

Veterans Assistance Commission Minutes

11/05/2008

- ❖ **Call to order:** 7:00 PM
- ❖ **Prayer:** Recited by Franklin Kurtz
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Don Dahm
- ❖ **Meeting Dedication:** To our fighting forces throughout the world. Don asked for a moment of silent prayer for them as well as Gary Bullock and Cheryl's mom.
- ❖ **Roll call** Members 6 Alternates 6 Quorum Yes
- ❖ **Concerned Citizens- Guests:** Ed Dixon, and Steve Barrett and Judi Dixon. Dave Rodriguez was introduced as the fill in driver.

Commission Officer's Reports:

- ❖ **President's report:**

The dinner for the December Meeting on the 3rd at Ralph's Place is set. The Menu is:
Main Course: Roast beef, Broasted Chicken and Baked Cod
Potato: Baked or Au Gratin
Vegetable: Corn or Green Beans with almonds
Drinks: Coffee, Tea, or Soft Drinks - (Alcoholic beverages are not included)
Soup, salad bar and desert are included.
RSVPs were taken by Ed. Any changes let Ed Dixon know.
- ❖ **Secretary's Report:**

John made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, Gene seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- ❖ **Treasurer's report:**
 - The money for the memorial fund was withdrawn. (With Nancy Martin's assistance, we did not have to pay a penalty for early withdrawal.) The \$4,000 was then donated to Honor Flight at the IVAC Convention with the presentation being made by Don Dahm.
 - There was \$2,965 in the checking account.
 - John deposited a check from the Legion Riders for \$300 bringing the total to \$3,265. This \$300 is to be used for Holiday Food packages.
 - John asked if we wanted to split the \$600 into two distributions.
 - After discussion Phil made a motion to split the distribution into two parts, one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. Frank seconded and the motion passed.
 - Phil moved to accept the treasurer's report. Gene seconded it and the motion passed.
- ❖ **Superintendent's Report**
 - Ed pointed out the areas where he is over budget for 2008. They are:

1) Part Time Salaries	\$3,459.25
2) Equipment Maintenance	\$ 776.60
3) POV for VAC business	\$ 774.89
4) Vet Assistance	\$10,579.43
5) Per Diem	\$ 2,285.77
 - Ed indicated that the it looks like the County will accept the 2009 budget as presented. The narrative put together by our staff helped to explain our budget to the county board.

- ❖ Election Committee:
 - The Budget committee presented the slate of:
 - 1) President Phil Smith
 - 2) Vice President Gene White
 - 3) Secretary Norm Meier
 - 4) Treasurer John Schwartz
 - After asking for additional nominations and receiving none the nominations were closed.
 - Arnie move that the slate as presented by the nominating committee be approve by acclimation and Frank seconded.
 - The slate passed with no dissenting votes.
 - The new officers will take over December 1st.
- ❖ IACVAC-NACVSO Report:
 - Don, Jeff, and Ed attended. Don was impressed with the process.
 - There were presentations by the Attorney Generals office, Tammy Duckworth's office, Illinois Senator Gary Dahl and Honor Flight.
 - A legislative proposal was submitted by Kendall County at the IACVAC meeting. The proposal would provide the possibility of alternative sentencing for veterans who are first time offenders. Ed requested the County Psych Department and the Sheriff's Department to critique the proposal. They agreed it has a lot of merit. California and Texas have already adopted similar legislation.
 - Also discussed were State Training and improving the IACVAC web site and the links to that web site and County membership.
- ❖ Legislative committee:
 - Federal
 - Ed Dixon attended the first Veterans Advisory Board meeting conducted by US Congressman Bill Foster. Topics covered were improving the VA claims process, speed up the processing time and reducing the backlog. Also broadening the acceptance of the VA card to include acceptance by local hospitals and having them bill the VA for their services.
- ❖ Special events:
 - VAC staff manned the booth at the Senior Health and Wellness Fair in Oswego on October 16.
 - The troop tree will be decorated on December 6th.
- ❖ Old Business: None
- ❖ New Business: None
- ❖ Good of the Commission:
 - President Dahm expressed his thanks and appreciation to the members of the VAC board. Don will continue as a representative on the VAC board.
 - We asked Don to leave the room for a few minutes.
 - Ed mentioned an alternative to a plaque was a clock engraved to Don.
 - Arnie made a motion to get Don a trophy/clock in appreciation for his service as president. Phil seconded and the motion passed. Gene will run the committee to get the trophy.
 - Don returned to the meeting.
 - A card was passed to express our sympathy to Cheryl for the loss of her mother.
 - A dinner to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Oswego American Legion will be held Saturday November 8th.
- ❖ Closing prayer led by Frank Kurtz.
- ❖ Salute the Flag led by Don Dahm.
- ❖ Adjournment: 7:53 PM
- ❖ Minutes prepared by Ted Simpson for approval on January 7, 2009.