

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Jan 28, 2009

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
George Mason	V.F.W Post 2470	Delegato	1-815-433-0586
Bernard M. Smith	A.L. Post 235	Delegato	815 795 2768
Hick Nekrosius	A.P. 426	Delegato	224-2204
Larry Terhman	DAV 86	Delegato	431 0106
Jim Monahan	Post 33	Del	434-4633
Howard Gast	POST 549	Del	1-815-246-9689
Ken Harker	VFW 5506	Del	815-795-2466
ROBERT RILEY	VFW 5506	Del.	815 795 4668

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 1/15/50

TO: SAC, NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

RE: [Illegible handwritten text]

ADMINISTRATIVE: [Illegible handwritten text]

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

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Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Feb 25 2009

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
George Mason	VFW Post 2470	Delegate	815-433-0586
Nick Nekrosing	Legion 426	Delegate	227 2204
Bernard M. Smith	Legion 235	Delegat	815 795 2768
Larry Terahon	DAV 86	Delegate	431 0106
Howard Hast	POST 549	Part Comm.	815-246-9689
Douglas Grievic	POST 260	Del.	712 375 5569
KEN HAUSKEN	POST 5506	DB2	815-795 2466
BOB RILEY	POST 5506	ALTERNATE	815 795 4068

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
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Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: March 25/09

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Nick Hekrosing	Legion 426	Delegate	224-2204
Bernad M. Smith	Marseilles Legion 235	A	815-795-2768
George Mason	Ottawa VFW Post 2470	Delegate	815-433-0586
Robert J. Piley	MARSEILLES VFW 5506	ALTERNATE	795-4068
Larry Shalhan	DAV 86 MORRIS	Delegate	4310106
Ken Hank	VFW 5506	Del	795-2466
Douglas McInerney	Post 260 Tonica	Del	712 375 5569
Howard Gast	Post 549 Earlville	P. Com.	815-246-9689
Jan Naulis	Post 33 OTTAWA		815-434-4633

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
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119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: April 22, 2009

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
George Mason	VFW Post 2470	Delegate	1-815-433-0586
Bernard M. Smith	AH #235	"	1815-795-2768
Larry Graham	DAV #86	"	1815 220 0045
Jim Nonnie	Post 33	" "	815-434-4633
Doug Grieve	Post 260	Del	712 375 5569
Ken Hawker	VFW 5506	DBL	795-2466
ROBERT RILEY	VFW 5506	ALT.	795-4068
Howard Gast	Post 549	Del.	815-246-9689
Nick Hekroser	Legion 426	Del	224-2204

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF [illegible]

10/15/1910

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STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF [illegible]

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: June 24 2009

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
George Mason	V.F.W. Post 2470	Delegate	1-815-433-0586
Larry Graham	DAV 68	delegate	1-815-220-0045
Bernad Smith	A.L. 235	"	18157952768
Douglas Grieve	Post 260	Delegate	712 325 5569
Joe Novak	Post 33	Del	815-434-4633

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Nov. 18, 2009

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Bernard M. Smith	Al. Post 235	Delegate	795-2768
Nick Makrosius	Am Legion 426	Delegate	224-2204
George Mason	V.F.W. Post 2470	Delegate	433-0586
Ken Hauke	VFW POST 5506	Del	795-2466
Douglas McHive	Tonica Post 260	Del	712 375 5569

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

Annual Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of November 18, 2009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing Vice Chairman excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented, being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: Our commission held its annual election for commission officers for the 2010 fiscal year. Delegates nominated commission personnel for the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chaplain, and Sgt. at Arms. Those delegates present elected the following officers for our VAC fiscal year 2010.

1. Chairman – Jim Nanowski
2. Vice-Chairman – George Mason
3. Chaplain – Doug Grieve
4. Sgt. at Arms – Ken Hausken

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Bernard Smith that a unanimous vote be cast for the four above mentioned officers. Motion passed unanimously. All officers were thanked for their willingness to serve our veteran community.

