

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of March 27, 2013

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 the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: Delegate Riley suggested that in the event one of our VAC monthly meetings is canceled, we should mail out the minutes that we were going to discuss to all the delegates and alternates. Superintendent Rue agreed that it was a marvelous suggestion and he will comply.

Mr. Riley also asked permission of the Commission to contact every veteran's organization in the county that does not attend our Commission meetings. Superintendent stated that we have sent out letters asking for posts to send delegates and alternates to our Commission meetings. In fact, three separate letters have been sent in the past five years earning zero response, which means the VAC will not send another one at this time. Mr. Riley asked if we would care if he sent a letter out to all the posts. No one present had any problems with Mr. Riley taking on this endeavor.

Mr. Riley reported on December 14, 2012 there were 50 veterans buried at the Lincoln National Cemetery, seventy-five volunteers were present for the honorable burials. On March 1, 2012 there were 42 veterans buried at the Lincoln National Cemetery with 50 volunteers participating in those honorable burials.

Superintendent Rue presented the Service Officers' Report of February 2013. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered. Chairman Nanowski was truly excited to see that a Vietnam veteran's widow was awarded the back pay benefits for her husband's claim, which goes back to June of 2002. Superintendent Rue stated that this is the first case pushed all the way to the Court of Veterans Appeals. The Court of Veterans Appeals concurred with our arguments that said veteran, under any doctrine of fairness met all the requirements needed to be considered 100% service connected disabled. Superintendent Rue further stated that we do not adjudicate claims, we only file for the benefits of which a veteran is entitled to receive has been denied.

A motion was made by Doug Grieves and seconded by George Mason that the Service Officers' Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jim Ebner and seconded by Jerry Fuchs to adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 30; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT  
APRIL 2013

Vietnam, Streator awarded 90% with back pay (60% - 7/10 and 90% - 7/11)  
total 12/13 \$54,721

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded IUE with spouse 3/12 – 12/13 \$65,406

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded 70% - 6/11 and 80% 7/11 with SMC total 12/13  
\$47,359

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded 20% with SMC 6/11 – 12/13 total \$10,650

Iraq, Morris awarded 10% and SMC 4/12 – 12/13 total \$4,520

Vietnam, Earlvile awarded 60% with dependent 8/10 – 12/13 total \$44,232

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded 20% 8/11 – 12/13 total \$10,590

Iraq, Marseilles awarded 40% 10/10 – 12/13 total \$21,604

Vietnam widow, Marseilles awarded DIC and burial benefits 5/12 – 12/13 total  
\$33,878

TOTAL VA Benefits for April 2013 \$292,960

SOCIAL SECURITY 0

TOTAL BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE \$883,650

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of April 24, 2013

Meeting was opened in due form by Vice-Chairman Jim Ebner. A roll call of officers was taken showing Chairman Jim Nanowski excused. All other officers present.

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

New Business: The Service Officers' Report was presented for April 24, 2013. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered. Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by George Mason that the Service Officers' Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Doug Grieves and seconded by Lance Sires that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; and Vice-Chairman Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237

SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT  
MAY 2013

Morris, Iraq awarded 20% and SMC 3/10-12/13 \$7818

Mendota, Vietnam awarded SMC 5/12-12/13 \$2079

Wenona, Vietnam awarded 100% 3/11 – 12/13 \$95,744

Coal City, Vietnam awarded 80% w/dependent 11/10 – 12/13  
\$52,896

Marseilles, Vietnam awarded Housebound and SMC 7/12 -12/12  
(DOD) \$3464

Grand Ridge, Vietnam awarded 100% 11/10 – 3/11; 20% 3/11 –  
11/13 \$20,835

Tonica, Vietnam widow awarded DIC 12/12 – 12/13 \$19,795

TOTAL VA BENEFITS May 2013 \$322,096

SSD Benefits May 2013 0

**TOTAL BENEFITS TO DATE \$1,205,746**

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of May 22, 2013

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Jim Nanowski. A roll call of officers was taken showing 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 the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was presented for May 2013 showing a total of 1,205,746 have been awarded to date on veteran claims filed for federal and state benefits. Questions asked by the delegates and alternates pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosious and seconded by George Mason that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jim Ebner and seconded by Bob Riley that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosious, American Legion Post 426; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Bob Riley, VFW Post 5506; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; Alternate Jack Leininger, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

# SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT JUNE 2013

Streator widow, waiver of overpayment total \$42,391

WWII widow, back pay of Aid and Attendance total \$9700

Korean, Earlville awarded 100% with spouse 12/11 to 12/12 and 60%  
1/13 to 12/12 total \$48,528

WWII widow Ottawa awarded Aid and Attendance 4/12 – 12/12 and  
\$90 1/13 to 12/13 total \$12,215

WWII Streator awarded pension 8/12 – 12/13 total \$8823

Vietnam, Earlville awarded 30% with spouse 1/11 12/13 total  
\$15,660

Vietnam, Streator awarded 100% 10/12 – 12/13 total \$50,432

Vietnam, Tonica awarded 10% 8/10 – 12/12 total \$3870

TOTAL VA BENEFITS JUNE 2013    \$191,619

        SOCIAL SECURITY                      0

TOTAL BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE **\$1,397,365**

---

## LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of June 26, 2013

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 the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New business: The Service Officers' Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' were answered. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Nick Nekrosius that the Service Officers' Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jim Ebner and seconded by Doug Grieve that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joel Munks, Amvets Post 33; Ferry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Jack Leininger, VFW Post 5506; Dan (Friend of Jack Leininger); Alternate Bob Riley, American Legion Post 235; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## SERVICE OFFICERS' REPORT JULY 2013

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded IUE 6/11 – 12/13 with one dependent TOTAL \$87,702

Vietnam, Ottawa awarded 10% 5/11 – 12/13 TOTAL \$4,056

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded 20% 4/12 – 12/13 TOTAL \$5,100

Vietnam, Sheridan awarded 30% 8/10; 40% 3/11; 100% 6/11; 50% 11/12 – 12/13 TOTAL \$78,956

Vietnam, Ottawa awarded 10% 9/10; 60% 2/11 with spouse and SMC to 12/13 TOTAL \$42,550

Tonica awarded SSD 9/11 – 12/13 TOTAL \$26,283

TOTAL VA BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE	\$218,364
SOCIAL SECURITY YEAR TO DATE	\$26,283
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$1,642,012</b>



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of July 24, 2013

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 as presented.

New Business: The Service Officers' Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers' Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Doug Grieve that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Delegates and Alternates reviewed the Budget Recommendation Form for fiscal year 2014 line item by line item. In the line items where we would not know what the total cost for that budgetary product would be until after September of 2013, they placed a single asterisk. The two line items pertaining to the salaries of the Office Supervisor and Superintendent had two asterisks placed after them with the Delegates requesting that those employees receive the same salary increases that the other department heads and officials agreed to by contract for fiscal year 2014. The asterisk ask that in the event those line items do not meet the current agreed upon total figures that the County Board adjust those figures upward so there is no shortage as a result of a lower submitted figure. After going thru each line item and listing the VAC budget recommendations a motion was made by Jack Leininger and seconded by George Mason that the total VAC line item budget request of \$238,290 be accepted by the Commission. The budget recommendations passed unanimously. The budget recommendations will be presented to the VAC LaSalle County Board meeting of August 12, 2013 by the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Bob Riley and seconded by Larry Graham to adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Jack Leininger, VFW Post 5506; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; and Alternate Bob Riley, American Legion Post 235; and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## Service Officers' Report August 2013

Vietnam, Ottawa awarded up to 100% w/Dependent, SMC  
and Housebound 7/99 to 12/13 \$366,013

Vietnam, Seneca awarded 80% w/Dependent and SMC 5/11  
– 12/13 \$51,006

Vietnam, Marseilles awarded IUE 7/11 – 12/13 w/Dependent  
\$38,826

Vietnam, Oglesby awarded up to 70% 7/11 – 2/13 \$14,970

Vietnam, Van Orin, awarded up to 100% and housebound  
1/12 – 12/13 \$78,048

TOTAL VA Benefits August 2013 \$548,863

Total Social Security August 2013 \$0

Total Benefits year to date \$2,190,875

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of August 28, 2013

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Jim 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.

