

**WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARLESTON, WV
DECEMBER 12, 2008**

Meeting called to order by Robert Vass. Ralph Stump led the invocation and Bill Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Chester Fleming, Mr. Robert Vass, Mr. Ralph Stump, and Mr. Patrick Farrell. Members absent were: Mr. Don Kinnard absent because of sickness. Mr. Richard Homan and Ms. Debra Tompkins absent because of weather conditions.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of September 26, 2008 Council Meeting were approved and accepted by the Council.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Keith Gwinn informed Council an option for the cemetery entrance has been selected. The survey and transfer of property for the cemetery should be completed by January. Veterans Memorial should be completed by Memorial Day. The Women statue will be picked up by the foundry. The statue should be completed by Memorial Day. I am checking with the Legislature about the resolution for the weapons and will let the Council know the decision.

VETERANS HOME

Larry Blackaby, Administrator, absent.

NURSING FACILITY REPORT

Kevin Crickard gave an update on the Veterans Nursing Facility and answered questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Young, Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars, discussed the retirement board problems.

Mr. Vass recognized all visitors.

Bill Harris closed the meeting with the benediction.

No further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by Veterans Council _____, Chairman,
_____ day of _____, 2009.

**WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARLESTON, WV
MARCH 13, 2009**

Meeting called to order by Robert Vass. Ralph Stump led the invocation and Bill Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Chester Fleming, Mr. Robert Vass, Mr. Ralph Stump, and Mr. Patrick Farrell and Ms. Debra Tompkins. Members absent were: Mr. Richard Homan sick.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes of December 12, 2008 Council Meeting

DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Keith Gwinn informed Council the survey for the cemetery is being created. We are waiting to see if we will receive any of the stimulus money to do the project.

Mr. Gwinn also informed the Council Resolution 23 will be presented today to name the cemetery after Don Kinnard.

VETERANS HOME

Larry Blackaby, Administrator, absent.

NURSING FACILITY REPORT

Keith Gwinn informed the Council the nursing facility has hired 20 new nurses. We are taking residents in now.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to elect Miles Epling as Chairman for the Council.

The Lottery has changed the ticket for the veterans scratch off. The money can now be used for the operation of the cemetery. Keith Gwinn is going to have someone from Lottery at next meeting.

Mr. Vass recognized all visitors.

Ralph Stump closed the meeting with the benediction.

No further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by Veterans Council _____, Chairman,
_____ day of _____, 2009.

**WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARLESTON, WV
JUNE 26, 2009**

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Miles Epling. Ralph Stump led the invocation and Patrick Farrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Chester Fleming, Mr. Ralph Stump, and Mr. Patrick Farrell. Members absent were: Mr. Richard Homan sick. Ms. Debra Tompkins and Robert Vass excused.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes of March 13, 2009 Council Meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Mike Lyons, Deputy Director, reported Group 8 VAMC reopened for enrollment. A new income for veterans was reestablished. The veteran's cemetery is on schedule. We will be hiring a Director for cemetery. Yellow Ribbon Bill passed by Legislature gave out-of-state veterans tuition waiver for colleges. The veteran's memorial repairs are underway. Since 9/11 there has been 2000 suicides reported. Legislature passed the hiring of four Social Workers. Veterans Affairs has purchased and issued 13 vans. The Women Statue has been bronzed and we are currently designing a base for the statue.

VETERANS HOME

Larry Blackaby, Administrator, gave an update on the Veterans Home. He also informed the Council he will be retiring effective August 1, 2009.

NURSING FACILITY REPORT

Kevin Crickard, Administrator, gave an update on the Veterans Nursing Facility.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Epling recognized Gregory F. Aloia, Ph. D, President and Professor, Concord University. He discussed how the colleges are attracting the veterans to the schools.

Mr. Epling recognized Joe Thornton, Deputy Director Maps and all visitors.

Ralph Stump closed the meeting with the benediction.

No further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by Veterans Council _____, Chairman,
_____ day of _____, 2009.

WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
WV VETERANS HOME
BARBOURSVILLE, WV
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Miles Epling. Robert Vass led the invocation and Patrick Farrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were, Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Chester Fleming, Mr. Ralph Stump, Mr. Patrick Farrell, Ms. Debra Tompkins, Mr. Robert Vass, Mr. Randal Bare, and Mr. Cedric Greene. Members absent were: Mr. William "Bill" Harris

Miles Epling, Chairman, welcomed the new members Randal Bare and Cedric Greene to the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes got June 26, 2009 Council Meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Keith Gwinn, Director introduced the new Administrator for the Veterans Home, Stacy Brown, She will begin the Administrator position on October 16, 2009. A place has been selected by the Capital Building Commission for the West Virginia Women's Statue. The statue will be located between the Veterans Memorial and the DMV Building. The base for the statue is being bid out for contract. We should have the deed for the Veteran Cemetery Monday or Tuesday. There have been several vacancies in the Division. The two vacancies in Beckley and one in Princeton have been filled. The office in Hurricane should be ready to open in two months. We are getting ready to interview for the four Social Worker positions for the Va Medical Centers. We should begin delivery of the thirteen new vans next week.

