

# Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF SEP 11, 2023

<b>Commissioners</b>		
Merlin Reimer - President		<b>Present</b>
John McAllister – Vice President		<b>Present</b>
Christine Santiago-Foos - Secretary		<b>Present</b>
Dave Hyatt - Member		<b>Present</b>
Richard Ray - Member		<b>Present</b>
<b>Veteran Services</b>		
Brian Galligher Director		<b>Present</b>
Wm. Piwtorak Social Services		<b>Present</b>
<b>Guest(s)</b>		

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

President Reimer at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1735 hrs.

**MOTION – 23-0911-01** to approve the minutes from Aug 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with a minor correction.

1<sup>st</sup> Santiago-Foos

2<sup>nd</sup> Ray

5-0 Vote

**PASSED**

**MOTION – 23-0911-02** to go into executive session.

1736 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> Santiago-Foos

2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt

5-0 Vote

**PASSED**

Discussed one veteran's request.

Discussed Financial Assistance Activity for the month. See report below.

Discussed additional financial assistance data that will be tracked daily and presented quarterly. See report below.

Discussed Veteran who had a recent house fire and called in for financial assistance. The veteran was not applicable due to findings found on the veterans DD 214.

**MOTION – 23-0911-03** to exit executive and return to public session

1843 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

**PASSED**

**MOTION – 23-0911-04** : Approve a waiver to have more than 4 requests approved per an annual cycle for Veteran Redacted.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt

2 Yes- 3 no

**FAILED**

Since waiver failed any motion to approve could not move forward

**Financial Assistance**

		Social Service Officer - Activity Report (official)							2023				
		August											
#	Denied	Veteran	F/A	Comm	Approved	Meijer	Dental	Burial	Hotel	Annual #	Lifetime req	Lifetime \$\$	
1			\$0.00	\$1,359.79	\$1,359.79	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	3	\$3,761.79	
2			\$1,574.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	3	\$2,622.13	
3			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	6	\$4,398.69	
4			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0	0	\$1,000.00	
5			\$536.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	12	\$7,465.79	
6			\$1,884.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	4	4	\$7,437.00	
7			\$1,186.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	7	\$9,432.00	
8			\$1,829.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	3	\$5,931.50	
9			\$1,115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2	2	\$2,230.00	
10			\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	5	5	\$6,402.31	
11			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	5	15	\$12,125.23	
12			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	15	\$11,385.19	
13			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2	3	\$3,936.69	
14			\$961.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	1	\$961.00	
15			\$996.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	1	\$996.00	
16			\$1,794.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	1	\$1,794.24	
17			\$0.00	\$647.55	\$647.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	5	9	\$4,389.40	
18			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	5	\$2,166.00	
19			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	4	4	\$2,529.00	
20													
21													
22													
23													
24													
25													
26													
27													
28													
29													
30													
			<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>				
			\$ 11,876.31	\$ 3,207.34	\$ 3,207.34	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -				
			<b>Total exp - This month</b>								<b>Total exp - Year</b>		
			\$ 18,883.65								220,554.29		

Percentages of use														
Rent/ Mort	Home Heat	Electric	Water	Trash	Hotel	Burial	Repair	Medical	Car	Internet	Insurance	Phone	Storage	
\$87,926.05	\$6,131.19	\$14,353.58	\$2,482.86	\$634.30	\$3,978.20	\$5,995.00	\$30,710.62	\$9,881.40	\$11,882.69	\$660.19	\$5,615.30	\$487.19	\$338.00	
48.56%	3.39%	7.93%	1.37%	0.38%	2.20%	3.31%	16.96%	5.48%	6.58%	0.36%	3.10%	0.27%	0.19%	
<b>TOTAL</b>														
<b>\$181,076.57</b>														
<b>As of Sept 11, 2023</b>														

## OLD BUSINESS

**Status on Bus Trip** – Slowly growing in attendance. Have 20+ registered. Can hold up to 56 people on the bus. End of registration is Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Will monitor and where the list is once the fair is over.

**Mash Pantry** – Legal asked is the commission committed to supporting? Legal was hesitant to complete research if overall the chance of supporting was limited. Per later conversation, Amber informed Director, regardless Mash Pantry will be committing to the new location. If Mash develops a program within the organization, support will be easier. The Director will work with MASH when they are ready to develop programs. All actions still tabled until more info is available.

## NEW BUSINESS

No Report

## DIRECTOR REPORT

Vet Shoot is scheduled for Sept 12<sup>th</sup>

Director will be meeting with Steve Lewis (IT Director) and an IT expert to discuss MS Access and Sharepoint as potential candidates for data creation.

Staff – CVSO's will be out of the office Wed, Thurs, and Friday for required training.

Senior Day at the Fair- On the Fair's website and signs throughout the city state Monday Sept 18. However, the traditional day has been Tuesday which is being reported to be the day.

Reminder: - Veterans Court is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month. The care team starts at 2:30 pm and the actual docket is scheduled for 3 pm but usually starts a little later. Any commissioner is welcome to attend.

**GOOD FOR THE ORDER**

No Report

**NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2023 – begins at 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)**

**Motion – 23-0911-05 Motion to adjourn the meeting**

1920 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister

2<sup>nd</sup> Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

**PASSSED.**

# Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

## REGULAR MEETING OF SEP 25, 2023

<b>Commissioners</b>		
Merlin Reimer -	President	<b>Present</b>
John McAllister –	Vice President	<b>Present</b>
Christine Santiago-Foos -	Secretary	<b>Excused</b>
Dave Hyatt -	Member	<b>Present</b>
Richard Ray -	Member	<b>Present</b>
<b>Veteran Services</b>		
Brian Galligher	Director	<b>Present</b>
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	<b>Present</b>
<b>Guest(s)</b>		

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

President Reimer at 1731.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1735 hrs.

