served. Currently only 12 veterans have been approved of anticipated 25.
- Discussed effect of decreased unemployment benefits on veterans.
- Ed thanked the board for all the years of permitting him to serve as KCVAC Superintendent.

VAC Committee Reports:

- BUDGET COMMITTEE - No Report
- ELECTION COMMITTEE - Motion passed, by acclamation, to elect 2015 officers of President, John Schwartz; VP, Don Dahm; Secretary, Norm Meier; and Treasurer, Ed Kurtz. Motion included electing Steve Barrett to a four year term as Superintendent.
- LEGISLATIVE REPORT - No Report.
- IACVAC REPORT - No Report.

➤ Unfinished Business:

- Update given on Grundy County Case # 13-L-73 for wrongful termination.
- Motion passed to award \$1500 from the Gene White Memorial Scholarship fund to one Kendall County High School student. Jeff, John, Ed, and Lynn White will comprise the Gene White Memorial Scholarship committee.

➤ New Business:

- Motion passed to assign same rates as last year for Monthly Assistance Amounts.
- Motion passed to give Aldi gift certificates of \$100 per family for holidays.
- VACKC Christmas party was discussed.

➤ Good of the Commission:

- Plano American Legion - Veteran's Day dinner honoring 60 year members.
- Oswego American Legion - Annual Steak Fry, Turkey Raffle, Veteran's Day luncheon for the public.
- Newark American Legion - Legion Auxiliary hosting Veteran's Day dinner Nov. 9th.
- Yorkville American Legion - All Veterans eat free breakfast Nov. 9th.
- Yorkville VFW - No Report.
- Tri County Vietnow - No Report
- KCVAC Troop Tree dedication, Sat. Dec. 6th, 10am.
- Ed Dixon retirement party, Fri. Nov 21st, 2pm at Health Dept. building.
- VAC meeting schedule is posted on VAC website.
- Chad reported on Hines MMU, Mobile Medical Unit, locations and times in Kendall County twice a week.

➤ Closing Prayer - by Frank.

➤ Salute the Flag

➤ Adjournment: 7:56pm

➤ Minutes prepared by Norm Meier, VACKC Secretary.