

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING: October 26, 2012

The second meeting of fiscal year 2013 was held on October 26, 2012, at the West Virginia Veterans Home in Barboursville, WV. Following are the minutes from that meeting:

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Bare.
- Six members were present-enough members in attendance for a quorum.
- Those present were: Chairman Bare, Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. James DeCarlo, Cedric Greene, and Patrick Farrell.
- Motion made to dispense of reading of the minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Highway Signs:

- Nursing facility signs in Clarksburg updated and cemetery signs installed. All required signs are in place and up to date.

Social Worker in Huntington:

- Social worker hired to cover Huntington area. All four social worker positions now filled.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

West Virginia Dept. of Veteran's Assistance Budget

- The department is required to cut 7.5% of the budget. Our recommendations were to cut \$100,000 out of our Van Budget which is \$150,000 per year. We still have over 55 vans in service right now at the four VAMCs so that will not affect us. The other part of the budget cut was \$20,000 supporting the Grafton Veteran's Day Parade. The other \$100,000 was to be cut from the Re-Education Fund. We've seen a reduction in the uses of the re-education fund. We will not be closing any offices or laying off any personnel.

Veteran's Status on WV Driver's License

- Veterans can now have their status as a veteran designated on their driver's licenses.

Report to the Interim Committee Concerning a New Nursing Facility in Beckley

- I was asked by the Interim Committee for Veteran's Affairs to explore the cost of a new nursing facility for veterans. It costs us about \$12 Million Dollars to operate the Clarksburg Facility. We take in close to \$6 Million of that from residents and VA Per Diem Fees, but the cost reported to them for 120 beds would be about \$34 Million. A 60 bed facility would be \$20 Million. This does not include site preparations, site construction This cost is simply for just the building and the inside materials.

VETERANS HOME REPORT (report by Stacy Brown, Administrator)

- The Veterans Home currently has 91 residents. We are looking at finishing our roofing construction which we hope to get completed before the hard weather sets in. We also have been looking into grants and some other ways of utilizing the property behind the maintenance building. We would like to add a small "assisted living" section and are looking into that.

CLARKSBURG NURSING FACILITY REPORT (report by Kevin Crickard, Administrator)

- We're running over 90% full. We've been averaging 110. I have 114 available beds right now. There are about 130 veterans on our waiting list. 100 are waiting to get on our regular unit, 30 are waiting to get on our Alzheimer's Unit. Our Alzheimer's unit currently has 19 out of 20 beds filled. We have 162 employees. We're actually in our final push for 189.5 full time equivalent positions, so we're 90% full, 90% staffed. We are in the process of phasing out one agency which we still use and replacing it with our very last final nurses.
- We just went through our annual survey from the Federal VA. We were found to have 10 deficiencies and one in life safety. We did a plan of correction and implemented a training cycle and some audits. They accepted our credible evidence and we are certified for another year.

DONEL C. KINNARD MEMORIAL STATE VETERANS CEMETERY (DCKMSVC) REPORT (report by Secretary Gwinn)

- Since opening, 48 individuals have been interred. On average, three people are buried per week.
- Federal regulations state that members of the National Guard are only eligible for burial at the DCKMSVC if they served on active duty. Those who never received orders are ineligible. Because this is a federal regulation, we must comply because we cannot afford to lose federal funding.
- Chairman Bare suggested returning to this issue later so we can seek help from Congressional Delegation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Bare made Council Committee Assignments:

- Council members assigned to DCKMSVC: Cedric Greene, Miles Epling, Randall Bare.
- Council members assigned to the WVNF: Bill Harris, Debra Tompkins, Miles Epling, Randall Bare.
- Council members assigned to Legislative Committee: Woody Williams, James DeCarlo, Miles Epling, Randall Bare.
- Council members assigned to Veterans Home: Patrick Farrell, Miles Epling, Randall Bare.

Chairman Bare, Upcoming Legislation

- Three pieces of legislation the Council is interested in: SR15, construction of a State Veterans Nursing, TBI Home.
- A bill to amend and re-enact 11 21 12 of Code WV 1931 related to exempting all military retirement income from State income tax be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia.
- A bill to make hunting and fishing licenses free to all veterans.
- Members of the legislative committee were directed to study the three bills and decide which one(s) they recommend the council support.

Bob Henry Baber, Glenville Veterans Legacy Project Update.

- Project began two years ago. It includes 36 piece photography exhibit, book and documentary film.
- It is available to travel the state for free when requested.

Stephen Dailey (Workforce WV):

- Shared information regarding Workforce West Virginia's veteran representatives and programs. Encouraged department to network with their offices.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS.

- No motions made as result of visitor comments.
- Chairman Bare motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded, passed.

A full transcript of the meeting is available at www.veterans.wv.gov.

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