VETERANS HOME

Chris Cremeans, Acting Director, recognized a couple of the employees at the Veterans Home.

NURSING FACILITY REPORT

We will take the 60th resident next Tuesday. This makes the facility half way filled.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

Motion made and past to write a letter to the DMV concerning the handicapped parking and ramp. Cedric Greene informed the Council he would talk with the Commissioner of DMV and see what can be done. He will report back to the Council at the next meeting. Motion made and passed to rescind motion passed to write a letter to DMV.

Chairman Epling recognized all the visitors and thanked the Veterans Home for allowing us to have the meeting at their facility.

Woody Williams wanted to know what this Council suppose to be doing. The Council is to be informed of any veteran's issues. Mr. Williams discussed the Rules and Regulations for admission into the Veterans Home. Mr. Williams also discussed a resolution to have markers erected on highways and bridges identifying those who gave their lives for our freedom and those who dedicated their lives to public service.

Ralph Stump closed the meeting with the benediction.

No further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by Veterans Council _____, Chairman,
_____ day of _____, 2009.

WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
DAYS INN CONFERENCE CENTER
FLATWOODS, WV
DECEMBER 11, 2009

Meeting called to order by Chairman Epling. Robert Vass led the invocation and Larry Linch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Patrick Farrell, Mr. Chet Fleming, Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Ralph Stump, Mr. Robert Vass, Mr. Randal Bare, Ms. Debra Tompkins, and Mr. Cedric Greene.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes for September 25, 2009.

Cedric Greene read a letter from Mr. Joe Miller, Commissioner, Division of Motor Vehicles, concerning the limited number of handicap spaces available at the Kanawha City Regional Office of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Keith Gwinn, Director, Veterans Affairs addressed the code of State Rules to match the State Code concerning residency requirements. Priority will be established for a veteran who was a resident of the State of West Virginia one (1) year or more immediately prior to the date of application; or, was a resident of the State of West Virginia at the time of enlistment or induction as documented by Department of Defense on the DD214. Non-residents will be required to establish residency.

Keith Gwinn, Director, informed the Council that we will begin to track the resolutions. There is only one resolution for a bridge to be named after a soldier in Lincoln County who was not a West Virginia resident.

The Logan Office was damaged by fire and had been moved to Henlawson at the Vet Center.

The Cemetery is at a dead end. The donation agreement was signed by the Reality Board and Dow and sent to the Attorney Generals Office. They refuse to sign the donation agreement because they believe Dow should be responsible for the property. Dow will not make any changes on the Agreement and has informed us that until the donation agreement is signed nobody is allowed on the property donated to the State for the cemetery by Dow. There is another meeting between the Governor's office and the Attorney General on Monday.

Keith Gwinn, Director, discussed the budget in lengthy detail. Several questions were asked from the visitors.

The Council made motion and passed to accept the Budget as recommended by Mr. Keith Gwinn.

Keith Gwinn informed the Veterans of Foreign Wars he or Mike would be in Clarksburg at 11:00 on Friday to discuss the rent for the field office.

VETERANS HOME

Stacy Brown, Administrator, gave the report for the Veterans Home.

VETERANS NURSING FACILITY

Kevin Crickard, Administrator, gave the report for the Veterans Nursing Facility.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss. Meeting adjourned

Robert Vass closed the meeting with the benediction.

Minutes approved by Veterans Council Chairman, _____,
the _____ day of _____, 2009.

WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS COUNCIL
DAYS INN CONFERENCE CENTER
AMERICAN LEGION POST 68
BRIDGEPORT, WV
JUNE 25, 2010

Meeting called to order by Chairman Epling. Ralph Stump led the invocation and Randal Bare led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called. Those members present were Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. Patrick Farrell, Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Ralph Stump, Mr. Robert Vass, Mr. Randal Bare, Ms. Debra Tompkins, and Mr. Cedric Greene. Mr. Chet Fleming was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed to accept the minutes for December 11, 2009.

The new rules and regulations for Admission to the Veterans Home were distributed. Motion made and passed for Council to accept the change to 3.2.3 of the rules and regulations.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Keith Gwinn, Director, Veterans Affairs informed the Council the Veterans cemetery prebid meeting was held on June 22, 2010. There were 20 contractors at the prebid meeting. July 27, 2010 is the approved final decision date for the grant. The contractor will have 380 days for completion of the cemetery.

The van drivers are required to make a complete round trip to and from the hospital with a four hour minimum. Council made motion and passed to write a policy and procedure for the van driver per diem requirement.

The Veteran Service Office has been hired for the Clarksburg field office.

Council made motion and passed to establish a social worker position for the Welch field office.

VETERANS HOME

Keith Gwinn informed the Council there are 98 residents at the Home.

VETERANS NURSING FACILITY

Kevin Crickard, Administrator, gave the report for the Veterans Nursing Facility.

NEW BUSINESS

Council made motion and passed to name each wing of the Veterans Nursing Facility after a Metal of Honor Recipient.

There was no new business to discuss. Meeting adjourned

Minutes approved by Veterans Council Chairman, _____,
the _____ day of _____, 2010.