Superintendent Rue announced that on September 21, 2013 the Veterans Advisory Council for the LaSalle Veterans Home will be meeting at the home. He encouraged the delegates and alternates to participate in this event if they could attend.

The Service Officer's Report was presented showing that as of August 20, 2013 our VAC office advocacy work had netted \$2,190,875 in financial awards to those veterans that our office had represented. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented.

Superintendent Rue told all delegates and alternates that if they had any changes in their post appointments to the Commission they should notify our office by October. He also reminded them that our annual meeting will be held on November 20, 2013. All individuals wanting to run for office should let our Commission know of their desire. See you on November 20, 2013 at our annual meeting.

A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Bob Riley that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Larry Graham, DAV Chapter 86; Jack Leininger, American Legion Post 5506; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; John Duback, American Legion Post 33; Alternate Bob Riley, American Legion Post 235 and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## **LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission of November 20, 2013**

The meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Nanowski. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

The 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:** Delegate Jack Leininger introduced a proposed amendment to our V.A.C. bylaws. The proposed amendment is as follows:

**IF THE ELECTED SUPERINTENDENT IS REMOVED FROM OFFICE, DIES DURING THEIR ELECTED TERM, RESIGNS, OR BECOMES PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES OF SAID ELECTED OFFICE, THEN THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT THE VAC OFFICE SUPERVISOR AS THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT WITH PAY ADJUSTMENTS EQUAL TO WHAT THE SUPERINTENDENT WAS RECEIVING FOR SAID EXTRA DUTIES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A NEW SUPERINTENDENT CAN BE TRAINED IN THE TOTAL OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE AND ELECTED BY THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.**

The amendment was discussed by the Commission members and they decided to hold a special meeting on December 18, 2013 to again address the proposed amendment and vote on its acceptance.

**Election of officers:** The delegates nominated the Veterans Assistance Commission officers for the year 2014. A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Nick Nekrosius that the slate of officers nominated be elected for fiscal year 2014 with the unanimous vote being cast for the slate of officers selected being there was only one person per position. Motion passed. The 2014 officers are as follows:

Chairman – Jim Ebner  
Vice Chairman – Jerry Fuchs  
Chaplain – Doug Grieve  
Sgt. at Arms – Bob Riley

All officers were congratulated for their willingness to serve.

A motion was made by Howard Gast and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that we adjourn. Motion passed.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegates Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Jack Leininger, VFW Post 5506; and Alternate John Duback, American Legion Post 33; Bob Riley, VFW Post 2470; Commander of American Legion Post 570 Terry Brown and Chairman Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33

## **Special Meeting of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission December 18, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Ebner. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Superintendent Rue passed out the proposed amendment to the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Bylaws. A motion was made by Jack Leininger and seconded by George Mason that the proposed amendment be accepted by the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission and added to the bylaws. The motion further requested that Superintendent Rue read the names of each post present listing their delegate who will be voting on the proposed amendment and a roll call of all posts will be taken and the time of the vote. A lengthy discussion then ensued between the delegates present pertaining to the proposed amendment. After all questions and concerns were addressed, Chairman Ebner requested a roll call vote on the proposed amendment, which reads as follows:

IF THE ELECTED SUPERINTENDENT IS REMOVED FROM OFFICE, DIES DURING THEIR ELECTED TERM, RESIGNS, OR BECOMES PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED DUTIES OF SAID ELECTED OFFICE, THEN THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT THE VAC OFFICE SUPERVISOR AS THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT WITH PAY ADJUSTMENTS EQUAL TO WHAT THE SUPERINTENDENT WAS RECEIVING FOR SAID EXTRA DUTIES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A NEW SUPERINTENDENT CAN BE TRAINED IN THE TOTAL OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE AND ELECTED BY THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

Superintendent Rue called a roll call vote of the delegates present from their posts. The delegates voting unanimously passed the proposed amendment.

Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Howard Gast that we adjourn the special meeting. Motion passed.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegates Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Lance Sires, American Legion Post 235; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Jack Leininger, VFW Post 5506; and Alternate John Duback, American Legion Post 33; Bob Riley, VFW Post 2470 and Chairman Jim Ebner, American Legion Post 237