

Present for meeting: Chairman Steuterman, Director Brown, Deputy Director Vincent, Senator Niezgodski, Representative Macer, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ballard, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Hylton, Mr. Coley and Mr. Elsener

Date: October 5, 2018 at 1300

Location: IVH, West Lafayette, Indiana

Opening with Chairman Steuterman: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Steuterman: Any discussion about minutes from the last meeting? If none, do we have a motion to approve? Mr. Caldwell motion to approve, Mr. Hylton second. Minutes approved. Thanks Linda and her staff for hosting us today. Enjoyed eating with the residents. Asked if we could come every October.

Mr. Brown: IDVA update. We have several events for the upcoming WWI celebrations. October 12 we have an event in Madison, IN honoring Woodfill, who was awarded many decorations. The 777 building is undergoing renovations. Bids have been received to make improvements on the building along with matching funds. The building should be ready to move into in around 14 months along with some other organizations that would be permanent residents. The cemetery was awarded a grant to do improvements and we are working on additional grants. We are getting more veterans.

Chairman Steuterman: Thanks those who worked on the MFRF Rules working group.

Mr. Coley: MFRF Rules update. We first discussed the public comments and found that many of them were already covered under the Indiana code. The ones not covered by the code, we examined to see if they would fit into the model with which we were working. Some of the recommendations from the public were able to be incorporated into the rules.

Chairman Steuterman: We need to take a vote on the MFRF rules as amended. Do we have a motion to approve the rules as amended? Mr. Baker says aye, Mr. Hylton seconds. Motion is passed and the amended Rules will be posted on the website. Next up are the homelessness rules.

Mr. Thompson: We will prepare a packet that will go to the Attorney General for their approval.

Chairman Steuterman: Jay Kendall had his CVS0 meeting prior to the Commission meeting.

Mr. Kendall: We had a good meeting with a director from the regional office. Next time we will do more question and answers for the regional office.

Chairman: We want more input from veterans around the state and would like to have as many CVS0s attend as possible.

Ms. Sharp: IVH Update. Thanks everyone for coming. Hope you get a chance to talk to the residents. IVH has had a busy year. Had lots of renovations. Rules and regulations have changed and are pushing for a home like environment and we are working to do just that. Lots of changes in the dementia wing. Finished the steam heat renovation and will work on electrical soon. Had our annual surveys in April and we came away with 5 Tags which were very easy fixes. Most were fixed before they even left the building. CMS changes are supposed to be implemented in three phases and will be done by Nov 2019. Been practicing for emergencies such as landslides, active shooters. IVH is getting a coffee shop and is

working with the blind and visually impaired to run it. Electronic medical records is now fully running so there is no paper charting. Able to purchase a new med van and will also be used as advertisement. Had our first annual open house, public and vendors came in. Have a therapy cat along with the dog, Libby. We have 198 in Lincoln and 172 in Comp now. Working with Roudebush.

Mr. Coley introduces Mr. Peek, past State Adjutant.

Ms. McKee: Women Veterans update. The Women's program received 28 DD214 packets. 15 new registries. 74 total added. We had an area set up at our conference this year for women to get their pictures taken and tell their stories. Doing prison visits to let veterans know their rights and what benefits are available to them. Talked to approximately 25 veterans so far. 1,800 incarcerated state wide and 450 are females. Chairman Steuterman would like to know what we are doing for the men. Would like for Cathy Griffin to come to our next meeting. Indiana is the only state with her position (Director of Veterans Affairs for the Department of Corrections). We have a planning committee represented by the Big 4 for the 2019 Women's Conference. The location will be the IWM and after July 1. The national conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ms. Bonner: Communications update. This is a new position. Working to project a positive understanding on what the IDVA is doing and how we are integrating into the community. Pushing social media - especially to the younger generation. We have constant updates on events throughout the state. We have grown by 300 followers and twitter has increased as well. We have 101 followers on Instagram. Continue to update content on the website to streamline navigation to make things easier to find. On October 1, we now have a veterans' resource hub on our website with lots of useful links. In our efforts to reach people across the state, we will do a quarterly newsletter. The first one, sent October 4, reached approximately 8,000 people. Working with the Native American Veterans Commission.

Mr. Pugh: Employment update. Since January 1, we have 134 employed veterans which is higher than last year. Had our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual summit. Worked with DWD and SAA. Also working with INVets to help veterans find employment.

Chairman Steuterman: I really liked the reverse job fair. Would like to see more people attend next year given how worthwhile it was.

Mr. Morrison: Lt Governor Update. Veteran opportunity partner program currently has 521 partners 349 are employers. The webpage has received over 20,000 hits. Next level veterans program launched this year so far we have made 23 base visits. 460 soon-to-be veterans and 61 companies registered. Yesterday the website was updated to include the Northeast region. Approximately five hired but most are not ready to be employed yet. Lots of people in the pipeline.

Mr. Baker: SAA update. Just came out of our 2018 contract year. Have received our 2019 contract and budget. Waiting on state to implement it. 218 catalog approvals for Institutions of higher learning, 24 outreaches, 21 liaison visits, 58 compliance survey visits, 55 inspection visits for new locations. Out of those 55 we have approved 30 - varies from On-the-Job Training to non-college programs, mostly police departments. Continue to work with the Commission for Higher Education. Information can be found on our website concerning Harrison College and their sudden closing. GI bill spending was

\$105,284,000. \$606,000 in our budget. Anything we spend in the state is reimbursed by the federal government.