Superintendent Rue stated he would be sending out a copy of our VAC annual report for fiscal year 2009.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Doug Grieve that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

January 2010

Iraq veteran, Peru awarded 20% 9/08-12/10 Total \$6804

Iraq veteran, west end awarded 40% 3/09-12/10 Total \$11,902

VN veteran, Marseilles awarded VA Pension 6/09-12/10 Total \$17,739

WWII widow, Streator awarded burial benefits \$600

WWII, Ottawa awarded 100% 5/08 -12/10 \$87,336

VN veteran, Utica awarded 10% 9/08-12/10 \$3444

Iraq veteran, west end awarded 20% 6/09 – 12/10 Total \$4374

Iraq veteran, west end, awarded 70% 10/08 – 12/10 TOTAL \$46,664

WWII widow, Mendota awarded Aid and Attendance 2/09- 12/10 \$24,288

Iraq veteran, Oglesby awarded 20% 2/09-12/10 Total \$5589

TOTAL VA BENEFITS January 2010 \$208,740.00

TOTAL SOC. SEC. 0

TOTAL YEAR TO DATE \$208,740.00

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of September 23, 2009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Superintendent Rue told the delegates and alternates that the LaSalle County VAC budget was presented to the LaSalle County Finance Committee for fiscal year 2010.

Jim Nanowski introduced the American Legion Second Division VAC Liaison Committee Chairman Ed Stash from the Ottawa American Legion Post 33. Mr. Stash discussed some of the programs that the American Legion is involved in involving veterans.

The Service Officers' report was presented. As of September 2009 the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission, through federal financial programs, has monetary award benefits for veterans they have represented in the amount of \$1,182,811.00. All questions pertaining to the service officers' report were answered. Being no additions or corrections to the service officers' report, a motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Howard Gast that the service officers' report is accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue presented numerous handouts pertaining to veteran issues, which were discussed by those present.

A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Douglas Grieve that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Delegates Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Bernie Smith, American Legion Post 235; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; guest Ed Stash, American Legion Post 33; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of
August 26, 2009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

The minutes of the previous meeting was presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS: The service officer's report was presented. Being no additions or corrections to that report and all questions answered pertaining to the report, Nick Nekrosius made a motion and it was seconded by Jim Nanowski, that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue presented to all the delegates and alternates a signed copy of the Veterans Assistance Commission's 2010 Budget Recommendation Form, which the LaSalle County Board Veterans Assistance Commission Committee passed on to the Finance Committee.

Motion by Bernard Smith and seconded by George Mason that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570 and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

West End, Vietnam veteran awarded a 30% service connected disability with one dependent 7/08 thru 12/09 total \$7578

Vietnam veteran, Tonica awarded VA Pension 10/08 thru 12/09 total \$13,965

World War II widow, Ottawa awarded Aid and Attendance 2/08 thru 12/09 total \$23,708

Vietnam veteran, Earlville was awarded a service connected disability rating of 20% 2/08 thru 2/09 total \$9397

World War II widow, Ottawa awarded burial benefits in the amount of \$600

TOTAL VA BENEFITS FOR SEPTEMBER	\$55,248
SOCIAL SECURITY	0
TOTAL BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE	\$1,182,811

Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of July 22, 2009.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing the vice-chairman excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented, being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason said the minutes would stand approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Mason reported on the LaSalle Veterans' Home. The employee numbers are as follows:

1. LPNs – 7.5 full-time; vacant – 3 full-time and 1 part-time
2. RNs - 20 full-time; vacant – 7 full-time and 2 part-time
3. VNAC – 60 full-time; vacant – 10 full-time

There are currently 132 residents with 8 vacant beds put on hold until they can determine if the beds available are available on the skilled care side or lock-down ward. There are currently 60 vacant beds on the eastside of the home, but those cannot be filled until the needed healthcare staff can be hired to provide the needed skilled care for these applicants. The LaSalle Veterans' Home is in the process of hiring additional staff needed for its operations.

NEW BUSINESS: The service officer's report was presented. As of July 2009 the total benefits received by our veterans was \$1,066,930. All questions pertaining to the service officer's report was answered. A motion was made by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Douglas Grieve that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue and those delegates and alternates present reviewed the 2010 Budget Recommendation Form that we received in July of 2009. Each line item was reviewed by those present and their budget requests were written per line item. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Lance Sires that the budget requests by the commission be passed as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Ken Hausken that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBER PRESENT: Delegates Larry Graham, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Alternate Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

AUGUST 2009

WWII widow, Ottawa awarded burial benefits \$300

Vietnam veteran, Marseilles awarded 100% service connected for prostate cancer 12/08 through 12/09 total \$37,947

Vietnam veteran, Earlville awarded 20% service connected for diabetes 3/09 through 12/09 total \$2430

