

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

Members Present: Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Harden, Lank, Wasson and Weir

Members Excused: Lardizzone, Kitson, Newstadt, Sarg and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: James Collins (SOS), Bill McMullen (AFSA), David Rich (DOL), Renee Adams (EFTC), Nick Feri (VVA), and Butch Elzer (DCAG)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Vice Chairman Thompson opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

McMullen – The Air Force Sergeants Association conducted a Professional Airmen's Conference in Atlanta, GA, last week; which was very successful. The AFSA and the First Sergeants Association are sponsoring a POW/MIA vigil and retreat ceremony on September 18, 2009, at the flag pole on Dover AFB.

Rich – Provided additional information concerning the Veterans Stand Down & Employment Expo scheduled for October 31, 2009, at the NUR Temple in New Castle, DE. Transportation will be provided throughout the State for all veterans to attend the event. He asked the veterans organizations for their help in supporting this activity.

Adams – She is also involved with the Veterans Stand Down & Employment Expo and asked for winter coat donations. The Extended Family That Care (EFTC) organization will be hosting a holiday meal again this year.

Elzer – He belongs to the Delaware Community Appreciation Group and they do fundraisers and barbeques for the wounded veterans at the Walter Reed Medical Center.

Collins – Reported that the State sold one of the two properties that were donated to the Veterans Home. Those funds will be deposited into the Friends of the Veterans Home account and will be used for building the pavilion. They anticipate going to closing on the other property next month. His community relations person is working with the Veterans Home staff on the groundbreaking ceremony for the pavilion for Veterans Day.

Harden – Reported a correction to July meeting minutes. On page 3, Commissioner Newstadt referred to a VAVS meeting; when it should have read "Homecoming event".

Lank – Requested that the residency waiver for admission to the Veterans Home that was approved by the Commission last month, state the circumstances of the residency request.

MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT JULY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED, SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Wasson – Construction has been approved and will begin at the Southern Cemetery tomorrow. They are in the process of choosing an A&E firm for the construction at the Northern Cemetery.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Corsa (VVA) – On September 18, 2009, 4:00-9:00 pm, the VVA will be hosting a POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the Georgetown Circle.

Lank (MOWW) – They had a picnic in July. Their National Convention was in Baltimore, MD, this year and was very successful. They will start conducting chapter meetings again on September 15, 2009.

Carroll (MOPH) – The local Sussex County Chapter had their annual picnic at Trap Pond on Saturday, August 15, 2009. Their National Convention was the second week in August.

Thompson (MCL) – The National MCL is hosting a Military Expo at the Marine Corps School in Quantico, VA, from September 29-October 1, 2009.

Weir (AMVETS) – Their National Convention was held in New Orleans, LA, from August 8-16, 2009. He provided AMVETS pins to Commissioners that was designed by Dawn Premock, AMVETS Department Commander. The pin won second place at the National Convention. He also provided information concerning a luncheon with Mr. Sanford Garfunkel, the Network Director VA Capitol Health Care Network, VISN 5, on September 18, 2009, at Spates Hall (Community Club), Ft. Myer, VA. Mr. Garfunkel will be speaking on Veterans Health Care and all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to attend. After attending the National Convention, Commissioner Weir also shared his concern about the younger veterans wanting to start their own veterans organization for Gulf (Middle East) veterans because they feel members of the veterans organizations now are too old. In his opinion, if they start their own organization and not join the ones that are established, then our organizations will die out. Discussion followed.

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Convention started today in Louisville, KY. The Department will resume regular meetings on September 12, 2009.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reid – Provided the monthly update on the Veterans Home. The Delaware Veterans Home fund is currently at \$118,447. Mr. Reid also provided results, deficiencies and corrections from the annual survey conducted on June 11, 2009, by DHSS, Division of Long Term Care Residence Protection.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Weir – Provided information pertaining to an article of a police officer in New York City who took care of a WWII Marine veteran (who was in dire straits) until he died. Commissioner Weir sent a letter to his Commander and Police Commissioner congratulating him for the work he did for veterans. Also, he expressed his thoughts concerning the Lockerbie, Scotland, terrorist release.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 22, 2009 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED