DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission

American Legion Posts 66, 99, 181, 337, 598, 654, 772, 1010
AmVets Post 90
Marine Corps League Detachment 847
Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 1486, 5768 and 8387
40 et 8 Voiture 207

President – Celeste Latham, Vice-President Chuck Fish, Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey, Treasurer Bob Coulter

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
Meeting Agenda for
September 9, 2019
Meetings start at 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Roll Call of Delegates & Alternates

IV. Public Comment

V. Reading & Approval of the August 2019 Meeting Minutes

VI. Treasurers' Report

VII. Superintendent's Report
a. Approval of Expenses

VIII. Committee Reports
a. Outreach Report

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. For the Good of the Commission

XII. Adjournment

2500 N. Annie Glidden Road
Suite A
DeKalb IL 60115
Phone 815-756-8129 Fax 815-748-2142

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2019

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUILDING

Meeting started at 7:05 pm with President Celeste Latham presiding, Celeste led us in the pledge of allegiance.
Board Members Present: President Celeste Latham, Vice-President Chuck Fish, Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey and Treasurer Bob Coulter.

Employees Present: Tammy Anderson, Luz Maria Gilkey, Cindy Childress, Tim Stubinger.

New In Attendance: Catherine Holman (Mittomau) Adjutant of Post #1010 in Kingston and Ellen Katoll Superintendent Ogle County.

Public Comment: None.

Meeting Minutes: July 8, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Mike Embrey to accept, and seconded by Gene Ege - Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Bob Coulter reported balance of $5,283.30 at the end of June, July 2019 ended with the same balance with no income or expenditures. Motion was made by Bob Bend to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Jim Cox subject to audit. Motion was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report: The Commission helped 13 Veterans and their families with Shelter Assistance totaling $5,125.00. 29 Veterans were transported with 22 trips to the VA Medical Centers. With the Drivers' donating 141 hours and 3495 miles driven. Drivers Per Diem was $420.00. Fuel cost was $527.74. Vehicle Expenses $124.17 for regular maintenance of vehicles. Monthly Retro amount of $89,386.00 was collected with $29,351.00 of monthly payments for Veterans. Total year to date $931,045.00. Total Employee Activity was approximately 1357 in actions. The July expenses (Per diem, yearly maintenance, and regular monthly expenses) totaled $66,430.33. Motion was made by Jim Cox to pay monthly bills - seconded by Mike Embrey. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Committee Report: Tim reported outreach in Sandwich this Thursday Aug 15, 2019. HCOT came today, there will be a flyer sent out to be posted at VFWs/ALs to explain what HCOT services are actually provided to our Veterans. Frank Beierlotzer provided a flyer of events & information. He also informed us that Dwain Adkins is temporarily overseeing the flags for the County Courthouse, but are looking for a permanent group to take over & maintain the flags. Frank will get with Dwayne to find out when the flags are to be put up for Veterans Day.

Old Business: Copy of Bylaws are available

New Business: Let all members know that there is a current scam – Calls from Kansas stating they need verification of a Veteran's DD214 requesting the Veteran fax it to Atlanta, Georgia, the fax number is not valid. Please tell your Veterans to contact our office if they have a problem. Don Anderson mentioned if you use *69, it will give you the phone number of the caller. Concerning the VA Healthcare Mission Act for community healthcare, there are rules you have to follow if you want the VA to pay. Handouts will be provided, with working providers under there program. Some Urgent Care Providers are Physicians Immediate Care in Sycamore & Oswego. Luz had the honor of picking up a couple of our DeKalb County Veterans who returned from their Honor Flight trip. It was a wonderful experience to be involved in and highly recommends anyone to go and help out. Please encourage your Veterans to sign up for Honor Flight!

For the Good of the Commission: Mike Emery mentioned Kishwaukee parade and thanked the VAC for being involved with their Transportation Vehicle. The parade Marshall was a 95yr old WWII Veteran. The Purple Heart story was passed out, every month DeKalb County on-line internet magazine will send out stories that involve our Military and Veterans. DeKalb has initiated "Hometown Hero" banner program located on Locust Street. They are now up to 44 banners with Veterans on them with 6 new Veterans added every month. Papa Johns Pizza has started a program displaying these banners on their pizza boxes. One of our VAC Board member, Bob Coulter is on a banner, he's waiting for his photo to get on a pizza box. Gene Ege stated DeKalb County American Legion was presented an award at the American Legion

State Convention for the Top County in Illinois to reach 98.6% in membership renewals. They received a plaque which will be passed from post to post. He asked who would want it next, and stated it needs to end up back in Genoa. Mike Emery took it for DeKalb and invited everyone over.
Celeste mentioned the President has signed the Legion Act which opens up all membership back to Dec 1941. This weekend is the DeKalb County Pub Crawl, Buses leaving from DeKalb, Genoa, Sycamore and Sandwich. Flyers are available, entertainment will be at the Genoa post.

