



West Virginia Veterans Council
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 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.
- Six members were present, enough to establish a quorum.
- Those present were: Randall Bare, James DeCarlo, Cedric Greene, Bill Harris, James McCormick, Harrison Gilliam. Those not present were: Woody Williams, Mary Byrd and Miles Epling.
- James DeCarlo motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion seconded by bill Harris. **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Chairman Bare continues to seek assistance from Veteran Service Organizations in efforts to locate a next of kin for Chester Howard West.
- John Hancock, Marine Corps League, said nephew of West's wife has been located but not yet contacted.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chairman Bare presented resolutions on behalf of Woody Williams.
- The first resolution regards "Honor Guard problems" at the cemetery. Woody is seeking a permanent, paid Honor Guard (not a volunteer Honor Guard) to be provided by the National Guard. Bill Harris motioned to approve the National Guard be dispensed as needed. Seconded by James McCormick. **Motion passed.**
- The second resolution suggests active duty members receive in state tuition when transferred here. Motion to approve made by James DeCarlo. Seconded by Harrison Gilliam. **Motion passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Rick Thompson):

Questions from previous meeting:

- Annual Budget for Jack Bennett Fund is currently \$2,754.
- Cemetery monuments are considered on a case by case basis and are approved by the cemetery Administrator, the WVDVA Cabinet Secretary, then the Veterans Council and finally, the Governor.

- Legislative action is required for placement of Gold Star Families highway signs. A copy of Senate Resolution #52 was provided to members for reference.

AVVA Accreditation:

- It was approved at the last meeting to have our service officers accredited through the AVVA. That paperwork has been submitted.

West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility Report:

- There are currently no veterans on the “active” waiting list. There are still 20 names on “interest” list, but they are not ready to move in at this time for various reasons.
- Census is approximately 105 residents.

VA request for conference call participation:

- VA VISN 4, which includes Clarksburg Medical Center, requests Council’s participation in monthly conference calls with the director.
- **Chairman Bare appoints Bill Harris** as Council representative to participate in the conference calls.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill Harris presented letter from the West Virginia Association of Club Owners regarding a fake veteran’s fraternal to Council.
- Bill Harris motioned to forward the letter to Governor Tomblin. Harrison Gilliam seconded. **Motion passed.**

VISITOR COMMENTS:

- RJ Hayes and John Hancock oppose National Guard Honor Guard taking over volunteer Honor Guard at DCKMSVC.
- Jack Tincer shares letter from Congressman Rahall encouraging veteran groups to help push information out to members regarding prescriptions and VA Medical care.
- No motions made as result of visitor comments.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. **Meeting adjourned** at 1:55 pm.

Cheryl Austin
Administrative Services Assistant

Rick Thompson
WVDVA Cabinet Secretary