



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
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8 March 2022

**Veterans Assistance
Commission Meeting**

5:00 PM

**Location:
Cantigny Post 367 VFW
826 Horseshoe Dr, Joliet, IL 60435**

- I. Call to Order: Picciolo
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer:
- II. Roll Call of Attendees:

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	P
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	E
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	E
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	P
John Kestle	Past Chairman	P
John York	Past Chairman	E
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:
 - Robert Angone - Manhattan
 - Sam Erkonen - Atty in Plainfield
 - Abby Sall-w/Atty in Plainfield
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
 - A. VAC Regular Meeting 8 February 2022; Motion: Horne, Koch Unanimous
 - B. Special Meeting 16 February 2022; Motion: Koch, Barry Unanimous
 - C. Special Meeting 22 February 2022; Motion: Koch, Horne Unanimous
- V. Superintendents Report:
 - A. Award Log: Papineau - 1st 3 months, couple of \$300k payments; looking to exceed previous years. VA processing never fell far behind, still w/in 4-6 months, many are in weeks. In May, VA will stop remote exams/telemedicine remotely, will continue w/contract exams.
-Horne – question re: new awards.

-Papineau advised VAC never receives portion/fee of awards

B. Project 150 Report: 3/1/2022

a) Emergency Shelter: \$ 91,115.28 (ESG-CV funded)

C. Financial Assistance Report: 6 Veterans: -24-month rule is lifted from 2020; LiHeap has been exhausted, more claims coming in now for utilities. Budget analysis attached in packet

a) Shelter: \$1400

b) Gas: \$129.41

c) Electric: \$400.90

d) Personal Products: \$200

e) Food:

Motion: Koch/Horne – Unanimous

VI. New Business

A. Financial Assistance Appeal Received

-Solum - received an appeal from a veteran for FA, in latest documentation, veteran recvd subsidies from HUD for gas, electric, rent: no longer eligible to recv from VAC, need to form appeal committee;

-Williams advised exec board is appeal committee, no need to form one; Exec Committee will identify at least two dates for the week of March 14, convey that to the veteran to comply w/the30 day-requirement or the appeal committee

a) Form Appeal Committee

Name	Position/Title
1. Jack Picciolo	President
2. Nicholas Barry	Vice President
3. Denise Williams	Secretary

Motion: no motion required

B. Volunteers to assist Interviewing:

-Solum - need three Board members to assist w/interviewing for open position; Picciolo, McGlasson volunteered; Asst. Supt Solum can be 3rd person, 3-person committee is not required

a) Outreach Specialist (Grant Funded)

b) Executive Assistant (Full Time)

C. ZOOM v WebEx:

-Solum - Zoom vs Webex - switched due to lack of free storage; need to use CC to purchase zoom/storage.

-Per Chris Wise -quorum has to be physically present to allow for voting members to vote virtually, also must adopt rules to allow for virtual voting, advised there are 3 valid reasons; also have to publish regular meetings

- Williams advised past discussion has been to have full commission meetings quarterly, rotating location, interim monthly meetings are Exec Board meetings, all are welcome.

-discussion redefine full commission, dropping one past chair

-Robert Angone suggested President vote only as tie breaker

-Motion - Williams/Koch to amend the bylaws to list Vic, Secr. Sg, Chap and 2 past chairs w/Pres only voting as tiebreaker

-further discussion tabled until next meeting

- D. VAC Staff Request for Credit Card Expenditures: Accreditation conference in San Antonio
Motion to approve cc to secure flights/hotel, costs Williams/Koch – unanimous

R/T Flights x5 Chicago-> San Antonio, TX	Up to \$3200.00
NACVSO Hotel Reservations *Reservations made for J. Solum, E. Papineau, G. Wiza, A. Georgakopoulos, K. McNichol to ensure group rate of 50% off	\$5,065.40
ZOOM (Motion & Vote for each A & B)	A. Arrearage; up to \$60.00 B. \$14.99 per mo.

Motion for arrearage Zoom - Koch/Horne – unanimous

Motion for monthly cost Zoom- Koch/Horne – unanimous

VII. Old Business

- A. DCEO 2022 Appropriation \$250,000.00

a) DCEO grant, meeting to be conducted w/McNichol, county; grant has been used for van, gym eqp., architect, rent, for upcoming website, EFSP Phase 39/ARPA-R Application

a) \$30,000 received

- B. IGA with County Executive Office Update:

-Wise advised has been sent to County atty, awaiting response/updates

VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment:

- Sam Erkonen - Atty in Plainfield, stated materials left in his office anonymously, advised his opinion VAC allowed a no-bid contract for nearly \$500K, stated this is in his opinion a problem, states he does not know identity of person who delivered documents;
- Williams interrupted, verified information was delivered to him anonymously
- Erkonen confirmed it was anonymous, speculated based on content person was "Chris Hammond", accused VAC Supt. McNichol of steering business/contracts based on personal relationship, accused VAC board of not voting on or approving contracts, accused Supt. McNichol of causing/involving VAC in three lawsuits already;
- Williams interrupted, advised information was inaccurate, bordering on slander

- A. Rotate meeting location

a) Discuss next meeting space: -discussion of meeting time/place;
-Williams suggested "when2meet" survey to board members to identify best time/date
-next Executive Board meeting will be 4/12, 5pm at VAC office

- B. 1300 Copperfield (new office space): moving date still on hold, new lease for 2400 Glenwood being processed for interim; County board is still determining interior work for 1300 Copperfield, current lease extended pending moving date

- C. Recap Listen & Learn: Next Listen/Learn is March 10, 6:00p at Lago Vista in Lockport; June 16, 5:00p - Shorewood Glenn Veterans Community/gated community. Romeoville tba

a) Romeoville to be scheduled end of April or early May

- D. Outreach

a) Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – G. Wiza

- b) Every Monday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – A. Georgakopoulos
- c) Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC Office
- d) Third Thursday – VAC at Peotone American Legion
- e) Second Monday - VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast
- f) May 21,2022 – Beer & Bourbon Festival, Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Fundraiser *Flyer Attached: Papineau, Will County Habitat for Humanity; May 21, Harrah's Casino parking lot; over 20 craft beer and bourbon vendors onsite build for part of the house being built; 6-7 food vendors.

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Horne/Koch - unanimous

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting
04/12/2022 @ 5PM
2400 Glenwood Ave Suite 110
Joliet, IL 60435**