



Carroll County Veterans Assistance Commission

301 North Main Street – Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053

CCVAC Quarterly Meeting March 16, 2017 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM at the conference room with invocation by Ellis Boughton, followed by Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call.

Roll Call

Present were Ellis Boughton, Paul Mayer, Lee Gibbs, Lyle Musselman, Dave Lawton, Vic Hartman, Ernie Johnson, Terry Lattin, Ken Shaler, Richard Groharing, Marion Zemke, Bill Hanna, and Shannon Grove. Paul Hartman and Gary Imel of the Carroll County Board was also in attendance.

Posts Present

Savanna American Legion, Thomson American Legion, Mount Carroll American Legion Chadwick American Legion, Milledgeville American Legion, Shannon American Legion, Lanark/ Mount Carroll VFW.

Minutes Approval (Prior)

Motion to approve December 2016 meeting minutes was made by Lyle Musselman, seconded by Richard Groharing, motion carried.

Agenda Approval

Agenda was given to Board members and discussed, but none voted on.

Presentation

Asa Burbank made a short presentation regarding service/support animals for Veterans. He brought two of the dogs he is currently training. He hopes to assist with providing local Veterans with trained service/support animals at no to minimal charge.



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Old Business

- Lawsuit Update
 - The Lawyer has asked for a comparison of VAC program in other IL counties versus how we are operating.
 - Sampling of counties of different sizes, 10 – 15 different counties in Illinois.
 - Also, to include what assistance other counties provide (i.e. just financial or assistance with Veterans Benefits as well).
 - DeKalb would be the highest population county to include
 - Proposed legislation could require Illinois VAC's to have the same certification as the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. This could benefit outcome of Lawsuit.
- Appointment of Post Delegate and Alternate Representatives
 - Still missing information from Savanna VFW and Lanark American Legion
- VA Transportation
 - Raffle is progressing, with over \$2000 in tickets already sold.
 - Drawing is April 21st
 - All tickets must be sold by April 17th.
 - Jolynn Cruz is no longer with the Carroll County Senior Center.
 - Susan, President of the Senior Center, appears to be confused on their boards decision to assist the VAC, but says that they will honor any previous agreements/commitments that have been made.
 - Bill Hanna will clarify the Senior Centers position on the conference call on Monday March 20, 2017.
 - Senior Center asked about allowing non-Vets to go on the bus to Madison when there is space available.
 - Their trip fees would have to offset what VAC is putting towards trip costs. Also, understand that the Veterans will always be the priority. Motion was made Richard Groharing and seconded by Paul Mayer to accept non-Vets. Motion carried.
 - No Contract has been drawn up yet.
 - Bill Hanna is looking into possible grant options available to the VAC. Some require Non-profit status.
 - VAC may have had non-profit status at one time, but does not appear to have been previously maintained.

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- Bill will start paperwork to obtain non-profit status again but it will probably not be completed/in place by May deadline for transportation grant.
- Donation Management Update
 - There is \$2000 in the Carroll County Memorial Fund, no change from previous meeting.
- VAC Travel Policy
 - Shannon Grove presented an updated travel policy based on the current Carroll County travel policy with changes to reflect current State and Federal guidelines.
 - Paul Mayer made a motion to accept the updated policy, seconded by Lyle Musselman, motion carried.
- VAC Facebook Page
 - Page is up and running and looking to promote local events by Carroll County VFW/American Legion Posts.
 - All Members were encouraged to like and share the page to promote it.
- Veterans Treatment Court update
 - No information from States Attorney yet, but it should be available soon.

New Business

- Bylaw Changes
 - Two Posts need their post names changed (1 spelling, 1 name change)
 - Minor changes
 - “IL” was added to Carroll County, as there may be other Carroll Counties in the US
 - Delegate/alternate changed to delegate(s)/alternate(s)
 - Paul Mayer made a motion to accept the changes, motion was seconded by Dave Lawton, motion carried.
- Veterans needing emergency assistance to get home
 - What aid, if any, should the VAC provide to veterans who are not residents of Carroll County but are stranded here and need assistance getting home.
 - After discussion, it was decided the VAC would decline on providing assistance due to difficulty verifying the Veterans circumstances – local posts could handle on a case by case basis and there is other local assistances available.

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- Motion to decline assistance was made by Vic Hartman, and seconded by Richard Groharing, motion carried.

Report From Superintendent / VSO:

- Handout with office stats for budget and activity first quarter presented by Bill Hanna.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Lawton, seconded by Richard Groharing, motion carried.
Adjourned at 9:09 pm

Minutes submitted by Shannon Grove
Administrative Assistant
CCVAC

Minutes Reviewed by William Hanna
Superintendent
CCVAC