

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of January 27, 2010.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Nanowski. A roll call of officers was taken showing the Sgt at Arms excused. All other officers were present.

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

NEW BUSINESS: The Service Officers' Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered and a motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Larry Graham that the Service Officers' Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Robert Riley and seconded by Doug Grieve that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegate George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Lawrence Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Alternate Robert Riley, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## **SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2010**

LaSalle awarded Supplemental Security Income (S.S.I.) total  
\$3552

Marseilles, Vietnam veterans, awarded SSI reimbursed office for  
General Assistance \$317.45

Streator, Vietnam veteran, awarded SSI reimbursed office for  
General Assistance \$320

west end, Vietnam veteran awarded 100% service connected  
compensation 8/09 – 12/10 \$45,921

Leland, Vietnam veteran awarded 10% service connected  
compensation 5/08 – 12/10 \$3936.00

Marseilles, Vietnam veteran awarded 20% service connected  
compensation 1/09 – 12/10 \$5832.00

Marseilles, Korean veteran awarded 100% with SMC 5/09 – 12/10  
\$57,381

Total VA Benefit February 2010	\$113,070.00
Social Security (S.S.I.)	\$4,189.45
Total Benefits	\$117,259.45
<b>Total YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$325,999.45</b>

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of February 24, 2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

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

Delegate Noel discussed the number of Navy vessels that traveled inland waterways in Vietnam. Those veterans who served on those vessels during certain time periods can now apply for service connected disabilities which are considered a presumptive of Agent Orange. Those veterans who served on naval vessels conducting operations on the inland "Brown Waters" rivers and delta areas in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed to herbicide agents.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by George Mason that we adjourn. Motion passed.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Lawrence Graham, DAV Chapter 86; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

MARCH 2010  
SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

Vietnam, Wenona prostate cancer with SMC, convalescence and 40% 10/09  
– 12/10 total \$25,747

WWII widow, Mendota awarded Aid and Attendance \$1056 monthly 6/09 –  
12/10 Total \$19,008

Iraq veteran awarded 80% with dependents and dependent parents 8/06 –  
12/10 total \$102,250

Iraq veteran, Streator awarded Social Security for dependents total \$15,840

Streator Vietnam veteran awarded additional 10% to 90% 4/09 – 12/10 total  
\$4032

Total VA Benefits for March 2010 total	\$151,037.00
Total Social Security for March	\$15,840.00
Total Benefits for March	\$166,877.00
<b>Total Benefits year to date</b>	<b>\$492,876.45</b>

**COUNTY OF LA SALLE**  
**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

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Page 1 of 2  
MARTIN J. RUE  
Superintendent  
(815) 433-1761

March 15, 2010

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

Dear

I am a 100% service connected combat disabled veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart for my many combat wounds. I spent 14 months in Great Lakes Naval Hospital undergoing 15 major surgeries for my combat wounds and was military medically retired by the Department of Defense as a result of being physically unfit to serve in the military. They placed me on the U.S. Army Temporary Disability Retirement List for five years and then permanently medically retired me from the U.S. Army. Each year the Defense, Finance and Accounting Service of the U.S. Military Retirement sends me a copy of my Retire Account Statement, which shows my Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (C.R.D.P.) as \$1,290 a month. Not being allowed Concurrent Receipt as a Chapter 61 veteran, I do not get the \$1,290 pro-rated retirement pay. Instead they said I could receive Combat-Related Special Compensation Pay (C.R.S.C.) because of my 100% service connected combat disability rating in the amount of \$70 a month. How can this be fair? My C.R.S.C. retirement pay is only 5% of what my earned C.R.D.P. retirement pay under Concurrent Receipt would be.

We need your help now. In June of 2003 Military Retired Personnel with 20 years of service or 15 years and took an early out were granted Concurrent Receipt. They could receive their military retirement pay plus receive their United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation pay. Our severely wounded combat veterans who received the Purple Heart medal and were forced out of the military by the Department of Defense as being physically unfit to perform military service were denied their military medical retired pay under Concurrent Receipt once they received United States Department of Veterans Affairs compensation pay. The Department of Defense ended the severely wounded combat soldier's military career by militarily medically retiring them under Chapter 61. Each year they receive a military retirement statement showing what their pro-rated military retirement pay is minus their United States Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S.D.V.A.) compensation. They receive no military retirement pay because their U.S.D.V.A. compensation is greater than their military retirement pay and they are not allowed to keep both because they are not entitled to receive Concurrent Receipt.