Vietnam veteran, Earlville awarded 30% - 1/09; 100% 3/09 – 4/09; and 70% 3/09 – 12/09 TOTAL \$15,922

Vietnam veteran widow, Ottawa awarded \$2000 burial benefit

Vietnam veteran, west end awarded 20% service connected for diabetes and SMC 6/09 through 12/09 total \$2,034

TOTAL VA BENEFITS FOR AUGUST	\$60,633.00
SOCIAL SECURITY	0
TOTAL BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE	\$1,127,563.00

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of June 24, 1009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing Sgt. at Arms excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: The service officer's report was presented. As of June 2009 our veterans have received \$820,227 in either VA or Social Security monetary awards. All questions pertaining to the service officer's report were answered. A motion was made by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Lawrence Graham that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue shared with all delegates and alternates present the text pertaining to Vietnam, which was presented by Bill Neal at the 2009 Delta Company 2/8 1st Air Cav. Banquet. This covers the fax pertaining to the Vietnam War 1964-1972 and exposes many of the myths pertaining to that war. He also shared some personal remarks that he has made during veteran ceremonies pertaining to the Vietnam War. Share this with all of your friends or interested persons who wish to know the truth pertaining to Vietnam veterans.

A motion was made by Bernard Smith and seconded by Douglas Grieve that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Delegates Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33 and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

**Service Officer's Report
July 2009**

**VN awarded 100% service connected compensation 2/09
through 12/09 total \$32,109**

**West end, WWII, awarded aid and attendance 3/09 through
12/09 total \$19,490**

**Iraq, west end, awarded 60% from 9/95 through 12/09
\$193,104**

Korean, widow, Ottawa awarded burial benefits \$2000

Total VA Benefits for July 2009	\$246,703.00
Social Security for July 2009	0.00
Total benefits year to date	\$1,066,930.00

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes from May 27, 2009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing the Chaplain and Sgt. at Arms excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Our LaSalle Veterans' Home was again discussed. Chairman Mason stated that he met with Norm Gross on May 27, 2009 and Director Gross stated the following:

1. Eight new nurses will start working the first week of June.
2. Thirty V-Necks (certified nurses aids) are hired and working now.
3. 43 patients on short list, might add 6 more; 82 patients on long list; 107 patients now in veterans' home
4. All of the west wing has been patched and painted
5. Home is going to add more staff, housekeeping, etc.
6. Now interviewing cooks and social workers, also one driver for the van

Mr. Gross told Supt. Rue that they will be interviewing two veteran applicants for admission a week starting the latter part of June. He further stated that possibly by August or September the state will be interviewing more potential employees so they will have the staff needed to fill the 198 beds which are located at our LaSalle Veterans' Home.

New Business: The service officer's report was presented. All questions pertaining to the service officer's report were answered. A motion was made by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Nick Nekrosius that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Jim Nanowski that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

**Service Officer's Report
June 2009**

Vietnam widow, Ottawa awarded DIC 10/08 through 12/09 total \$31,032.00

Korean, Mendota awarded a waiver for an overpayment of \$17,986

Vietnam, West End, awarded 50% service connected disabled 3/08 through 12/09 total \$19,761

Iraq, Streator awarded Social Security Disability 8/06 through 12/09 total \$38,746.00

Iraq, Marseilles awarded an earlier onset date with 100% backpay total \$22,800

Total VA Benefits for June 2009	\$130,325.00
Soc. Security for June 2009	\$38,746.00
Total Benefits year to date	\$820,227.00

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of April 22, 2009

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Superintendent Rue told all present that approximately 70 certified nurses' aids were interviewed for hire at the LaSalle Veterans Home. There will be six or seven additional personnel interviewed in the next couple of weeks. From that approximately 39 employees will be hired. Hopefully, by July 1, all employees needed to bring in approximately 30 additional patients will be on board. Our home cannot hire any personnel until Governor Quinn gives the OK for those individuals to be hired. I suspect that there will be an additional 25 to 30 job openings announced in August. In order to fill all 198 beds, the State of Illinois will have to hire approximately 89 employees.

