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## **VAC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Meeting start time and location**

- 9:30am
- VAC, Gurnee

#### **Members Present:**

- Nick Konz, Tom Marciciak, Andrew Tangen, Paul Baumunk, John DeReu, Paul Hettich, Allan Ayers, Marie Honeywell, Larry Klauser

#### **Member of the Public:**

- Don Nickerson - Veteran

#### **Motion to Approve Previous Minutes**

- Motion made by Delegate Ayers
- Seconded by Delegate Marciciak
- Motion passed

#### **NFP Expense Report**

- Currently \$54,483.59 in NFP account; tax exempt card was filed online and was able to be approved, as there was not \$50,000 deposited into the account within the last 12 months. Although the balance is over the \$50,000 threshold, deposits in that amount were not made.
- Motion made to approve Expense Report by Delegate DeReu
- Motion seconded by Delegate Hettich
- Motion passed

#### **President's Remarks**

- N/A

#### **VAC Superintendents Report**

- Supt Tangen and John Murray attended a Gurnee Village Hall meeting. Northridge Association was there to discuss the lots, building size, height restrictions, etc. for our new building. This will require a special permit from Gurnee, and will have to go through the zoning board, which looks like there will be no issues. Contracts should be signed for the two lots within the next week or two, then will take approx. 3+ months for the zoning to be approved.



- Our temporary office space at Hawkston Hall II, 1790 Nations Drive, Ste 221, Gurnee is currently in the rehab phase. They are fixing the rooms, painting and we are currently in contact with someone regarding furniture for the offices. We plan on moving in June and to be up and running by July.
  - Supt Tangen met with the Attorney General and others on March 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the movement within the assessors office to get rid of the PTAX exemption. St. Clair County did an audit and stated general under honorable discharges should not be eligible for the tax exemption, which is not the same in every county, and should be. This is considered an honorable discharge. They are working on getting this corrected and the same in every county. They also feel that the schools are losing money due to the veterans tax exemption, and that is not the way this works. They are working with the Attorney Generals office to covert that mindset and will be putting together a document on how much money is given to those counties by the Federal Government, which includes the monies brought in from veteran's compensation dollars.
  - Superintendent Tangen submitted written testimony to the House Veterans Committee Affairs on March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding state-chartered organizations. When the structure of II was done in the 1960's, guidance wasn't provided as to what a chartered organization consists of, and they are working to make it more clear on what a chartered organization consists of and to have those organizations be able to have a voice at the VAC's, this is still currently in the House.
  - Superintendent Tangen had a luncheon with Julie Morrison on Aril 14<sup>th</sup>. This was well attended by veterans. She is now the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the Senate. She is not a veteran and wanted to learn more about vets and what they are eligible for.
  - IACO Conference will be held in Springfield on May 10-12. This is more of a Legislative conference and the Ft. Sheridan transfer of land will be pushed.
  - Our new VSO, Jonathan Kellogg and two new Admin Asst's, Rachael Burke and Anthony Roberti have started and are doing well. Jonathan will be attending the basic benefits class next week.
  - FY24 Budget is still in the draft phase and will be done by our May meeting. Different factors need to be thought through pertaining to the budget. The land for our new purchase is 3.5 million, which consists of 1.55 million for the Crab shack land and 1.35 for the Outback land. We will use the remainder to pay for rent, updates and potentially hiring 1-2 more VSO's and/or Admin Asst and money will be transferred for Capitol Improvement, etc.
  - Policy and Procedures manual will be presented in May. All errors known have been corrected and we plan on asking for a vote of approval at the meeting. This will be emailed out to everyone, as we will not be printing out over 7000 pages again to pass out. Anyone who has not received it via email can call our office and request it to be emailed to them at any time.
  - Motion to accept the Superintendent Report made by Delegate DeReu
  - Motion seconded by Delegate Hettich
  - Motion passed.
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### Unfinished Business

- Update on offices at Lovell, there are two offices on the second floor of bldg. 135 which are currently being cleaned. IT wants us to only use their computers, and we're waiting for them to get back to us regarding the systems we use. They will also provide furniture.
- Old/New Business
  - President Konz was approached by Dignity Memorial during a presentation he attended and invited them to our next meeting as a guest speaker. They state they can do all the paperwork regarding burial which could potentially save time for our VSO's, but he is not sure what that all entails. Superintendent Tangen asked to postpone them until September until we can get more information.
  - President Konz has a letter from Mundelein AML 867 asking for a sponsor for the Golf Outing on June 13<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$400 from our NFP. Delegate DeReu made a motion to accept and Delegate Hettich seconded that motion. Motion passed.
  - Delegate DeReu stated the State Fair Vet Day on August 13<sup>th</sup> has breakfast for Goldstar families, JROTC competition, lunch for all vets. As of a few days ago, they are still approx. \$10,000 short. Can VAC NFP or Foundation sponsor this? Superintendent Tangen states this is not in our realm to do but he can bring it up to the IACVAC, and requested to have information on this sent to him so he can relay the request.
  - Superintendent Tangen alluded to the meeting last May with IDVA virtual Springfield. IDVA, IDOR, IACVAC, House and Senate Affair Committee regarding the St. Clair issue, discussing changing verbiage for general under honorable and honorable, as some counties are ok with the general discharge for the tax exemption, and some do not want to codify this language. We need to make this a blanket rule.
  - Reminder of the Mental Health First Aid training after the VACLK meeting on May 17, 2023.

### Report by Officers

- Delegate Ayers – Newsletter is coming out May 1<sup>st</sup>. Write a brief paragraph or list of events for Memorial Day and get it back to him by the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Delegate Honeywell – VFW Dist. 5 is having their annual Memorial Day Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at McHenry Post 4600, dinner will be at 5 and there is a \$15 charge per person. She also attended a luncheon at the Greenbelt Preserve in North Chicago and met with Lake County Responds for Veterans and they have very good information.
- Delegate Klauser – If anyone needs a key note speaker, he has a female vet who he can request speak. Delegate Klauser is new to our Executive Board, he is from Post 867 in Mundelein and he has been a delegate there for three years.
- Delegate Hettich – Antioch memorial is working with Lindenhurst memorial to deconflict schedules. Northeast Illinois Council for scouts, anything regarding scout involvement regarding Memorial Day, let him know. He attended Ft. Bragg and spoke at the Ball; end of school year Ft.



Knox speaking. If there are any questions on the Antioch Veteran Memorial Committee, let him know.

- President Konz – Mundelein AML 867 has Memorial Day Services, and Mike Peck will be the key note speaker. If anyone needs a bugler, please contact their local High Schools, as Jim Reynolds is currently not able to fulfill that duty.

**Motion to adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn made by Delegate Baumunk
- Motion to adjourn seconded by Delegate Hettich
- Motion passed.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

**Next Executive Board Meeting will be held on May 17, 2023 at the AML, Gurnee IL**