



Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission
Friday, October 11, 2019 11:00 AM
Hulman Field
800 S. Petercheff St
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Commission Meeting Minutes

General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Chairman Steuterman, Dennis Wimer, Ken Hylton, Greg Baker, Richard Caldwell, Jay Kendall, Kevin Coley, Greg Ballard
- **Absent:** CSM James Gordon, Sen Mrvan, Sen Tomes, Rep Zent, Rep Macer

Chairman motion to approve meeting minutes.

- Quarterly Meeting
Motion to approve July meeting minutes. Caldwell motion to approve, Kendall seconds.
Motion to approve passed.
- Ad Hoc Meetings
Motion to approve Ad Hoc meeting minutes. Caldwell motion to approve, Kendall seconds
Motion to approve passed.

Old Business

Dennis Wimer, MFRF Appeals Process:

- Change in law since last session
- Look at maintaining current ALJ into the next meeting, and what our options are moving forward.
- Motion to pass resolution to continue the use of the ALJ through January. Caldwell motion to continue, Hylton seconds Motion to continue is passed.



Dennis Wimer, Process to Review MFRF Requests in Excess of \$2,500:

- Rule is \$2,500 is the max and they can appeal.
- Get asked for exceptions almost every day. Initial request for assistance is over \$2,500 or they have already received \$2,500 and want more.
- All exceptions go through the Commission, to include employees who apply for MFRF.

Dennis Wimer, Policy Review:

- IDVA State Benefit Application Process Policy:
 - Give the commission three months to review policies.
- MFRF Time in Service Evaluation:
 - Resolution to count all time including Guard and Reserve time. Motion to approve MFRF time in service evaluation. Kendall motion to approve, Ballard seconds. Motion to approve time passed.
- MFRF Income Determination – What income is considered:
 - Income eligibility standards must be based on federal gross income.
 - Non taxable income is not considered.
 - Motion to approve income eligibility requirements. Hylton motion to approve, Caldwell seconds. Motion to approve passed.
- Veteran Suicide:
 - Motion to approve suicide training. Baker motion to approve, Kendall seconds. Motion is passed.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of ALJ Recommendations:

- ALJ looks over appeals and gives her decision.
- Commission has the ultimate authority over the decision to agree or disagree with recommendation.
- Motion to approve recommendations made by ALJ. Caldwell motions to approve, Ballard seconds. Motion is passed.

STATE OF INDIANA

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

New Business

- Motion to have a taskforce to review MFRF rule for potential modifications. Kendall motion to review, Coley seconds. Motion is passed.
- Minimum of three on taskforce. Wimer, Coley, Kendall and Baker volunteered.
- Start meeting in November.

Coley suggests to have signs put up at meeting locations to help the public find the location of commission meetings.

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeals:

- Mr. Hepner did not appear.
 - If he can provide just cause for not being here, commission could consider to hear his appeal.
 - Notice of proposed default will be sent unless compelling reason is given.
- Last ad hoc meeting there was a split decision-three to three on a case.
 - Decided it was most appropriate to hear it after a certain date had been met.
 - Case will be heard at next ad hoc meeting.

Gabrielle Owens, MFRF Requests in Excess of \$2,500:

- Currently there are no cases to discuss.

Dennis Wimer, Homelessness Grants:

- Working with MFRF and Indiana Housing Authority.
- Approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000 put into budget to use on grant.
- Million dollars to use over a two year period.
- Holding some back for outreach and communication to help get information out to the public.

Dennis Wimer, Policy Review:

- Limited Use Policy on how to use state equipment for personal use.
Motion to approve limited use policy. Ballard motion to approve, Kendall seconds.
Motion is passed.

Dennis Wimer, Legislative Changes Regarding Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeals Timeline:

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- The law says we have 15 days to hear an appeal, try to move it to within 45 days. Work with the Commission for Higher Education.

Public Comment:

No public comments.

Department Reports:

Director Wimer, IDVA:

- Thanks team for taking care of things while he was off.
- Hiring full time MFRF staff, moving away from contractors.
- Lynn Dickey has been offered the role of MFRF supervisor.
- Anyone unemployed we connect them with unemployment.
- If they are not in the VA benefits system we connect them.
- Partnering with the INNG and their financial counseling program and offering that opportunity to applicants.
- Working with VA health system and working with applicants to get them enrolled through tele-health.
- Will have a system that flows with the INNG, who also has a relief fund. This will help with information regarding applicants
- Interviewing for Outreach Director. 45 applicants, will interview 8.
- DVA website is set up to answer basic questions to help determine what the veteran might be eligible for.

Jim Morrison, Next Level Veterans:

- 590 Veteran Opportunity Partners.
- Goal is to relocate 5,000 veterans and spouses a year.
- 703 veterans and 135 employers registered into the existing INVETS system
- 106 families have been relocated to Indiana.
- Working on Veterans Court funding for counties that do not have one.

Mike Thompson, Division Reports:

- Pre-reads were sent out before hand.

Next meeting will be in Indianapolis on January 10, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 1:07

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Erika Steuterman, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
Chairman

Date

10 Jan 2020

Dennis Wimer, Director IDVA

Date

Ken Hylton, American Legion

Date

Richard Leirer, VFW

Date

11/10/2020

Richard Caldwell, AMVETS

Date

10 JAN 2020

Jay Kendall, CVSO Representative

Date

10 Jan 2020

BG R. Dale Lyles, INNG

Date

10 JAN 2020

Kevin Coley, DAV

Date

10 Jan 2020