New Business: The service officers' report was presented. All questions pertaining to the service officers' report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Jim Nanowski that the service officers' report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Howard Gast that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBER PRESENT: Delegates Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Larry Graham, DAV #86; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Nick Nekrosius; American Legion Post 426; Alternate Robert Riley, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

Service Officer's Report May 2009

Iraq veteran, west end awarded back pay for dependent total to 12/09 \$2454

widow, Mendota awarded veterans last service connected compensation check in the amount of \$2669.00

WWII, LaSalle, awarded Aid and Attendance from 11/08 thru 12/09 total \$22,926.00

Vietnam, Marseilles, added dependent to service connected compensation claim total \$3750

widow, Ottawa, awarded DIC and burial benefits total thru 12/09 \$20,212.

WWII, Ottawa awarded 80% service connected disability total thru 12/09 \$25,686.00

Iraq, Oglesby, awarded 20% from 2/05 thru 12/09 \$14,580

Vietnam, West End, awarded increase from 40% to 50% total \$4580

Total VA Benefits for May 2009 \$96,857.00

SS Benefit for May 2009 0

Total Benefits year to date \$689,902.00

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of March 25, 2009.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Delegates and Alternates asked questions of Superintendent Rue pertaining to the LaSalle Veterans' Home. Superintendent Rue handed out numerous articles covering said topic announcing that to date there were no additional hires and only 99 residents in the home. He did state that Governor Quinn did visit the LaSalle Veterans' Home to announce he had authorized the hiring of staff needed in order to fill the 200 bed facility. He hopes to have the staff on board by July 1, 2009. Superintendent Rue also announced that the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs had received the \$8.3 million from the federal government for the completion of construction of the 80 additional beds. This money will go to the Illinois General Assembly's General Fund not the LaSalle Veterans' Home.

NEW BUSINESS: The service officer's report was presented all questions pertaining to the service officer's report were answered. Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Bernard Smith that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Howard Gast and seconded by Larry Graham that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Bernard Smith, American Legion 235; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Alternate Robert Riley, VFW Post 2470 and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

Service Officer's Report April 2009

Iraq veteran, west end awarded 70% service connected 5/06 through 12/09
total \$39,027.00

Vietnam veteran, west end, awarded 20% service connected for diabetes
4/08 through 12/09 total \$4830.00

Iraq veteran, Ottawa awarded 10% service connected 7/08 through 12/09
total \$2106.00

Vietnam veterans spouse, Marseilles awarded burial benefits and veterans
last compensation check total \$4669.00

Vietnam veteran, Streater awarded VA pension 2/07 through 12/09 total
\$3363.00

Vietnam veteran, West end, awarded 20% service connected compensation
3/05 through 12/09 total \$13,004.00

Vietnam veteran, LaSalle, awarded 100% service connected compensation
8/08 through 12/09 \$44,857.00

Total VA Benefits for 4/09	\$111,856
Social Security	0
Total Benefits year to date	\$593,045

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of February 25, 2009.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman George Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing Vice Chairman excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Superintendent Rue presented to the delegates and alternates his letter dated February 23, 2009 which was sent to Governor Patrick Quinn asking him to please hire the staff at the LaSalle Veterans' Home so all 200 beds could be opened. He also presented newspaper articles from other Illinois valley residents who were also supporting the complete staffing for our LaSalle Veterans' Home. All were encouraged to contact their state of Illinois representatives, senators, and governor pertaining to the dire needs of our LaSalle Veterans' Home.

NEW BUSINESS: Everyone received our state and federal legislators' addresses and phone numbers. They were encouraged to share this list with their friends.

The Service Officers' Report was presented. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Bernard Smith that the Service Officers' Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Bernard Smith announced that the Marseilles American Legion Post will be hosting a Service Officers' Seminar presented by Wayne Macejak of the American Legion on April 18, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. All interested are encouraged to come.

A motion was made by Howard Gast and seconded by Larry Graham that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506, Alternate Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of February 25, 2009.

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A motion was made by Howard Gast and seconded by Larry Graham that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506, Alternate Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman George Mason, VFW Post 2470

**SERVICE OFFICERS' REPORT
MARCH 2009**

Vietnam, Streator, waiver of overpayment \$23,806

Vietnam, Ottawa VA Pension 6/08 through 12/09 total \$18,346

Widow, WWII, Peru awarded Aid and Attendance 8/06 through 12/09 total \$20,352

Vietnam, Streator, awarded 80% service connected 5/08 through 12/09 \$30,260.00

Vietnam, Streator, awarded 70% 9/06 through 12/09 total \$77,785.00

TOTAL VA BENEFITS FOR 3/09	\$170,551
SOCIAL SECURITY	0
TOTAL BENEFITS TO DATE	\$481,189

News Tribune March 18, 2009

Quinn to announce funding for vets home expansion

Governor to visit La Salle on Thursday

By Tom Collins
NewsTribune Senior Reporter



Readers may
comment on local
stories at
www.newstrib.com

Gov. Pat Quinn will announce today full funding of the 80-bed expansion at the Illinois Veterans Home at La Salle, a state lawmaker confirmed.