**MOTION – 23-0925-01** to approve the minutes from Sept 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with a minor correction.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ray**

**4-0 Vote**

**PASSED**

**MOTION – 23-0925-02** to go into executive session.

1736 hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> McAllister**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt**

**4-0 Vote**

**PASSED**

Discussed one veteran's request.

**MOTION – 23-0925-03** to exit executive and return to public session

1810 hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> Ray**

**2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister**

**4-0 vote**

**PASSED**

**MOTION – 23-0925-04:** Approve Veteran REDACTED to have up to \$3,000.00 to cover the cost of the following incurring bills: Rent, Electric Bill, Car Payment, Insurance Payment, and his car repair bill.

**1<sup>st</sup> McAllister**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt**

**4-0**

**PASSED**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Status on Bus Trip** – Slowly growing in attendance. Discussed the reasons why the trip has limited interest. 1.) It is for veterans only 2.) No mobility issues for this trip.

This info is noted and future plans will incorporate potential changes. This is the inaugural trip so the team will be evaluating the process to make sure future trips are efficiently addressed.

**Vet Shoot '23** – The event received many positive comments and everyone who attended enjoyed the event. Thanks to the staff at the shooting range in accommodating the veterans. Vet Shoot '24 will most likely be scheduled.

## **Forever Grateful Dinner – Feedback**

The attendees from Veterans Services and commissioners had the following points:

Opening earlier may be helpful for the participants

Tickets / flyer should say “Door open at a specific time” waiting line was long.

Move up the time of the entire event

There should be a committee establish to address numerous perspectives

300/400 veterans were in attendance

Providing golf carts to transport to cars was VERY beneficial

People left early – speaker was too long

Caterer was much better than years past

Participants calling last minute for tickets, causing concerns

Lighting issue – dark, trip hazards, on a hill

Handicap parking is not that close

## **NEW BUSINESS**

When a veteran comes in to discuss their financial request, the information provided should provide a good snapshot of what is going on with the veteran. Questions should be limited and to the point to provide insight to why the commission should award the veteran their request. If the commission is going to request additional information from what is currently being provided by the Social Services Office, the Veteran Service Commission will provide a template for standardized questions.

**Motion: 23-0925-05**

During financial requests, commissioners should establish a routine whereas each commissioner plans to develop two questions and ask on a rotating basis. When all commissioners ask their questions or do not have anymore, a commissioner may request to ask an additional question(s).

**1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt                      2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister                      4-0 Vote                      PASSED**

Wreaths Across America is upon us for another year. Last year the commission authorized enough funds to purchase 40 wreaths. The cost of each wreath went up 2 dollars for a total of 17 dollars each.

**Motion: 23-0925-06** At the meeting of the Board of Commissioners on October 4, 2023, the program of Wreaths Across America.

**1<sup>st</sup> McAllister                      2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt                      4-0 Vote                      PASSED**

Veteran of the year – Not many applications have arrived. Will push out again and nominations will be accepted at the next Commission meeting, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Air Force Museum Bus Trip – The trip is coming up fast (October 18<sup>th</sup>) plans are in final stages. One item that needs to be discussed is the additional food and activities that are planned for the veterans. They will be provided coffee in the morning, lunch, and dinner on the way back. During the trip there will be additional costs for activities that the veterans will partake in that cost additional funds.

**Motion: 23-0925-07** At the meeting of the Board of Commissioners on October 4, 2023, the cost of the activities the veterans will partake in while at the National Air Force Museum.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hyatt                      2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister                      4-0 Vote                      PASSED**

**DIRECTOR REPORT**

The director asked to go into an executive meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

**MOTION – 23-0925-08** to go into executive session. 1901 hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> McAllister                      2<sup>nd</sup> Hyatt                      4-0 Vote                      PASSED**

Discussed a personnel matter

**MOTION – 23-0925-09 to exit executive and return to public session 1935 hrs.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ray**

**2<sup>nd</sup> McAllister**

**4-0 vote**

**PASSED**

### Grave Markers

A discussion ensued about the program.

Points out of the discussion – The Director will be speaking with Melissa Jordan (Recorder)

If the recorder is on board, seek an intern to update the information about all of the graves in the county.

The Grave Markers are tracked by purchases only.

Give VVA and DVA organizations authorization to retrieve the supplies to put together the grave markers as required. This will streamline the process for these organizations.

### Funeral Service

Saturday – September 23, 2023 participated in a funeral whereas DCVSO had to locate and purchase a burial flag to take care of the event appropriately.

### Update on office stats:

Since the influx of veterans seeking claims, in the last 30 days the claims filed are as follows:

Scott: 20    Rey: 24    Lisa: 15

VSO had 13 new clients call in on one day (Monday after the fair) that have never sought services before.

### Question:

Status of the flags that have been ordered? Director will look into it.



**GOOD FOR THE ORDER**

No Report

**NEXT MEETING: October 9th, 2023 – begins at 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)**

**Motion – 23-0925-10** Motion to adjourn the meeting 2002 hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> McAllister    2<sup>nd</sup> Ray                      4-0 vote                      **PASSED**