In January 2004 Congressman Jerry Weller asked the U.S.D.V.A. how many severely wounded combat veterans who had received a Purple Heart were being compensated by the U.S.D.V.A. In May 2004 the U.S.D.V.A. said, "There were approximately 17,500 combat military medically retired veterans who received the Purple Heart." They further added, "This number remains fairly stable, between 16,000 and 18,000 veterans, at any given time." Congressman Weller then asked the Congressional Budget Office (C.B.O.) for a preliminary estimate of direct spending to provide these military medically retired combat wounded veterans, who were awarded a Purple Heart, their earned pro-rated military retirement pay under "Concurrent Receipt". On January 27, 2006 Sarah Jennings from C.B.O. wrote "assumed effective date October 1, 2006 the cost for 2007 would be \$8 million (2007-2016 it would cost \$496 millions). To deny "Concurrent Receipt" to our severely wounded combat veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart is a true travesty. It is repulsive, disgraceful and discriminatory. Theodore Roosevelt said "A man good enough to shed his blood for his country should be good

enough to be given a square deal". Our combat wounded Purple Heart recipients should not be denied a quality life, forced to live in poverty as a result of answering our nations call to arms. All our military combat veterans who are military medically retired from combat related disabilities and have been awarded the Purple Heart should be exempt from the requirement of 20 years of service in order to receive their earned pro-rated military retirement. Under any Doctrine of Fairness it is our moral obligation "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." Let us get this disgraceful inequity corrected now. Change the law to exempt Chapter 61 military medically retired combat veterans from 20 years of service in order to receive Concurrent Receipt.

Sincerely yours,

*Martin J. Rue*  
Martin J. Rue, Superintendent  
VAC of LaSalle County

# Veterans clinic plans expansion, new location

March 23, 2010  
By Jeff Dankert  
NewsTribune Reporter

The veterans outpatient clinic in La Salle plans to move this year to a nearby location and expand services.

Maureen Dyman, spokeswoman for Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Affairs Hospital in Hines, said the new clinic will offer more services to veterans.

"We're looking at aggressively outreaching more veterans," Dyman said. "We're looking at a much larger clinic."

The clinic's lease at 2970 Chartres St., La Salle expires July 14, Dyman said. The new location should be up

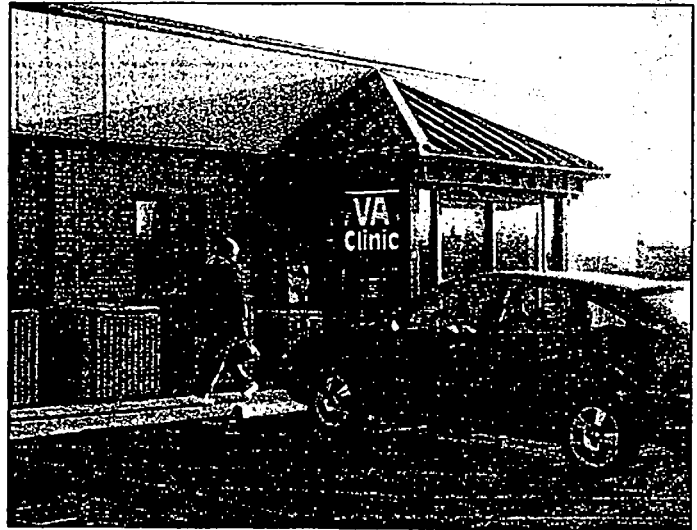
and running by then, Dyman said.

Several locations are being considered in or near La Salle and a decision on a site is coming soon, Dyman said. The clinic likely will lease a building and expand it, something that is happening at other veterans clinics in Illinois, she said.

"We're looking at all of our leases," Dyman said.

Veterans who can get medical services in La Salle can avoid a trip to Hines 75 miles east-northeast of La Salle.

"We really need to expand the number of services we provide veterans," Dyman said. "The V.A. nationally is See 'Clinic' Page A2



NewsTribune photo/Jeff Dankert

The outpatient Veterans Affairs clinic at 2970 Chartres St., La Salle is searching for a new location.

News Tribune  
Clinic 3/23/10

Continued from Page One

moving toward this."

One of those expanded services will be telemental health. Patients meet with their mental health specialist by sitting in front of a television and speaking with them, Dyman said. Many current servicemen and service-women suffer from mental disorders, she said.

"We'll be getting a whole new additional exam room," Dyman said. Also, the clinic will get a larger laboratory, a women's health area, and a social worker, pharmacist and nutritionist, she said.

