



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting start time and location

- 9:33 AM
- AML, Gurnee

Members Present

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

Members of the Public

- None present

Motion to Approve Previous Minutes

- Motion made to approve the Minutes from October made by Delegate Marciciak
- Motion seconded by Delegate Hettich
- Motion passed

NFP Expense Report

- Currently \$52,398.59 in NFP account for October 2023
 - Deposits totaling \$180.00, coin sales were the smaller dollar amount, \$25.00 paid to Village of Gurnee
- Motion made to approve Expense Report by Delegate Baumunk
- Motion seconded by Delegate DeReu
- Motion passed

President's Remarks

- No Remarks

Superintendents Report

- Performance Appraisals Submitted
 - We have a phenomenal staff, we receive 60 to 80 calls a day, customer service, proud of the team
 - Long-term employees scored 5



- New hires scored 3 are still on probation for 12 months due to background checks, PIV cards and accreditations needed, 3 new hires
- FHCC offices update
 - Furniture, scanner, phones, and computers are in and working
 - Plans initially to have one service officer there, gradually adding staff
 - Rotating staff have keys will attend initially one day per week (one administrative assistant and two VSOs, eventually we will be there five days a week)
 - We will be meeting with sailors getting out of the service for BDD claims
 - Opening date is pending, early 2024
 - President Konz added when, No Veteran Dies alone that a notary needs to be there, Assistant Superintendent Murray stated, the VAC staff are notaries, and we can assist with notarizing documents
 - A start date and hours of operation note needs to be placed on the doors of 106 and 107-completed by Assistant Superintendent Murray
- Superintendent's DC Trips
 - Superintendent is the First Vice President of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and has insight on two pieces of legislation
 - GUARD Act, S740 at 118th Congress-Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits. It was put together to prevent claim sharks from taking Veterans compensation away from them and can allow legal actions against them for criminal charges or take away their law licenses
 - PLUS Act of 2023-Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2023. This allows Veterans to retain their use of private sectors organization with no restrictions. They are not telling Veterans and their family members that many organizations do not charge for the same thing the private sector does
 - Our organizations have come together to stop the PLUS Act from being passed
 - We are fortunate that our Superintendent is an attorney
 - \$5.4 million budget passed unanimously
- Motion to accept the Superintendent Report made by Delegate Hettich
- Motion seconded by Delegate Marciciak
- Motion passed

Unfinished Business

- Nothing to report

Old/New Business

- Delegate Hettich – Veterans home needs a roof due to leaking and Veteran passed away. It costs between \$11,000 and \$12,000. Lake County Responds to Veterans cannot help until January/February. There is a \$6,000 down payment. Asking for another \$6,000 from organizations. Delegate Ayers stated to send a request to the Lynch Foundation with the five W's.



Assistant Superintendent Murray stated VACLC has authorization up to \$2,000 after discussion the delegates moved to approve \$3,000

- Motion to approve up to \$3,000 to assist with Veteran's roof made by Delegate DeReu
- Motion seconded by Delegate Klauser
- Motion passed

Report by Officers

- Nothing to report

Motion to adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Delegate DeReu
- Motion to adjourn seconded by Delegate Klauser
- Motion passed
- Meeting adjourned at 10:10am

Next Executive Board Meeting will be held on December 20, 2023, at the VACLC Office in Gurnee, IL