

# DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2017

## Community Outreach Building

Meeting started at 7:02 PM with President Bob Bend presiding and Tim Timmer leading us in the pledge of allegiance.

**Board members:** President Bob Bend, Vice- President Celeste Latham, Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey, and Treasurer John Davis were present.

**Employees:** Tammy Anderson, Luz Maria Gilkey, Linda Drake, Jill Peacock and Renee McGuan were present

**New In Attendance:** Tim Hughes - County Board, Mike Ruffner - Illinois Department of Employment Security, Veteran Employment Representative

**Public Comment:** Mike Ruffner – Veterans looking for work, he can help. He also offered to help with our Financial Assistance Program with our current Veterans in program. He provided flyers of Employers that are hiring, he can come down here to see Vets or they can see him at his center Arlington Heights Aurora. Please notify him and he can be here as needed or email is good.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Herb Holderman made the motion for approval of the May minutes. Stephen Walz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurers Report:**

There is \$4,653.30 currently in the checking account. Gene Ege made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Bob Coulter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Frank Beierlotzer asked about Dues and John Davis named all that had paid stated that it is a yearly contribution to provide help for Veterans. Tammy Anderson noted we can send a reminder but we cannot tell them to pay.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Tammy Anderson reported that last month, the Commission helped 15 Veterans and their families with shelter. There were 22 Veterans transported in 19 trips to VA Hospitals. The Commission helped Veterans collect \$6,126.00 in monthly benefits and \$11,815.00 in retroactive benefits. We also assisted with the Kishwaukee Driving School for CDL. A friendly reminder that Financial Assistance for Veterans needs to be consistent all the way across the board. We do not do first and last month of rent. We refer them to your organizations to see if you can help them. Some of the requirements for DCVAC to help with shelter are: completing the application packet, their income needs to be below 150% of the poverty level, your last discharge has to be Honorable, lived in county for 90days, provide 30 job searches a month if able to work. All VAC's are required to be consistent within their county. Each VAC might do things differently but consistency is key.

Concerning the recent news on Individual Unemployable (IU) as of this time they will not be cancelled or offset.

Notice of Disagreement with the VA Disability Claims is at year 2015.

Stephen Walz made the motion to accept the report and pay the bills of \$35,547.59 subject to audit, Herb Holderman, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call of votes.

### **Committee Reports:**

Frank Beierlotzer our committee Chairman provided us with a flyer and asked to please go to website and volunteer for something.

### **Old Business:**

Renee McGuan gave us update on The Wall. Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> is designated as Goldstar family day. If you have any Goldstar family's please give them Renee McGuan's contact information Jill Peacock can provide information. On Thursday Evening 6:30 Wreath Ceremony she needs to know so she can acknowledge.

Tammy Anderson mentioned that on Wednesday June 21, 2017 at the County Board Meeting 7:30pm at the Legislative Center Auditorium in Sycamore, a Vietnam Veteran Proclamation would be presented and if as many especially Vietnam Veterans be present if they could go. Mark Prietroski will read the Proclamation at the Opening Ceremonies at the wall in July.

**New Business:**

Linda Drake started by letting us know what was learned at the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) training followed by Luz Maria Gilkey and Tammy Anderson.

- Disaster relief for Veterans and Non
- MyHealtheVet- updates
- Programs for Local Providers in the works but need to be approved
- New automated VA Programs
- Ethics – different way of looking at claims
- Director, Dept. of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans – Treated same as our counterparts but there are issues that only women deal with
- Commemorative Partners – Provided a pin and little ceremony to Vietnam Veterans
- Heroes with Hearing Loss – Phone apps and phones for homes with or without internet
- Dream Foundation Make dreams come true for terminal Veterans and non-Veterans
- Certified Veterans Advocate (CVA) Training will be able to help Veterans in Washington D.C.
- How to complete Forms and Timeframes of submission of claim with including law and case files
- New way of doing claims – Decision Ready Claims – for VA to make a decision in 30days pretest Minnesota & Texas
- Better ways for VSO's to look at claims

**For the Good of the Commission**

Renee McGuan went to Washington D.C. for the 19<sup>th</sup> year that Veterans who served in Vietnam War and later died because of their service were honored. This is an Honor Roll and her husband and 412 other Veterans were honored this year. There are about 3000 plus Veterans that have been honored. They would like everyone to share the word. This whole program is done solely through donations. If you need further information, please see us at the DCVAC.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Steve Walz to adjourn, seconded by Mike Boorsma with no opposition.