Martin Rue, superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of La Salle County, said the new facility will have more parking as well.

Rue said he hopes a grant comes in to buy a van for the clinic that can transport people in wheelchairs and people on supplemental oxygen.

Dyman said the move to relocate and expand the clinic was not a sudden, reactionary decision.

"We budgeted for this," she said. "This is something we've been thinking about for a long time."

**MARCH, 2010**

## **VA ISSUES LIST OF SHIPS WITH AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE**

The Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development of claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans.

To date, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) has received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. The VA also has identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways.

If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development:

- All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour
- USS Carronade (IFS 1)
- USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]
- USS Francis River (LSMR 525)
- USS White River (LSMR 536)
- All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]
- All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour
- All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]
- All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

## **WHAT EVERY VETERAN SHOULD KNOW**

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]

USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]

USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]

USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966]

USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]

USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]

USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]

USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]

USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]



# Compensation & Pension Service Bulletin

January 2010

## Information on Vietnam Naval Operations

Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in *Haas* related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans. To date, we have received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. We have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support (IFS) Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour  
USS Carronade (IFS 1)  
USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship,

Medium, Rocket]  
USS Francis River (LSMR 525)  
USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

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USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of February 24, 2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

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

Delegate Noel discussed the number of Navy vessels that traveled inland waterways in Vietnam. Those veterans who served on those vessels during certain time periods can now apply for service connected disabilities which are considered a presumptive of Agent Orange. Those veterans who served on naval vessels conducting operations on the inland "Brown Waters" rivers and delta areas in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed to herbicide agents.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by George Mason that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Lawrence Graham, DAV Chapter 86; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

MARCH 2010  
SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

Vietnam, Wenona prostate cancer with SMC, convalescence and 40% 10/09  
– 12/10 total \$25,747

WWII widow, Mendota awarded Aid and Attendance \$1056 monthly 6/09 –  
12/10 Total \$19,008

Iraq veteran awarded 80% with dependents and dependent parents 8/06 –  
12/10 total \$102,250

Iraq veteran, Streator awarded Social Security for dependents total \$15,840

Streator Vietnam veteran awarded additional 10% to 90% 4/09 – 12/10 total  
\$4032

Total VA Benefits for March 2010 total	\$151,037.00
Total Social Security for March	\$15,840.00
Total Benefits for March	\$166,877.00
<b>Total Benefits year to date</b>	<b>\$492,876.45</b>

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of March 24,  
2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman James Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: Service officers' report was read. All questions pertaining to the service officers' report was answered. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Willis Noel that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Numerous handouts were shared with the delegates and alternates present. Questions pertaining to all of the handouts were answered.

Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Larry Graham that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## **APRIL 2010 SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Vietnam, LaSalle awarded 100% 7/09 – 12/10 total \$55,602

Vietnam, Earlville, awarded 100% IUE with SMC 6/09 – 12/10 total \$52,611

Vietnam, Streator, awarded additional 20% 1/07-12/10 total \$12,643

Vietnam, Wenona, awarded temporary 100% 3/09-5/10; 40% 6/10-12/10 with dependents total \$45,972

Iraq, Earlville, awarded 60% with one dependent 10/09-12/10 total \$15,960

Iraq, Mendota awarded 10% 7/09-12/10 total \$2,214

Iraq, West end, awarded 80% with dependents 11/08-12/10 total \$40,222

Vietnam, West end, awarded 20 7/09 – 12/10 total \$4,374

Total VA Benefits for April \$229,598.00

Social Security 0

Total Benefits year to date \$722,474.45

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of April 28, 2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman James Nanowski. A roll call of officers was taken showing the Chaplain excused and all other officers present.

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

New Business: The service officer's report was read. All questions pertaining to the service officers' report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Willis Noel to accept the service officer's report as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by George Mason that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Larry Graham, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman James Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## Service Officer's Report MAY 2010

west end, Vietnam awarded 70% 6/09 – 12/10 prostate cancer and PTSD  
total \$23,994

Streator, Vietnam awarded IUE 4/09 – 12/10 \$47,991

Mendota, Iraq awarded 10% hearing loss 10/07 – 12/10 total \$4797

Ottawa, Vietnam awarded 10% for diabetes 4/09 – 12/10 total \$2706

Tonica, Vietnam awarded 20% for diabetes 10/08 – 12/10 total \$6561

Earlville, Iraq awarded 10% 3/09 – 12/10 total \$2583

Grand Ridge, WWII widow awarded burial benefits \$600

Marseilles, Korean awarded SMC 5/09 – 8/09 \$960

TOTAL of VA Benefits for May 2010 \$90,192

Social Security 0

TOTAL Benefits year to date \$812,666.45

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of May 26, 2010

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Larry Graham to accept the Service Officer's Report as presented. Motion passed