Being No further business Gene Ege made a motion to adjourn- Seconded by Jim Cox Meeting 7:27pm
Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey.

DRAFT

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019
STATE OF THE BUDGET

VA COUNSELING

Communication	Quantity	YTD
Phone	207	1539
Office	87	837
Outreach/Home Visits	4	35
Email/Mail	68	691
Fax	13	169
Other/Forms	55	1351
Total Employee Communications	434	4622
Total Employee Activity	959	9501

VA AWARDANCE

	Monthly	YTD
Monthly	$29,525.00	$203,980.00
Retro	$59,339.00	$815,929.00
Total	$88,864.00	$1,019,909.00

EXPENDITURES

		Monthly	YTD
Salaries & Benefits		$20,625.21	$196,547.04
Training & Meetings		$638.36	$13,548.32
Office Expenses		$679.73	$6,961.16
Building Space/Maintenance		$0.00	$23,500.00
Direct Assistance to Veteran	**Number Assisted**		
Shelter	13	$5,175.00	$45,900.00
Other		$0.00	$0.00
Drivers Per Diem		$580.00	$3,520.00
Vehicle Expenses			
Fuel Cost		$435.82	$3,011.12
Maintenance/Insurance		$27.84	$4,585.03
	Totals	$28,161.96	$297,572.67

Expense Description:

TRANSPORTATION LOGS

	Quantity	YTD
Trips	34	224
Hours Donated	231.25	1468.25
Transported	48	298
Miles	6193	36913
Fuel (gallon)	197.20	1406.80

SUMMARY

	Percentage of Budget	Amount
BUDGET	**100%**	**$511,000.00**
PREVIOUS EXPENDITURES (Jan to Present)	**-53%**	**-$269,410.71**
EXPEDITURES	**-6%**	**-$28,161.96**
BALANCE	**42%**	**$213,427.33**

Restricted Fund Balance **$681,624.09**

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
Report for the month August 2019
Veterans Assistance / Transportation

	Shelter		Transportation
Towns	Amount	# of Vets	# of Vets
Cortland			1
DeKalb	$ 3,175.00	8	31
Fairdale			
Genoa			3
Hinckley	$ 400.00	1	1
Kingston			1
Kirkland			
Lee			
Malta			1
Sandwich			1
Shabbona	$ 400.00	1	
Somonauk	$ 400.00	1	
Sycamore	$ 800.00	2	8
Waterman			1
Total	$ 5,175.00	13	48

VA Mission Act of 2018

COMMUNITY CARE **(Community Care Call Center 1-877-881-7618)**

Veterans must be enrolled in the VA Health Care system to be eligible for Community Care.
Veterans must receive approval from the VA before receiving care from a community provider to avoid being billed for the care.
Community Care will continue to be dependent upon a Veteran's individual health care needs.
VA staff members generally make all eligibility determinations.

1. The VA confirms a Veteran's eligibility to receive Community Care.
2. Veteran or VA Staff member schedules the appointment with a Provider in the VA's network.
3. Veteran receives care from a Community Provider in the VA's network.
4. Community Provider sends the bill to the VA.

URGENT CARE (VAURGENTCARELOCATOR.TRIWEST.COM/LOCATE/CARE)
Only In-Network Providers (Urgent Care TriWest IVR 1-833-483-8669)

Veteran must be enrolled in the VA Health Care system to be eligible for Urgent Care.
Veteran must have received care through the VA from either the VA or the Community Provider within the past 24 months.

1. Eligible Veteran finds & travels to an In-Network Urgent Care Provider.
2. Veteran states he/she is using VA benefit & the Urgent Provider will confirm eligibility of Veteran.
3. Veteran receives Urgent Care & medication is prescribed, if needed.
4. Urgent Care Provider will bill the VA & the VA will bill the Veteran any applicable co-payments.

Physicians Immediate Care
2496 DeKalb Avenue
Sycamore, IL 60178
815-754-1122

Physicians Immediate Care
2322 US Hwy 34
Oswego, IL 60543
630-383-7042

SERVICE-CONNECTED EMERGENCY CARE (There is no assurance that the VA will pay for this care)

The VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay!!
The VA Medical Center the Veteran is assigned to, must be notified within 72 hours of admission into a medical facility. This allows the VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer, and helps to ensure that the administrative & clinical requirements for the VA to pay for the care are met.

Possible conditions the VA could pay for Emergency Care:

ALL The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy.

1. A Veteran who receives Emergency treatment of a Service-Connected, or adjunct condition.

2. A Veteran who is Permanently & Totally Disabled (P&T) as the result of a Service-Connected Condition is eligible for Emergency Treatment of ANY condition.
3. A Veteran who is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program, and who requires emergency treatment to expedite their return to the program, is eligible for Emergency treatment for ANY condition.

NONSERVICE CONNECTED EMERGENCY CARE

(There is no assurance that the VA will pay for this care)

There are several requirements & factors that affect the extent to which the VA can cover Community Emergency services.
Emergency Medical Care for a Veteran's Nonservice-Connected condition(s) is eligible for VA payment when **ALL** of the following 5 elements are true:

1. Care was provided in a hospital emergency department (or similar public facility held to provide emergency treatment to the public); AND
2. The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy; AND
3. A VA medical facility or another Federal facility was not reasonable available to provide the care; AND
4. The Veteran is enrolled and has received care within a VA facility during the 24 months before the emergency care; AND
5. The Veteran is financially liable to the provider of emergency treatment.

There are limitations on VA's ability to provide coverage when a Veteran has Other Health Insurance (OHI). If OHI does not fully cover the costs of treatment, the VA can pay certain costs for which the Veteran is personally liable. By law, the VA cannot pay copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or similar payments a Veteran may owe to the provider as required by their OHI.

The VA is also legally prohibited from providing coverage for individuals covered under a health plan contract because of a failure by the Veteran or the provider to comply with the provisions of that health plan contract (ie, failure to submit a bill or medical records within specified time limits, or failure to exhaust appeals of the denial payment).

FILING A CLAIM FOR POSSIBLE PAYMENT BY THE VA

ALL claims must be submitted to the VA **No Later Than 90 days** from the Date of Discharge.

They must include ALL – Medical Records, Itemized Bills, 3rd Party Payments, Medical Insurance Information, etc.

Payments for Emergency Care claims are:

Service-Connected Condition	Generally, 100% Medicare Rates
Nonservice-Connected Condition	Generally, 70% Medicare Rates

Hines Community Outreach

September 2019

Come join the Hines Community Outreach team at one of our locations (see next page for details) for help with eligibility and enrollment, immunizations, minor health screenings, and medication reconciliation.

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

For September, the Outreach team will have information regarding National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

To sign up for healthcare benefits please bring a copy of your DD214

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4 Morris Outreach (9A-2P)-Morris American Legion 212 W Washington St. Morris, IL	5	6	7
8	9 DeKalb County Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-DeKalb County VAC 2500 N Annie Glidden Rd	10	11 Channahon Outreach (9Ap-2P)-Village of Channahon 24555 Navajo Dr Channahon, IL	12	13 COD Annual Substance Abuse and Recovery Symposium (9A-4P)-College of DuPage 425 Fawell Ave Glen Ellyn, IL Room-SRC-2000	14
15	16 Coal City Outreach (9A-2P)-1752 E Division St Diamond, IL	17 Bolingbrook Outreach (9A-2P)-Levy Center 251 Canterbury Lane Bolingbrook, IL	18 Kankakee Outreach (9A-2P)-Kankakee Community College 100 College Dr Kankakee, IL	19 Sandwich Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-VFW Post # 713 S Main St Sandwich, IL	20	21
22	23 Dwight Outreach (10A-1P)-Heritage Woods of Dwight 701 E Mazon Ave Dwight, IL	24 Iroquois County Outreach (10A-1P)-VAC Office 1001 Grant St Watseka, IL Illinois Triad Conference (9A-2P)-Concord Place 401 W Lake St. Northlake, IL	25 Ottawa Outreach (10A-1P)-Ottawa American Legion 901 N LaSalle St Ottawa, IL Illinois Triad Conference (9A-2P)-Concord Place 401 W Lake St. Northlake, IL	26	27 Elgin Outreach (9A-2P)-American Legion Post #57 820 N. Liberty St. Elgin, IL	28
29	30 Vietnam Moving Wall (9A-3P)-1400 S Wolf Rd Hillside, IL					

Press Release: DeKalb County Online

Former NIU Marching Band Alumni Honors Homeless Veterans

Linda Wdovech-Newlin has always had a love for the mighty Chicago Bears. As a young university musician with the famed **Northern Illinois University Marching Show Band**, she enhanced her affection for the Chicago Bears as she got to march on Soldier Field with the NIU Show Band doing Chicago Bears half-times show.

This is the 100th season for the Chicago Bears in the NFL. "100" celebrations are taking place throughout the season to commemorate this accomplishment. The Chicago Bears decided to recognize and support 10 non-profit organizations that are making a positive impact around Chicagoland and Illinois by donating a $100,000 grant to each of them. They campaigned for nominations of charities that would be worthy of this grant.

Being a season ticket holder of the Chicago Bears, Linda had received a notice from the Chicago Bears asking for nominations of charities. Being a VALOR-USA officer, and having worked on VALOR-USA community service efforts for the MSHV in the past, she immediately thought of the MSHV for this campaign.

Feeling there was nothing to lose, Linda Wdovech-Newlin nominated the **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans** (MSHV) in Wheaton, Illinois for a $100,000 grant from the Chicago Bears. She had no idea if the MSHV would be selected for the final 10 that would receive this grant. She assumed many charities would be nominated. Linda sent in her nomination for the MSHV, and contacted the MSHV to let them know about the campaign and that she submitted their organization for this grant.

Recently, the Chicago Bears announced the 9 charities that were each awarded a $100,000 grant. The 10th charity is currently being decided by an online vote between 3 finalists. The MSHV was one of the 9 charities that are definitely being awarded a $100,000 grant !!! The MSHV will be recognized during the Bears vs. Lions game at Soldier Field on Nov. 10, 2019. And yes, she will be there to enjoy her efforts in honoring Veterans. This is a very proud moment for this NIU Marching Band Alumni.

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans is a non-profit agency that provides housing, supportive services, and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. Founded in 2007, by Vietnam War veteran Bob Adams and Gulf War veteran Dirk Enger, MSHV operates on a vision of no veteran left behind due to homelessness, joblessness, poverty and/or mental health issues.

The MSHV is a 501c3 organization that helps homeless veterans. Their mission is to end veteran homelessness in northeast Illinois and our neighboring communities so that no person who has defended our homes goes without a home. VALOR-USA, an organization of which I'm an officer that supports veterans and those currently serving, have done some volunteering to benefit the MSHV. VALOR-USA has organized collection drives for the MSHV, driven veterans to doctor's appointments, raised money for the MSHV, and generally providing needed service to veterans. The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans serves more than 500 veteran households annually across a seven-county service area.

Linda Wdovech was a member of the NIU Show Band while in college and formed friendships with many Band Alumni that continues today. According to her university Band Director Michael Embrey, Linda was a great student and musician while a member of the Band. "Linda had a positive attitude and I knew she would be successful after college," said Embrey. "Linda would walk into a room and smile and make everyone feel good. Even as a young member of the band, she showed great leadership skills and compassion for those around her".

Michael Embrey still lives in DeKalb and is active in music and entertainment. He is extremely proud of the success of the hundreds of NIU Marching Band Alumni. "Every time I see a story like Linda's, I become even more proud of the students that were in the Band", states Embrey.

"More importantly, as a Military Band Veteran, I hate seeing the words 'homeless veterans' and proud when someone like Linda makes a special effort to do something about this cause."

Linda Wdovech-Newlin and her family live in North Aurora, and every fall attends the NIU Homecoming game to re-connect with her Band Alumni friends.

For additional information about this campaign, visit https://www.chicagobears.com/community/all-pros

For information about the MSHV, visit http://helpaveteran.org/

Michael Embrey, USAF Veteran

"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

DeKalb A.L. Drum & Bugle Corps

Many DeKalb County people do not realize that after WWI and through the early1950 DeKalb had its own Drum & Bugle Corps.
The first corps was formed after the men returned home from World War I. It was called the DeKalb American Legion Drum Corps (sponsored by Post 66) and then adopting the name "Barons Drum & Bugle Corps" of DeKalb, Illinois.

After WW II the corps started to grow but as many of the veterans became older the membership started to decline. In the early 1950s after changing the name the corps started adding women to the organization.

The Barons Drum Corps folded in1956 after many great years representing DeKalb at various events throughout the United States.

I always thank my drum corps friend Barry Schrader ... for keeping people in the know about music in DeKalb Couty.

Michael Embrey, USAF Veteran (USAFA Drum & Bugle Corps)
"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

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Veterans, come join the Dekalb County Veterans Assistance Commission and Hines VA Community Outreach team at:

Sandwich VFW Post 1486
713 S Main St

Sandwich, IL

Every 3rd Thursday of the month from 9A-2P

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission **assists with claims, pensions, burial, and other benefits available due to military service.**

Hines Community Outreach Team **assists with eligibility and enrollment into healthcare, immunizations, minor health screenings, and medication reconciliation.**

To sign up for healthcare benefits please bring a copy of your DD214

VA HEALTH CARE | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century