Quinn also is expected to personally appear Thursday at the La Salle facility to make a formal announcement. Times are pending.

State Rep. Frank Mautino (D-Spring Valley) said Quinn addressed a meeting of House and Senate Democrats Tuesday evening and previewed his budget address scheduled today.

Mautino described Quinn's budget as "pretty bleak," but confirmed that it includes funding for the 80 beds plus the opening of another 200 beds in Chicago.

"I've been working on this for 13 years and was delighted we got it built. It's time to get it open," Mautino said. "I'm thankful that Quinn has made this a top priority and put this item in the budget — and I believe it's one of the few new items in the budget."

The announcement is not

completely unexpected. Quinn had previously confirmed that veterans' causes would be a key priority in his administration. He had also, as lieutenant governor, championed legislation such as the Illinois Military Family Relief Act.

Marty Rue, superintendent of the La Salle County Veterans Assistance Commission, welcomed the news and estimated 89 new jobs would be created.

Rue pointed out that the jobs, which pay well and include benefits, come at a time when unemployment in La Salle County is 11 percent.

"This should be an economic boost to the Illinois Valley," he said. "Anybody looking for a job in health services should get over there and apply."

As for the veterans who've waited years for the beds to open, Rue said the funding comes not a moment too soon.

See 'Veterans' Page A2

News Tribune
March 18, 2009
Veterans

Continued from Page One

"We have many veterans who've had to go to Quincy and other places because there were no beds here," he said. "To me it's pathetic. We're centrally located in La Salle, it's a beautiful facility and the employees are great."

March 19, 2009
JOURNAL STAR, PEORIA, ILL.

LaSalle vet funding in budget

Expansion of veterans
home would fill more
beds and create jobs

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD — The long-completed 80-bed expansion of the LaSalle Veterans' Home finally would open and start serving new residents under Gov. Pat Quinn's state budget plan.

"We're very excited here in the Illinois Valley because it's going to be an economic boost for our community," said Martin Rue, superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission in LaSalle County.

"In order to fill those beds, they probably will have to hire 89 employees because it's a skilled-care facility," Rue said. "So it's not only providing the promise to the veterans ... but it's also an economic boost for those unemployed in our community."

The veterans home has about 100 vacant beds and a waiting list of at least 100, Rue said. But the beds probably won't all get filled for another year or so because it takes time to hire and train staff, he said.

Rue wrote to Quinn last month and urged him to authorize the release of \$9.2 million that was budgeted last year to the Department of Veterans Affairs to hire extra staff at the veterans home. He said grassroots efforts, including letters sent to lawmakers all over the state, kept the issue on the front burner.

"I asked him to please fulfill your obligation," Rue said Wednesday after Quinn delivered his budget address in the State Capitol. "As a veterans' advocate, you should do this."

"The funding has been there. We just haven't been able to get it staffed," said state Sen. Gary Dahl, R-Granville, who thinks the Blagojevich administration didn't permit hiring additional employees at the facility.

State Rep. Frank Mautino, D-Spring Valley, said: "With this staffing, we can bring on another 80 to 100 veterans who've been waiting for years to get into this facility. It's great news in a year of very, very bad budget news."

Quinn is scheduled to visit the LaSalle Veterans Home at 3:15 p.m. Thursday to talk about his plans for the facility.

Adriana Colindres can be reached at
(217)782-6292 or adriana.colindres@sj-r.com

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815) 433-1761

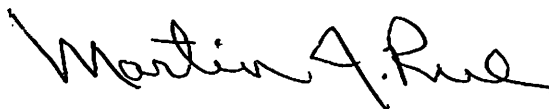
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room 103A
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

March 23, 2009
PRESS RELEASE

According to Governor Patrick Quinn, our LaSalle Veterans' Home battle has come to an end with his release of the funds appropriated by the General Assembly to hire all 90 health care employees needed to completely fill our 200 bed skilled care facility. The explosive rhetoric has ceased and our pens can be locked up until our next battle. This is a great day for all of you veterans in the state of Illinois and all our citizens in our Illinois Valley.

Thank you Governor Quinn for authorizing our LaSalle Veterans' Home to hire all 90 needed employees so our 200 skilled care beds can be filled and releasing the appropriated budgeted \$9.2 million dollars to pay all operating costs. Thank you Senator Dahl, Representative Mautino and all other area General Assembly members that made sure that the \$9.2 million was kept in the state of Illinois fiscal year budget so that this 15 year project could be completed. A special thank you must go out to all our modes of media and special interest groups that kept this issue on the front burners. Without the support from state and local modes of media, elected officials, business leaders, unions, special interest groups, grass roots people and veterans, we would never had been able to accomplish this goal. Once again, thanks to all of you for your support and hard work.

Sincerely yours,



Martin J. Rue, Superintendent
VAC of LaSalle County

News Tribune
**Durbin: La Salle
veterans home in
line for \$8 million**

The Illinois Veterans Home at La Salle is due to receive \$8,308,000 "for construction," according to a press release from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.).

The money is part of \$78.8 million allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Veterans Health Administration services throughout Illinois.

March 24, 2009

America's Wars

American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths (In Theater)	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.) ²	1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate) ³	74,524
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Confederate) ^{3,4}	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	1

World War II (1941-1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings	671,846
Living Veterans ⁵	2,306,000

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	2,307,000

American Revolution

Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109
 Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/06, age 92
 Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/11, age 90

War of 1812

Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/05, age 105
 Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/36, age unknown
 Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/46, age 89

Indian Wars

Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/73, age 101

Mexican War

Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/29, age 98
 Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/63, age 89
 Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/62, age 94

Civil War

Last Union Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/56, age 109
 Last Confederate Veteran, John Salling, died 3/16/58, age 112
 Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93

Spanish-American War

Last veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/92, age 106

VA estimates the number of living World War II U.S. veterans will be:*

9/30/2008	2,306,000
9/30/2009	2,024,000
9/30/2010	1,761,000
9/30/2011	1,517,000
9/30/2012	1,294,000
9/30/2013	1,092,000
9/30/2014	911,000
9/30/2015	750,000
9/30/2016	611,000
9/30/2017	490,000
9/30/2018	388,000
9/30/2019	303,000
9/30/2020	233,000
9/30/2021	176,000
9/30/2022	131,000
9/30/2023	96,000

* Estimates have changed based on new population projections.

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) ⁶	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷	3,403,000
Battle Deaths ⁸	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater)	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁹	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings ⁹	153,303
Living Veterans ^{9,10}	7,125,000

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,000
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	147
Other Deaths (In Theater)	285
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,590
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans ^{9,10}	2,269,000

America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)

U.S. Military Service during Wartime	41,891,368
Battle Deaths	651,030
Other Deaths (In Theater)	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	230,279
Non-mortal Woundings	1,431,290
Living War Veterans	17,456,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	23,442,000

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -)

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics, visit the following Department of Defense Website: <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASU/AFATN/gwot-component.pdf>

NOTES:

1. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000 - 250,000.
2. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is median of estimated range from 500,000 - 1,500,000.
3. Death figures are based on incomplete returns.
4. Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.
5. Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.
6. Covers the period 8/5/64 - 1/27/73 (date of cease fire).
7. Department of Defense estimate.
8. Covers period 11/1/55 - 5/15/75.
9. Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care.
10. VA estimate, as of 5/08, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of September 2008.

**U.S. Veterans and Dependents on Benefits Rolls as of
September 2008**

	Veterans	Children	Parents	Surviving Spouses
Civil War	-	2	-	-
Indian Wars	-	-	-	-
Spanish-American War	-	94	-	90
Mexican Border	-	15	-	60
World War I	-	3,169	-	4,873
World War II	274,052	14,403	117	223,895
Korean Conflict	156,842	3,170	257	60,948
Vietnam Era	1,015,151	8,842	2,932	165,376
Gulf War¹	896,288	13,688	926	15,945
Non service-connected	315,763	18,103	2	182,236
Service-connected	2,951,587	28,016	5,385	320,979

1. For compensation and pension purposes, the Persian Gulf War period has not yet been terminated and includes veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of the January 28, 2009 meeting.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman George Mason. A roll call of officers was taken showing Doug Grieve excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Mason stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Delegates and Alternates again discussed our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Chairman Mason stated that they moved the 20 Alzheimer patients from the old home into the new Alzheimer Unit. He further stated that those patients who are ambulatory are going to the new dining room in the new addition for their meals. Nick Nekrosius asked that Superintendent Rue write a letter to the newly appointed Governor, Patrick Quinn asking that he release the \$9.2 million to hire the staff needed to provide nursing home care for all 198 beds at our LaSalle Veterans' Home.

NEW BUSINESS: The Service Officer's Report was presented. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Jim Nanowski that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue passed out a flyer from the Earlville American Legion Post Commander Michael Beer stating that their post would be holding a program honoring the 4 Chaplains who gave their lives during WWII by going down with their torpedoed ship. The program will be Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Earlville United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend. Delegates and Alternates asked Howard Gast to please let them know of programs that they are planning on having at least 30 days in advance so they can bring the message to their post meetings.

Motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Howard Gast that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates George Mason, Chairman VFW Post 2470; Bernard Smith, American Legion Post 235; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; and Alternate Robert Riley, VFW Post 5506

SERVICE OFFICERS' REPORT

February 2009

Vietnam, West End awarded 90% for diabetes and residuals, SMC, with dependents 2.07 through 12/09 \$42,663

widow, WWII, Ottawa awarded death benefit \$600

Vietnam, Streator, awarded 100% for lung cancer and prostate cancer. 11/07 through 12/09 \$70,036

Iraq, west end awarded 20% 11/06 through 12/09 \$8541

Iraq, Marseilles awarded 10% 8/05; and 30% 2/08 total with dependent wife through 12/09 \$13,455

Total VA benefits February 2009 -	\$135,295
Social Security Benefits	0
Total Benefits year to date	\$310,638

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815) 433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room 103A
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Page 1 of 3

December 5, 2008

Honorable Governor Rod Blagojevich
207 State House Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

As the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Act 45, Section 8 of Chapter 330 requires, I am submitting the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission's annual report pertaining to "Military Veterans Assistance Act." In our Commission we have been very active in three general service areas. They are as follows:

1. Vendor financial services to those qualified military veterans, spouse, and dependents that have no financial means to care for themselves.
2. The total viewing of individual cases of veterans to see if any other local, state, or federal agencies may have benefits they may be entitled to and assist in seeing that they properly apply for those benefits.
3. The advocacy work in behalf of our eligible clients who have been denied local, state, or federal entitlements as a result of their rights being violated or a misunderstanding of applicable statutes or regulations pertaining to the assistance a comrade is requesting.

This past year our General Assistance cases have increased substantially. Most of our veterans have been found eligible for Social Security or Department of Veterans Affairs income benefit programs. Our Commission has always followed closely the Illinois Compiled Statutes and the Illinois Department of Public Aid Regulations. Being charged by Illinois law to provide for those who have no means to provide for themselves has found us doing more advocacy work than General Assistance. This, I find rewarding because we are taking our comrades from financial deprivation under General Assistance and securing the federal entitlement program that meets their standard of need. As you know, Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, or an increase in United States Department of Veterans' Affairs compensation/pension provide far greater financial assistance than the \$160 Public Aid General Assistance allotment per month for a single veteran. The cases we represent are not considered fee generating, which in many instances leaves our veterans without legal assistance.

Page 2 of 3
December 5, 2008

Should they not be able to procure legal assistance, in many instances the federal or state statutes make it possible for us to represent them at their request. We have been very successful in those cases that we have represented. Their "Due Process Right" has been attained. This has saved our county tax dollars that would have otherwise been paid out for General Assistance. Those Veterans Assistance Commissions who provide knowledge and skills to represent veterans at Social Security Disability Hearings or Veterans Administration Hearing Boards and other administrative hearings should strive to become Nationally Accredited County Service Offices (N.A.C.V.S.). In the state of Illinois there are approximately forty County Veterans Assistance Commissions. Those Veterans Assistance Commissions have about 85% of our Illinois veterans residing in those counties. Currently we have Nationally Accredited County Veterans Service Officers working in our County Veterans Assistance Commissions. Each veteran's case that our accredited service officers would win would relieve their county from being required to provide financial assistance to that veteran. That veteran would then have the money needed to become a paying consumer, which would add dollars to the State of Illinois General Fund as a result of taxes paid on purchases.