Numerous handouts were given to the delegates and alternates present and discussed with Superintendent Rue. One handout pertained to federal legislation that was signed into law by the President stipulating that a financial stipend would be paid to caregivers of severely wounded veterans who served from 9/11/01 forward from the Iraqi and Afghanistan Conflicts. Superintendent Rue stated that many nationally chartered veteran organizations were as upset with this legislation as he was, because caregivers of other severely disabled veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm were denied this monthly stipend. Many of our WWII caregivers are living on Social Security benefits because there were no pensions available from their employers. Many of our Korean and Vietnam caregivers have only Social Security to live on because the employers they worked were taken over by another corporation and their pensions were lost as a result of the new employer consuming that asset in their hostile buyout. Many times those caregivers must decide whether to buy medication needed for the severely wounded veteran or purchase food. The legislation passed only satisfies the needs of a very few of our wounded veterans.

Hines Director of VA Outpatient Clinics wants to meet with our delegates and alternates at the LaSalle VA Outpatient Clinic on June 10, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the future opening and medical services offered at the new LaSalle VA Outpatient Clinic. Director Sharon Helman, M.B.A. appears to be quite an advocate for our veterans and their needs.

A motion was made by Ken Hausken and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that we adjourn. Motion passed.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegates Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 235; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260 and Alternate Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506

## **Service Officers Report June 2010**

Vietnam widow, Streator awarded DIC 8/09 – 12/10 and \$2000  
burial benefit total \$21,618

Vietnam veteran, Mendota awarded 90% S/C 11/09 – 12/10  
\$25,690

WWII widow, west end, awarded DIC 12/08 – 12/10 \$27,696

Iraq veteran, west end, awarded 80% 10-09 – 12/10 with one  
dependent total \$23,205

west end awarded SSI benefits 3/10 – 12/10 \$4490

Vietnam veteran, Ottawa awarded 90% 12/08 – 12/10 with one  
dependent \$41,736

WWII, Peru awarded 100% 12/09 – 12/10 total \$34,749

Total VA Benefits for June 2010 \$174,694.00

Social Security 4,490.00

**TOTAL YEAR TO DATE \$991,850.45**



Sindy,

We cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciate all of your help.

We had no idea what all the benefits were to pursuing this disability claim, and it is only because of you that it came to happen.

After we failed to keep the first appointments in '01, you were adamant about trying to get the case reopened - it worked, and suddenly unobtainable benefits were bestowed upon us.

We owe you a HUGE thank you as all of these benefits certainly makes our life a whole lot less stressful!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Arthur (Lete) + Mary Jane Holapp

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WITH SINCERE



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Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of June 23, 2010

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman James Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: A discussion was held pertaining to the new location of the LaSalle Veterans Clinic. On June 10, 2010 many of our delegates met with the Director of Hines VA Outpatient Clinics, Sharon Halmon at the LaSalle Veterans Clinic. She stated that they would hire seven full-time medical van drivers and travel to Hines VA Hospital five days a week. They are also hiring additional medical staff personnel doubling the size of medical services that they will be providing. They will also have a team to assess the needs of our housebound veterans so they also will be able to receive VA medical care.

New Business: The Service Officers' Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Larry Graham to accept the Service Officers' Report as presented. Motion passed.

Each of the delegates and alternates present received a copy of the 2011 Budget Recommendation Form. Those delegates went through every line item individually and proposed dollar amounts that they felt were necessary for each budget line item. A motion was made by Doug Grieve and seconded by Larry Graham that the budget recommendations for fiscal year 2011 for the office of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission be accepted as recommended. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by George Mason to adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates George Mason, VFW Post 247; Larry Graham, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 86; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; and Chairman James Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

# SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

## JULY 2010

Sheridan, Vietnam awarded 100% and SMC 11/09 – 12/10  
prostate cancer total \$40,866

Ottawa, Vietnam awarded 70% 9/09 – 12/10 total \$22,864

Sandwich, Vietnam awarded 100%, 2 SMC, and  
Housebound status 10/06 – 12/10 \$160,877

LaSalle, Iraq added two dependants to his 100% 1/10 –  
12/10 \$3,108

Total VA July 2010	\$227,715.00
Social Security	0
<b>Total YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$1,219,565.45</b>

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of July 28, 2010

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

Chairman Nanowski had all members introduce themselves to John Dubach from the Ottawa American Legion Post and Jim Ebner from the Oglesby American Legion Post. These two new members will be attending our Commission meetings representing their posts.

