

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF March 13, 2023

Commissioners		
Merlin Reimer - President		Present
John McAllister – Vice President		Present
Christine Santiago-Foos - Secretary		Present
Dave Hyatt - Member		Present
Richard Ray - Member		Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher Director		Present
Wm. Piwtorak Social Services		Present
Guest(s):		
Mash Pantry – guest presentation		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Reimer at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

MASH Pantry – Presentation

1734 hrs.

Came to the meeting to speak of the organization and what it provides for the region and locally. Spoke specifically about the Delaware Pantry and provided a packet to the board that highlights all of the positive things MASH does.

Also brought back the topic / request about wanting to purchase a greenhouse. It will be kept at 60 Big Run Rd. Delaware Ohio 43015 – Veterans Honor Garden at the Dept. of Ohio American Legion and at Stockhands Horses for Healing.

MOTION – 23-0313-02 enter into executive session 1805 hrs.

1st Reimer

2nd Hyatt

5-0 Vote

Discussed Financial Assistance for four veterans. The fifth did not show nor provide enough information to be considered.

MOTION – 23-0313-03 Exit executive session and return to public session 1955 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Ray

5-0 Vote

Back in public session:

MOTION – 23-0313-04 Approve for Veteran REDACTED to pay for the following additional bills that were not covered by financial assistance policy. USAA Insurance - \$1295.03, Verizon – 91.33, and his electric bill for 449.06 plus one Meijer card for \$100.00 totaling 1935.42

1st McAllister

2nd Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

Motion – 23-0313-05 Approve for Veteran REDACTED up to \$2,700.00 to get his truck repaired by Leroy's car Service Repair

1st Hyatt

2nd Ray

5-0 vote

Motion – 23-0313-06 Approve for Veteran REDACTED first month rent and security deposit for new apartment.

1st Hyatt

2nd McAllister

0-5 Vote

Failed to pass

Motion – 23-0313-07 Approve veteran REDACTED to pay for the following additional expenses that were not covered by the financial assistance policy. 2 Months car payment, 2 months mortgage, and a \$100.00 Meijer card

1st McAllister

2nd Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

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OLD BUSINESS

March 27th – The commission will be traveling to Sunbury Post 8736 (435 McGill St) to have their regular meeting at the VFW. The meeting will commence at the same time – 1730 hrs.

BOARD of Commissioners to wear their **BLUE** shirts

GOLD STAR Monument:

Never connected with organizer to discuss. Will invite and report next meeting.

Stockhands for Healing – Last meeting requested financial assistance in remodeling for an ADA approved bathroom. Initial quote received and was requested to get a second quote. This quote was received and came in over the initial.

MOTION – 23-0313-08 to approve Stock hands for healing up to \$25,000.00 to cover the cost of the buildout of the ADA approved bathroom with McKean Contact LLC as the contractor completing the work.

1st Hyatt

2nd McAllister

5-0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

Mash Pantry made a presentation earlier in the meeting. In that, provided a request for a Greenhouses to be purchased and placed on the Ohio Department of American Legion property and at Stockhands Horses for Healing in Delaware County.

MOTION – 23-0313-09 to support the endeavor but **not** Fund the project.

1st Reimer

2nd Hyatt

5-0 voted

Thomas Mills from the DCVA spoke with the Social Service officer regarding adopting a family for Christmas with hopes other would join the project and adopt other families. The board was open to this but is aware of other similar projects. Asked to have Mr. Mills join them for a discussion in the future. Next meeting will be held close to where he lives and an invite should go out.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Produced a book that the board requested that showed the budget and its line items whereas it could be reviewed as needed during the meetings. Details were discussed whereas the director will provide this book and update the first three pages regularly to show how much money has been spent.

Good for the Order

Nothing to report

MOTION 23-0313-10 ADJOURN MEETING AT 2103 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Hyatt

5-0 vote

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Commissioners		
Merlin Reimer -	President	Present
John McAllister –	Vice President	Present
Christine Santiago-Foos -	Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Excused Absence
Guest(s):		
At Sunbury VFW		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President Reimer at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

MOTION – 23-0327-01 to approve the minutes from March 13th with the addition of Stockhands Horses for Healing as a request for MASH Pantry Greenhouses.

1st McAllister

2nd Santiago-Foos

5-0 Vote

OLD BUSINESS

Pictures were taken at the Sunbury VFW of the Veteran Service Commission.

Commissioner Santiago-Foos indicated the VFW has powered wheelchairs that need batteries as a potential need for items such as this for the 2024 budget. For the current issue, Batteries Plus is a point of contact for batteries for the wheelchairs or DAV Chapter 3 takes them if no local need exists. Director Galligher stated that if needed, he could help with getting it running for the local need.

Discussion on the upcoming Christmas plans on taking care of families. Thom Mills from DCVA discussed an idea and Commission Ray gave a history of family support for the holidays that have been ongoing for several years. The action is that Director Galligher and Commissioner Ray will meet with Amber from the MASH Pantry on April 7th and afterwards, Director Galligher will “loop” Thom Mills in for support to grow the project.

GOLD STAR Monument - Never connected with organizer to discuss. Will invite and report next meeting.

The bus to the National Air Museum at WPAFB was brought up for approval:

MOTION – 23-0327-02 to approve the Veteran Service Office to procure bus rental for a day in September or October for up to \$2,500.00 for the veteran trip to the National Air Museum at WPAFB.

1st Ray

2nd McAllister

5-0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

The Veteran Service Commission convention is upcoming.

DIRECTOR REPORT

The Director brought up a request by the VVA to pay for promotion items for approval. After discussion, the Veteran Service Commissioners intent is that the VSC will continue to fund items that directly assist veterans such as funeral honor supplies & needs, flags for markers, and specific event requests for veterans, but not for promotional items. Many promotion items can be requested through the service organization. The VSC also noted that they approved of the great outreach the VVA provides. A potential would be to provide an amount open to all service organization similar to the Memorial Day funding, but would need further discussion.

Director Galligher and Thom Mills discussed the current status of funeral honors in Delaware County. Going forward, the Delaware County Veteran Service Office will be the point of contact for the funeral homes for Delaware County veterans and will disperse funerals to the VVA, DCVA, and potentially the VFW honor guard.

Good for the Order

John Crouse inquired as to when the Memorial Day letters would go out, Director Galligher stated those would go out in April and would coordinate with Social Services Officer Piwtorak.

John also mentioned the Vietnam Veterans ceremony on Wednesday March 29th at noon in front of the historic courthouse.

MOTION 23-0327-03 ADJOURN MEETING AT 1920 hrs.

1st McAllister

2nd Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote