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
October 7, 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 September 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

September 9, 2019

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUILDING

Meeting started at 7:00 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 and Jessica Morganegg.

New in Attendance: New Employee Jessica Morganegg, Administrative Assistant.

Public Comment: None.

Meeting Minutes: Aug 12, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Gene Ege to accept the minutes as read, and seconded by Don Jones - Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Bob Coulter reported a balance of $5,283.30 no income or expenditures. Motion was made by Bob Bend to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Don Jones subject to audit. Motion passed.

Superintendents' Report: The Commission helped 13 Veterans and their families with Shelter Assistance totaling $5,175.00. There were 48 Veterans transported on 34 trips to the VA Medical Centers and Compensation & Pension (C&P) appointment, with the Drivers' donating 231.25 hours with 6193 miles driven. Drivers Per Diem was $580.00. Fuel cost was $435.82 and Fuel (gallons) $197.20. Vehicle Expenses/Oil change $27.84. Monthly Retro amount of $59,339.00 was collected with $29,525.00 of monthly payments for Veterans. Total year to date $1,019,909.00. Total Employee Activity was approximately 959 in actions. The August expenses totaled $28,161.96. Motion was made by Jim Cox to pay monthly bills - seconded by Don Jones. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Committee Report: Tim reported outreach in Sandwich will be on the 19th. Check out the 2nd to last pages for overview. Please check out and post the DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission and Hines VA Community Outreach team Flyer.
Bob Bend was at the Sandwich fair, LaSalle County VAC was there. Due to situations out of our control we were not there, but we have the Fair posted on next year's calendar.

Old Business: None

New Business: Looking into electronic attendance process, Michael Embry made inquiries of it being in our By-Laws in regards to attendance (quorum). Tammy will contact the County and find out what their procedures are for cancelled meetings. She also mentioned the mission Act of 2018, see flyer. Must be approved by VA, Emergency Healthcare Procedure cards were passed out with directions. There are specific procedures required by you if you are trying to get the VA to pay the medical bills. The VA is not health Insurance it is a Health Care program. You can also ask your primary care civilian doctor to enroll as a VA Provider. Information can be obtained at www.va.gov.

For the Good of the Commission: Luz mentioned end of year she will be sending out reminders for FOIA and OMA that needs to be completed prior to end of January 2020. Mike Embrey provided good information for us to share with our organizations and to share with our Veterans – see attached.

Being no further business, Steve Walz made a motion to adjourn- Seconded by Jim Cox. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm
Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey.

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

VA COUNSELING

Communication	Quantity	YTD
Phone	159	1698
Office	83	920
Outreach/Home Visits	1	36
Email/Mail	91	782
Fax	9	178
Other/Forms	114	1465
Total Employee Communications	457	5079
Total Employee Activity	1046	10547

VA AWARDANCE

	Monthly	YTD
Monthly	$13,829.00	$217,809.00
Retro	$50,746.00	$866,675.00
Total	$64,575.00	$1,084,484.00

EXPENDITURES

		Monthly	YTD
Salaries & Benefits		$22,259.22	$218,806.26
Training & Meetings		$185.94	$13,734.26
Office Expenses		$287.73	$7,248.89
Building Space/Maintenance		$0.00	$23,500.00
Direct Assistance to Veteran	**Number Assisted**		
Shelter	14	$5,575.00	$51,475.00
Other		$0.00	$0.00
Drivers Per Diem		$370.00	$3,890.00
Vehicle Expenses			
Fuel Cost		$487.37	$3,498.49
Maintenance/Insurance		$24.43	$4,609.46
	Totals	$29,189.69	$326,762.36

Expense Description:

TRANSPORTATION LOGS

	Quantity	YTD
Trips	23	247
Hours Donated	142.5	1610.75
Transported	30	328
Miles	3843	40756
Fuel (gallon)	211.90	1618.70

SUMMARY

	Percentage of Budget	Amount
BUDGET	**100%**	**$511,000.00**
PREVIOUS EXPENDITURES (Jan to Present)	**-58%**	**-$297,572.67**
EXPEDITURES	**-6%**	**-$29,189.69**
BALANCE	**36%**	**$184,237.64**

Restricted Fund Balance **$681,624.09**

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

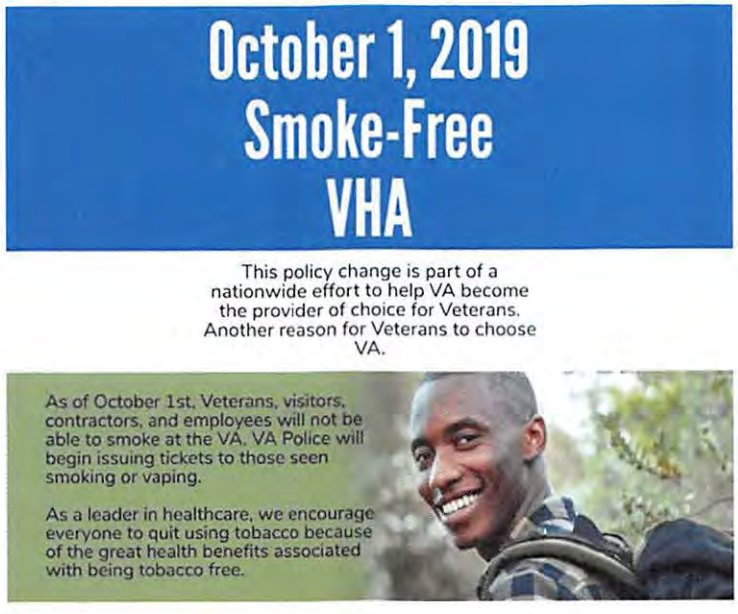
	Shelter		Transportation
Towns	**Amount**	**# of Vets**	**# of Vets**
Cortland			
DeKalb	$ 3,575.00	9	20
Fairdale			
Genoa			
Hinckley	$ 400.00	1	
Kingston			1
Kirkland			1
Lee			
Malta			
Sandwich			
Shabbona	$ 400.00	1	
Somonauk	$ 400.00	1	
Sycamore	$ 800.00	2	6
Waterman			2

Total	$ 5,575.00	14	30

Hines Community Outreach

October 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.



For October, the Outreach team will have information regarding smoking cessation. Hines is a smoke free facility as of October 1!

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

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1 DuPage County Outreach (9A-2P)- VFW Post #3873 908 Jackson Ave Naperville, IL	2	3 Hines VA Day (9A-3P)-Cantigny Park 1 S 151 Winfield Road Wheaton, IL	4	5
6	7 Morris Outreach (9A-2P)-Morris American Legion 212 W Washington St. Morris, IL	8 DeKalb County Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-DeKalb County VAC 2500 N Annie Glidden Rd DeKalb, IL	9 Minooka Outreach (9Ap-2P)-Minooka Village Hall 121 E McEvilly Rd Minooka, IL	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 Bolingbrook Outreach (9A-2P)-Levy Center 251 Canterbury Lane Bolingbrook, IL	16	17 Sandwich Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-VFW Post # 713 S Main St Sandwich, IL	18	19
20	21 Coal City Outreach (9A-2P)- 1752 E Division St Diamond, IL	22 Kane County Senior Resources CoOp (8A-1P)-Greenfields Geneva 0N801 Friendship Way, Geneva, IL 60134 Iroquois County Outreach (10A-1P)-VAC Office 1001 Grant St Watseka, IL	23 LaSalle County VAC My HealtheVet Presentation (5P-6P)-LaSalle County VAC Office 119 W Madison St #103A Ottawa, IL	24	25 Elgin Outreach (9A-2P)-American Legion Post #57 820 N. Liberty St. Elgin, IL	26
27	28 Pontiac Outreach (10A-1P)-Pontiac VFW 531 W Lincoln Ave Pontiac, IL	29	30 VA Day-American Legion Post 630 (10A-1P)-112 North Main Street Elburn, IL	31		

Good Morning,

We are still in need of entertainment, if you have any suggestions. We are looking for the following:

1. Marching Band/Drumline
2. Old Cars or convertibles

Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you there!

Candace L. Oliva, MHA
Health Systems Specialist - Associate/Assistant Director
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
Office: (708)202-8387 x 22452
Candace.oliva@va.gov

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Opening June 4th, 2020, one of the country's newest and most exciting museums is scheduled to open to celebrate over 240 years of United States Army history and foster continuing education long into the future. Located on 84 acres in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the center is primed to serve as a significant regional destination for veterans, families, active duty military, school groups, tourists, and more. Just 20 minutes from Washington, D.C. National Mall, the museum will stand among the many world-class institutions which surround it and it is sure to be the most comprehensive historical representation of the U.S. Army from the founding of the United States up to the present day. All of this is thanks to a unique joint effort between the U.S. Army and the non-profit organization The Army Historical Foundation (AHF).

As the capstone museum of the Army Museum Enterprise, the National Army Museum will provide the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions. The Museum also will offer educational experiences to illustrate the Army's role in building and defending our nation, as well as humanitarian missions, public contributions, and technological and medical breakthroughs. From the Revolutionary War to current conflicts, from General George Washington to General George Patton, from muskets to modern weapons, this museum will be all things 'Army'.

The site of the museum will be located at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax CountyVirginia. The Museum itself is also of historic significance, as Fort Belvoir has long been a strategic base for the U.S. Army and is, therefore, a critical location in determining and maintaining the country's defense strategy. It's the perfect location for a museum of this caliber and sets the scene for what is sure to be an incredible learning experience. Located on the shores of the Potomac River and just miles from Washington's home in Mount Vernon and the monuments of the nation's capital, the setting is rich and both history and natural beauty.

When the Museum opens to the public, the U.S. Army will own and operate the Museum while AHF will manage the Museum store, café, and catering services for special events. Within the Army organizational structure, the Museum is part of the U.S. Army Center of Military History whose higher headquarters is the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

In August 2020 local tour company **FunME Events** will be offering a package to experience Washinton DC and the new U.S. Army museum. Join international travel concierge and military veteran Michael Embrey on this unique excursion. For more information and be included on the mailing list please contact: **M.Embrey@FunMEevents.com** or call 815-756-1263.

For more information and to stay up-to-date on museum news visit http://thenmusa.org.
Note: Photos are artist renderings of the new U.S. Amy Museum.

Prevue: US Army Museum - **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le7Es0HIMCE**

Michael Embrey, USAF Band/Drum Corps Veteran
"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

Dear Fellow Veterans:

Just in case you have not seen this, the VA has a blog that contains a LOT of very useful information.

https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/

It's worth checking out! Hope this is helpful.

Please remember, we are more than **Veterans** .....

thanks ..... ***Michael Embrey - USAF Band/Drum Corps Veteran***
"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

Michael Th. Embrey, CHO/EAD
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- Former Musician/Arranger USAF Band/Drum Corps
- Former Director NIU Marching Band

2014 DeKalb Chamber Hall of FAME Inductee
2015 Chicago SKAL Tourism Board of Directors (VP)
2016 Tour Colorado Board of Directors (VP)
2017 DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
2018 DeKalb County CVB Board of Directors

"You never get a second chance to make a great first impression."

DeKalb Fire Department to Honor 9/11

Honoring the events of 18 years ago will have a special meaning for many people. The DeKalb Fire Department will pay tribute to their brothers/sisters with a brief ceremony on the morning of September 11 (schedule below).
This is also a special day for the men and women of the New York City Fire Department. It will be both a sad and special time. The next FDNY Academy class to graduate will contain 13 people who are children of those firefighters who died on September 11, 2001. This also includes members who have died of World Trade Center-related illnesses.
According to the New York Post, "Bravery runs in these extraordinary families who have sacrificed so much for our city."
NYC Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro made an endorsement and stated, " I'm proud of the commitment these probies have already demonstrated to the department and look forward to celebrating with them at their graduation."
Names and additional information will not be released until these new members have graduated from the Fire Academy. All probationary firefighters are not allowed to speak with the media. This class will graduate on September 24, 2019.
The events that unfolded on that day have changed their lives and the way people live both in the United States and around the world. "9/11" is the moniker for the four coordinated terrorist attacks carried out by al-Qaeda, an Islamist extremist group, that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, in New York City (NY), the Pentagon and a field in eastern Pennsylvania. The attacks killed a total of 2,977 people.
On the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists from al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial airplanes, deliberately crashing two of the planes into the upper floors of the North and South towers of the World Trade Center complex and a third plane into the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. The Twin Towers ultimately collapsed because of the damage sustained from the impacts and the resulting fires.

After learning about the other attacks, passengers on the fourth hijacked plane, Flight 93, fought back, and the plane crashed into an empty field in western Pennsylvania about 20 minutes by air from Washington, D.C.

The combined attacks killed nearly 3,000 people from 93 nations. 2,753 people were killed in New York, 184 people were killed at the Pentagon and 40 people were killed on Flight 93.

The DeKalb Fire Department will hold a brief ceremony to honor this date and to forever give continued support to fellow firefighters everywhere. This event will start at 7:30 AM at the Main Fire Station on north 7th Street in DeKalb.

DEKALB FIRE DEPARTMENT
Summary of September 11, 2019 Program

- **0730 Welcome and audience call to order - Firefighter Gilmore**
- **0730 Posting of Colors & Pledge of Allegiance – Firefighter Fritz and Honor Guard**
- **0735 9/11 background – Gilmore**
- **0740 Chief's message & moment of silence - Chief Jeff McMaster**
- **0745 Honor Guard prepare to lower colors - Fritz**
- **0746 Toll bells and lower flag**
- **0750 LODD Bell Ceremony – Fritz**

- **0755 Amazing Grace – Bagpiper Conley**
- **0805 Closing prayer – Pastor Krueger**
- **0800 Taps – Bugler Michael Embrey**
- **Dismiss the audience**

Story Time Line

8:46 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower (1 WTC).
9:03 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crash United Airlines Flight 175 into floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower (2 WTC).
9:37 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, near Washington, D.C.
9:59 a.m.: The South Tower (2 WTC) collapses.
10:03 a.m.: After learning of the other attacks, passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 launch a counterattack on hijackers aboard their plane to try to seize control of the aircraft. In response, the hijackers crashed the plane into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa.
10:28 a.m.: The North Tower (1 WTC) collapses. The 16-acre World Trade Center site is in ruins, with collateral damage affecting all adjacent properties and streets. A rescue and recovery effort begins immediately.

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

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'**Papa John's Pizza**' (DeKalb) is honoring local "**Dekalb Hometown Hero**" banner honorees by placing
a color copy of various hero banners on select pizza boxes.

These are the August "**Dekalb Hometown Hero**" Banner namer and BIOs below.

The September names will include: (note - will not be available until after Labor Day)
William Chamness, Clifford Seldal, Jeff Jossendal, Benjamin Bakken, Dylon Nichols, Robert Cornell

Name: **Jerry Smith** Rank: Specialist E-5 Branch: **US Army**
Time in service (Dates) From 6/67 to 6/69
Where did you serve basic: Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.
Military Job title: Broadcast Specialist

Something(s) unique that happened while you were serving:
Served 18 months attached to 3rd Infantry Division in Germany, doing broadcast duties for the American Forces Radio Network, Europe.

Current: What you are currently doing and info on your family, job and/or career:
The Mayor City of DeKalb. Formerly with Castle PrinTech for 30 years, followed by 10 years as Executive Director, DeKalb County Community Foundation - NIU Graduate

Family: Wife Ging. One son, Eric, who resides in Dunlap, IL - All three are NIU graduates.

Name: **Carolyn Morris** Rank: E-6 Branch: **US Marine Corps**
Time in service (Dates) From 8/02 to 5/15
Where did you serve basic: Parris Island, SC
Military Job title: Combat Engineer, Cryptologic Linquist

Something(s) unique that happened while you were serving:
Training young Marines survival and how to tread water in combat gear

Current: What you are currently doing and info on your family, job and/or career:

Recent NIU Graduate and serving on the Dekalb City Council serving Ward 1

Family: Single raising 4 children

Name: **Anthony 'Tony' Faivre** Rank: E-5 Branch: **US Navy**
Time in service (Dates) From 8/85 to 8/89
Where did you serve basic: Great Lakes Naval Training Command (IL)
Military Job title: Electronic Warfare

Something(s) unique that happened while you were serving:
Was on the first US military ship to visit Romania after the cold war since 1971

Current: What you are currently doing and info on your family, job and/or career:
Purchase Professional for Caterpillar, INC. and serving on the Dekalb City Council serving Ward 7

Family: Married and lives in DeKalb

Name: **Michael Th Embrey** Rank: E-5 Branch: **US Air Force**
Time in service (Dates) From 6/67 to 6/71
Where did you serve basic: Amarillo AFB, Texas
Military Job title: Musician/Arranger

Something(s) unique that happened while you were serving:
Toured and played music for a variety of national political leaders including the V.P. of South Viet Nam.
Featured musical entertainment for several NFL teams and Air Force Academy football games.

Current: What you are currently doing and info on your family, job and/or career:
CHO/EAD of FunME Events and serves on four Board of Directors

Family: Single and lives in DeKalb

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