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

Old Business: Superintendent Rue stated that the VAC budget for fiscal year 2011 was presented to the LaSalle County Board Veterans Assistance Commission Committee. After review of the budget they signed on and sent it to be reviewed by the Finance Committee on September 15, 2010.

New Business: The service officers' report for the month of July 2010 was presented. It showed that the VAC had helped area veterans in obtaining financial assistance in the amount of \$1,219,565 year to date. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Howard Gast to accept the service officers' report as presented. Motion passed.

There will be no meeting held in August 2010. Our next VAC meeting will take place on September 22, 2010 in the Downtown Courthouse in Ottawa. Superintendent Rue will have a letter sent out announcing this change to all our Delegates and Alternates.

A motion was made by Willis Noel and seconded by Bob Riley that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; John Dubach, American Legion Post 33; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## SERVICE OFFICERS' REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010

Gulf War, Streater awarded a combined 70% 3/05 – 12/10  
total \$85,684

Vietnam, Sheridan awarded 40% with SMC 11/09 – 12/10  
total \$8918

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded SMC 12/07 – 12/10 total  
\$3552

Vietnam, westend awarded 40% 1/10 – 12/10 total \$7212

Vietnam, Streater awarded 40% 1/10 – 12/10 total \$6492

TOTAL VA Benefits for September 2010 \$111,858.00

Social Security 0

Total YEAR TO DATE **\$1,331,423.45**

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LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes from September 22, 2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Jim Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Superintendent Rue announced that the VAC budget for fiscal year 2011 was presented to the LaSalle County Board Finance Committee for their review.

New Business: The service officer's report was presented for the month of September. It showed that our area veterans through 2010 were awarded \$1,331,423 as a result of our VAC advocacy work. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Larry Graham that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed

George Mason gave a detailed report on the current status of our LaSalle Veterans Home. As of September 18, 2010 the home's status is as follows:

1. 159 residents reside at the home of which 10 are women veterans. Approximately 51 more employees would need to be hired in order to fill the remaining empty beds. We must contact Governor Quinn and ask him to give the home permission to hire those additional health care workers so that we can completely fill our home. The money to do this has been appropriated the last two years in the Department of Veteran's Affairs budget, but he has refused to have it released as he has promised.
2. There are 77 veterans on the Skill Care list, 10 veterans waiting for admission to the Alzheimer Unit; and 13 on the Peace-time list for admission.
3. The proposed State of Illinois Veterans' Home in Chicago will break ground towards the end of this year and will be a 200 bed facility. We must get all our staff hired at our 200 bed facility before the Chicago home is completed or we will never get them hired.

Chairman Jim Nanowski, Delegates George Mason and Larry Graham announced that they had received a letter from Hines VA Hospital inviting them to the October 8, 2010 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at our new Department of Veterans' Affairs LaSalle Outpatient Clinic in Peru, Illinois. Many of the delegates and alternates were shocked because they were not even notified of this Grand Opening. It appears for political reasons the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs was highly selective in who they choose to participate in their celebrations. Of course we saw this same activity take place at our LaSalle Veterans' Home's opening of the additional 80 beds. This, I find to be appalling, politically driven by losers who don't know how to blow their nose.

Motion was made by Doug Grieves and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates John Duback, American Legion Post 33; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of October 27, 2010

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Jim Nanowski. 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 Nanowski stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: Chairman Nanowski gave a report on the successful ribbon cutting ceremony at the new veterans' clinic in Peru, Illinois. He stated that approximately 250 people attended the ceremony.

Delegate John Duback handed out two sheets asking for veterans to sign up for the 24 hour honor guard vigil, which will be held in Washington Square in Ottawa, Illinois from 5 p.m., Friday, November 5 through 5 p.m. , Saturday, November 6, 2010. Any veteran organization in LaSalle County wishing to participate should contact the following:

John Duback – 815-434-4583  
Jim Nanowski – 815-434-4633  
Kenn Donnelly – 815-431-9038

Superintendent Rue reminded the delegates and alternates that our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 in the Downtown Courthouse in Ottawa. At that meeting we will hold the election of our officers for fiscal year 2011.

A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded George Mason that we adjourn.  
Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Willis Noel, American Legion Post 235; Larry Graham, DAV #86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; John Duback, American Legion Post 33; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Alternates Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33