Governor Blagojevich, our LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois new additional 80 nursing care beds addition was completed around January 2008. That meant that there was no longer a reason to keep 25 of the rooms in the original home vacated for new construction purposes. All we needed was your authorization to let our LaSalle Veterans' Home management hire the needed health care staff to open those original 25 vacant beds. Each year the monies were appropriated as though our Home had a full staff of 140 employees to provide the needed health care for 118 filled beds as they had in 2000. As a result, there was no additional dollars needed to hire the staff needed to care for the 118 original beds, because we were only paying for 122 employees not the 140 employees that we annually budgeted for since 2000. Where is the money?

Fiscal year 2008 budget for our LaSalle Veterans' Home was \$9.2 million so we could also hire the additional staff needed to open the new 80 health care bed expansion. That 80 bed expansion was completed in January 2008 and still remains vacant because you will not give our LaSalle Veterans' Home management personnel authorization to hire the health care staff to service those 80 additional beds. In the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES Letter to the Editor on September 6, 2007 your Director, Ginger Ostro said that when our LaSalle Veterans' Home is "ready to open, funding will be available to meet is operating needs." Your Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Tammy Duckworth in an August 9, 2007 NEWS TRIBUNE article said, "We have approval to hire the staff. Hiring should begin this winter and be fully staffed by the spring of 2008." The year 2008 is almost over and 2009 will be here shortly. One year will have passed with our LaSalle Veterans' Home having 105 vacant health care beds, because you will not authorize the hiring of the health care staff needed to service those 105 beds. What a "Christmas present" from you to our honorably discharged Illinois veterans. You can put coal in my stocking, but you should not do it to our honorably discharged Illinois veterans. They deserve better.


Page 3 of 3
December 5, 2008

The \$9.2 million is still in the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs 2008 Fiscal Budget. Give our LaSalle Veterans' Home management personnel permission to hire all the staff they need so all 200 health care beds are filled at our LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois. We are counting on you to honor your pledge to our Illinois Valley area and our Illinois veterans. Hire the needed staff and open all of our 200 health care beds.

We have also appealed numerous denials of state or federal entitlement programs on behalf of our veterans. We have had a great success rate on those appeals. I am enclosing a sheet which will show the total amount of financial assistance rendered this fiscal year.

I will further submit a page charting the monies received by our clientele as a result of our advocacy work since 1985. If you require a more detailed report or have any questions, pertaining to our office, feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin J. Rue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "M" and "R".

Martin J. Rue, Superintendent
VAC of LaSalle County

Enclosures

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815) 433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room 103A
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

December 5, 2008

Total awards received by our veterans as a result of advocacy work performed by our office since 1985.

1984	\$60,428.00
1985	\$177,310.00
1986	\$251,293.00
1987	\$320,425.00
1988	\$410,386.00
1989	\$456,625.00
1990	\$456,625.00
1991	\$604,507.00
1992	\$827,498.00
1993	\$1,023,276.00
1994	\$1,267,139.00
1995	\$1,880,016.00
1996	\$1,229,767.00
1997	\$876,703.00
1998	\$958,554.00
1999	\$1,606,843.00
2000	\$1,481,280.00
2001	\$1,304,297.00
2002	\$2,258,292.00
2003	\$3,039,255.00
2004	\$2,250,864.00
2005	\$2,728,679.00
2006	\$3,158,593.00
2007	\$1,573,911.00
2008	\$1,307,466.50

GENERAL ASSISTANCE
December 1, 2007 – November 30, 2008

December 15, 2007	10.00	
December 30, 2007	167.29	\$177.29
January 15, 2008	0	
January 30, 2008	599.77	\$599.77
February 15, 2008	74.94	
February 28, 2008	160.00	\$234.94
March 15, 2008	0	
March 30, 2008	203.00	\$203.00
April 15, 2008	0	
April 30, 2008	1093.16	\$1093.16
May 15, 2008	640.00	
May 30, 2008	0	\$640.00
June 15, 2008	160.00	
June 30, 2008	320.00	\$480.00
July 15, 2008	544.81	
July 30, 2008	160.00	\$704.81
August 15, 2008	480.00	
August 30, 2008	0	\$480.00
September 15, 2008	459.04	
September 30, 2008	160.00	\$719.04
October 15, 2008	160.00	
October 30, 2008	320.00	\$480.00
November 15, 2008	800.00	
November 30, 2008	160.00	\$960.00
TOTAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE		\$6772.01