Mr. Dyke: Training update. State benefits to date: license plates 408, taxes 402, hunting and fishing 287, scholar track for tuition and fee exemption for Aug and Sept 306. Last year it was 402 paper applications; the year before that it was 589 paper applications. Students not needing to reapply every semester has helped cut our numbers in half. CVSOs: 89 accredited, Cambria Sparks covers two counties. Scott County not accredited yet but only on board for a month. State mandate is a year to get accredited. Tentative dates for annual CVSO meeting 10-12 June 2019. Meeting with DAV to get them set up with VetraSpec like the Legion. VetraSpec currently has 61,500 records.

Mr. Vincent: MFRF update. On track to spend the same amount as money as last year. Have denial breakdown. More post 9/11 than pre 9/11. Broken down by branches and weeks. When the budget agency transferred funds, the fund was at \$3,000,000 dollars which are maintaining with license plate sales. We have had conversations with the budget agency about transferring funds. If someone requests more money than the initial \$2,500, that request will now go to the commission for approval/review.

Mr. Thompson: Under state law the commissioners can call for an emergency meeting but they must follow a to-be-written policy adopted by the commission.

Mr. Coley makes a motion for a three member committee with a 4<sup>th</sup> alternate to meet at IGCS to review the cases and see how the system will work.

Mr. Thompson: Being in compliance with the code is different than the rules. Needs further discussion.

Mr. Vincent: Introduces Mike Aichele as the new IDVA Legislative Director. He has helped write grants for IDVA, including the grants for the cemetery. We will continue to push the veteran disability placard that resembles the Hoosier Veteran Disabled plate. Waiting on the Governor's agenda to come out. Legislative questions should now go to Mike.

Chairman Steuterman: The next meeting is set for Jan 11 at IGCS.

Ms. Wilken: Discusses the Military and Veterans Day at the Statehouse on 11 Feb 2019. It is a day for them to come to the Statehouse and have facetime to discuss what they support and what they don't. We are considered a special interest group. Having an opportunity to have time with the legislators is important. We are adding two Senate sponsors.

Steuben County CVSO: Medicaid issue with veterans and using service connected disability as a source of income and they can't get approved for Medicaid.

Mr. Vincent: I will get with Joe Elsener to start working on this.

Jeff Brooks: Regarding MFRF: from the time you get a claim from a service officer to the time it is approved, what is the time frame?

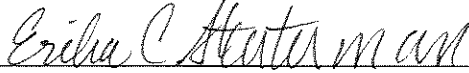
Mr. Vincent: If we get everything we need, there isn't a reason for it to take longer than 5 days. Sometimes we do not have all of the information so we need to get in touch with the service officer or the veteran.

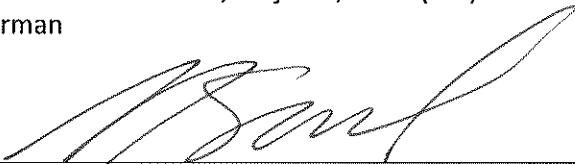
Mr. Brooks: I help run the Porter County stand down and would like to get the state benefits book back into print.

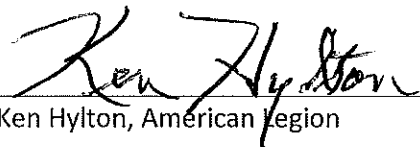
Mr. Vincent: If we could get the counties to chip in, we should be able to do this.

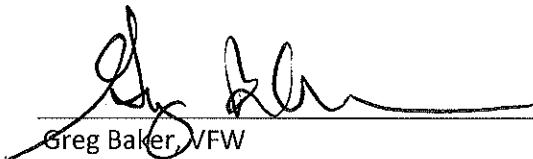
Chairman Steuterman: Thank you for being here. Safe travels home.


Meeting adjourned.

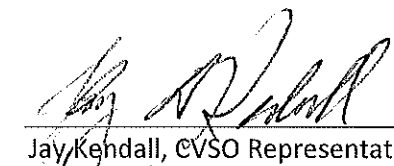
  
ERIKA C. STEUTERMAN, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)  
Chairman  
Date 11 Jan 19

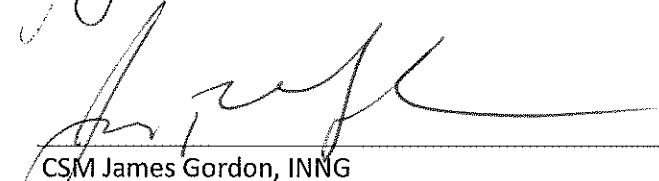
  
Matthew Vincent, Acting Director  
IDVA  
Date 1/11/19

  
Ken Hylton, American Legion  
Date 1/07/2019

  
Greg Baker, VFW  
Date 1/11/2019

  
Richard Caldwell, AMVETS  
Date 11 JAN 19

  
Jay Kendall, CVSO Representative  
Date 11 Jan 19

  
CSM James Gordon, INNG  
Date 11 JAN 19

  
Mr. Greg Ballard, Member  
Date 11 JAN 19