

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
April 23, 2019 — 10:00 AM  
Missouri Gaming Commission,  
3417 Knipp Drive, Hearing Room  
Jefferson City, MO**

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER and Roll Call**

In attendance: Chairman Tim Noonan; Vice Chairman John Buckner; Commissioner Jose Dominguez; Commissioner Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Jill Schupp; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Steve Lynch; Commissioner Wayne Wallingford; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Ex-Officio Member Robert Hagedorn

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Commission Meeting, Open Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2019  
Commissioner Dominguez made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2019 and Commissioner Knopp seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Commission Meeting Closed Meeting Minutes January 23, 2019  
Commissioner Dominguez made a motion to approve the Closed Meeting minutes of January 23, 2019 and Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Recognition:
- Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Arthur Reinhold Jr.
  - Veterans Service Officer, John Simpson, who spent nearly two years working to correct this Veteran's military records and awards
- B. Executive Director briefed on the following topics:
- Vietnam Veterans Ceremony, 25 April 2019, 0900 Capitol Rotunda
  - Feasibility Study to look at the needs of Veterans in the State of Missouri
  - Homes Waiting List reduction
  - Partnering with VA on community based skilled nursing care
    - ~1100 VA contract beds available in private homes
    - 74% private skilled nursing beds in Missouri are empty
  - Legislative Concerns
    - HB 1064 (Vouchers)
    - HJR 29 (\$63M new home)

## **IV. PROGRAM REPORTS**

- A. Deputy Director, briefed for the Cemetery Program:
- Status of Columbarium Walls and Estimated Fill Dates
  - Upcoming Memorial Day events at all cemeteries on May 27, 2019

- B. Director, Veteran Services Program briefed:
  - Recent Purple Heart Ceremony held in Troy, MO where Director Link presented Arthur Reinhold Jr. with his Purple Heart and 3 Bronze Star Medals
  - Outreach partnering with Fort Leonard Wood Transition Assistance Office
  - Grant Partner productivity: Veterans served and Payment totals
  - Women's Veteran's Ceremony held at World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City
- C. Director, Homes Program briefed:
  - 2019 VA Survey results and upcoming dates for all homes
  - HMS Surveys
  - Critical Nursing Shortages
  - CNA Turnover Rate
    - Reducing turnover of CNAs is our #1 priority
  - Antipsychotic Utilization – Goal to decrease usage where applicable
  - Homes Action Plan to improve veteran care; hire and maintain CNAs

## **VI. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Deputy Director, briefed on Veterans Innovation Task Force (VITF) and the Outreach and Advocacy Outreach Spotlight.
- B. Director, Facilities Operations, reported on current and projected construction projects and facilities upgrades.
- C. Director, Commission Resources, briefed:
  - VA Nursing Retention Incentive
  - Position Reclassification:
    - CNA I and II positions integrated by Office of Administration allowing advancement from CNA I to II upon certification
  - Human Resources: Updates Shift Differentials and Special Care Unit Pay for nursing staff at our Veterans Homes
  - Financial:
    - Budget: Appropriated and Expended
    - Revenues allocated and distributed throughout Missouri Veterans Commission programs
    - Veterans Homes Allotment, Revenues, Expenses by home
    - Average cost of care for a Veteran living in MVC Veterans Home

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

- A. HB 715 being voted today: Veterans Survivors Grant Program
- B. Returning Heroes Act
- C. HB 547 Veterans Treatment Court
- D. Full Reciprocity to Military Spouses: Their licenses/certifications will follow them wherever they go

## **VIII. GRANT PARTNERS**

- A. DAV briefed on Locations and Mission as well as transportation of Veterans to medical appointments
  - 105 Volunteer Drivers
  - 950,000 miles driven over 42,000 hours
  - 14,000 Veterans transported
- B. VFW State Commander briefed:
  - VSO in HST VAMC

- Call to Action: Getting VSOs out into the community
- Poppy Drive
- C. Scotty Allen from Adjutant General's Office briefed on Will Program
- D. Kansas City VA Medical Center briefed on construction and Fisher House.
- E. Veterans Affairs, St Louis Office briefed new Appeals Mediation Process; cutting appeals down from several years to only months now
- F. MMPEC briefed on VITF

**IX. NEXT MEETING**

- Commission Chairman announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Missouri Veterans Commission, Warrensburg Veterans Home, 1300 Veterans Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093
- There was no requirement for a closed meeting
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



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Grace Link, Secretary