Meeting closed at 7:44 PM

Respectfully Submitted – Luz Maria Gilkey – Secretary



**DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**  
**REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2017**  
**STATE OF THE BUDGET**



**VA COUNSELING**

Communication	Quantity
Phone	165
Office	106
Outreach/Home Visits	4
Email/Mail	43
Fax	29
Other/Forms	59
Total Employee Communications	406
Total Employee Activity	801

**VA AWARDANCE**

	Monthly	Retro	Total Amount
This Month	\$14,411.00	\$73,677.00	\$88,088.00
To Date	\$43,258.12	\$115,757.75	\$159,015.87

**EXPENDITURES**

Direct Assistance to Veteran (Itemized Below)	\$7,210.00
Vehicle Expenses (Itemized Below)	\$701.27
Salaries & Benefits	\$38,986.80
Training & Meetings	\$487.73
Office Expenses	\$947.31
Yearly Building Maintenance	\$23,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,733.11</b>

**DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VETERAN**

	Number Assisted	Amount
Shelter	17	\$6,795.00
Other		\$0.00
Drivers Per Diem		\$415.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$7,210.00</b>

**VEHICLE EXPENSES**

	Quantity	Amount
Trips	14	
Transported	21	
Miles	2914	
Fuel (gallon)	168.7	
Fuel Cost		\$337.40
Maintenance		\$363.87
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$701.27</b>

**SUMMARY**

	Percentage of Budget	Amount
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
<b>PREVIOUS EXPENDITURES (Jan to Present)</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>-\$139,620.74</b>
<b>EXPEDITURES</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-\$71,733.11</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>\$288,646.15</b>

**Restricted Fund Balance** **\$619,300.79**



DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission  
Report for the month of November 2016  
Veterans Assistance / Transportation



Towns	Shelter		Transportation
	Amount	# of Vets	# of Vets
Cortland			
DeKalb	\$ 3,195.00	8	13
Fairdale			
Genoa			1
Hinckley	\$ 400.00	1	
Kingston			3
Kirkland			2
Lee			
Malta			
Sandwich	\$ 400.00	1	
Shabbona	\$ 800.00	2	
Somonauk	\$ 400.00	1	
Sycamore	\$ 1,600.00	4	2
Waterman			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,795.00</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>



DeKalb County Veterans Tribute Group  
2500 N. Annie Glidden Road  
Suite A  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
815-756-8129  
[www.dekalbcountywall.com](http://www.dekalbcountywall.com)

July 6, 2017

Dear Friends:

The time is near for our visit from The Wall That Heals. We are striving to make this event as meaningful as possible for as many people as possible as we pay tribute to our Vietnam Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

We are pleased with the tremendous show of support from our community. There are still ways for people to get involved. There will be a Wreath Laying ceremony on Thursday at 6:00 P.M. If your organization is planning to lay a wreath, please let me know.

Numerous opportunities are available for guards and educators at The Wall. This basically consists of showing visitors how to find names and giving information about The Wall. We need to have someone there 24 hours a day, so if you're inclined to spend a few hours in the solitude, please go to our website and sign up for Guard Duty.

We will be setting up The Wall as well as other static displays on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. On Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 2:00 P.M. ceremony, we will be required to disassemble The Wall and pack everything up to leave.

Please share this information and encourage people to attend as well as volunteer to help out.

Thanks in advance for your support and participation!

Semper Fi,

Renee McGuan, Co-Chairman

Like us on FACEBOOK at [dekalbcountywall.com](http://dekalbcountywall.com)

