



West Virginia Veterans Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 14, 2014

- The meeting opened at 1:00 pm in the Governor's Conference Room at the West Virginia State Capitol.
- Meeting called to order by Chairman Bare.
- Eight members were present, enough to establish a quorum.
- Those present were: Randall Bare, Mary Byrd, James DeCarlo, Miles Epling, Cedric Greene, Bill Harris, James McCormick, Woody Williams. Not present: Harrison Gilliam.
- Bill Harris motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion seconded by James DeCarlo. **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Update on Korean Monument: The City of South Charleston granted permission to move the monument to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery and that move is in the works.
- Update on Airborne Chapter Monument at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery: under development.
- Update on the Don Kinnard Memorial: funds have been raised by the VFW and monument is under development.
- Miles Epling requested information regarding size and design requirements for DCKMSVC monuments.
- Bill Harris requested information regarding the amount of monies available in the Jack Bennett fund.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Rick Thompson):

WV Veterans Council:

- Request made for all council members to provide copy of their driver's license to Secretary's Office for new OASIS system.
- Council pay has increased from \$100 to \$150 per meeting.
- Frequency of council meetings discussed. According to code, the council must meet once a year but is not required to meet more than that. The council cannot meet more frequently than once every two months without special approval.

AVVA Accreditation:

- Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) has requested WVDVA service officers become accredited through them. James DeCarlo motioned to accredit service officers through AVVA. Miles Epling seconded. **Motion carried.**

West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility Report:

- Facility was full for a time, but currently has 112 residents with four open beds.
- In other words, at the moment, 116 residents is our capacity. This is because three residents are psychosocial (can't have a roommate) and one is female, so her roommate must be female (there are no females currently waiting for admission).
- Customer satisfaction surveys were recently completed. 98% of residents and their families reported favorable opinions. Last year that number was 93%.

Veterans Home:

- Currently has 93 residents plus 6 in the transitional unit.
- They are working to establish a dental program so residents will have access to oral health care.

Cemetery:

- Interstate signs are up.
- There have been 255 burials total since opening in 2012.
- There is an average of 2 to 4 burials per week.

Field Offices:

- Legislative audit that we requested has returned to us several recommendations including: all files must be secured; several offices need to move in order to be ADA compliant (hope to have those offices moved in two to three months).
- All offices have newer computers so veterans can e-file.
- Last month offices helped secure \$9.9 million. Last year that number was about \$8 million.

NEW BUSINESS:

- James DeCarlo suggests setting specific meeting dates ahead of time rather than as each quarter approaches. Secretary agrees to look at options and report back next meeting.
- Woody Williams shares legislative resolution making WV a Gold Star Families State. Wants information on road sign in Point Pleasant that references Gold Star Families. Discussion **tabled.**
- Council requests Secretary provide them any information we have about Chester Howard West, WWI Medal of Honor recipient buried in Mason County.
- Concerns expressed about organizations falsely claiming that funds generated by their gambling machines benefit veterans. Secretary explained a formal complaint should be filed with the Secretary of State's office.
- Concerns about volunteers collecting money for veterans outside public businesses and taking that money back to veteran organizations in surrounding states. Again directed to follow up with Secretary of State's office.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN:

- James Decarlo motioned to reinstate Randall Bare as Chairman.
- Seconded by Miles Epling.
- Motion made to close nominations.
- **Motion passed** for Randall Bare to remain Chairman and he **accepted**.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Mary Byrd requested responsibilities to be assigned her by the Council. Directed by Randall Bare to stay in contact with Kevin Crickard, Administrator of the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility.
- Woody Williams requested formal dedication of Don Kinnard Memorial once it is complete.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:

- No motions made as result of visitor comments.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. **Meeting adjourned** at 1:55 pm.

Heather Miles
WVDVA Communications Director

Rick Thompson
WVDVA Cabinet Secretary