

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Meeting  
Wednesday, January 4, 2017  
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
Iowa Gold Star Military Museum  
7105 – NW 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Johnston, IA 50313-1824

**Present:** Daniel J. Gannon, Chair  
George Goebel  
Elizabeth Ledvina  
Ron Langel  
Gary Wattnem  
Steve Hyde  
Mary Van Horn

**Absent:** Monica Brouse  
Kate Myers

**Staff:** Robert Steben, Interim Executive Director, IDVA      Jodi Tymeson, Commandant, IVH  
Mari Mielke, IDVA – Recording Secretary

**Guests/** Sue Nan Jehlem, Rock Island Nat'l Cemetery  
**Presenters:** Chuck Long, Iowa Sports Foundation (ISF)      John Canterbury, RINC  
Carmen Gamble, MyVA      Mike Boone, Adaptive Sports Iowa  
Todd Jacobus, Iowa ARNG & ISF      Veronica Jackson Patrick, VA  
Dave Thornburg, Iowa Vets Council      Dave Allen, Senator Grassley's Office  
Judy Johnson Mekota, Iowa City VAMC      Terri Beer, VARO Director  
Dean Brand, Iowa ARNG Funeral Honors      Gail Graham, Des Moines VAMC  
Rep. Steve Holt, Chair, House VA Committee      Jerry Hansen, County Association  
Kristi Catrenich, Des Moines VAMC

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE 'UNAPPROVED' UNTIL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

**APPROVED:** Daniel J. Gannon  
Daniel J. Gannon, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

**Date:** April 5, 2017

**Prior to Meeting Approved Motion**

December 10, 2016, Chairperson Gannon made an email motion to the Commission members to approve an additional \$100,000 for the production of the Vietnam Commemoration Books. This would make the approved total amount of \$400,000 to produce 40,000 of the Commemoration Books. Commissioners Goebel, Langel, Ledvina, Brouse, Myers, Wattnem, and Hyde all agreed with an email "yes" vote.

**Call to Order:**

Meeting Chairperson Gannon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Gannon followed by a moment of silence. Chairperson Gannon introduced Mary Van Horn as the new Commission member representing AMVETS.

**Roll Call:**

Chairperson Gannon took roll call. Commissioners Brouse and Myers were absent.

**Welcome/Introductions of Guests:**

Chairperson Gannon welcomed everyone in attendance and asked guests to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Commissioner Goebel made a motion to approve the October 5, 2016 quarterly Commission meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Wattnem. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Langel made a motion to approve the October 6, 2016 Trust Fund applications meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Goebel. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Ledvina made a motion to approve the November 3, 2016 Trust Fund applications meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Goebel. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wattnem made a motion to approve the December 1, 2016 Trust Fund applications meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Langel. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

**Presentations:**

Sue Nan Jehlem, Director of the Rock Island and Keokuk National Cemeteries gave the Commission an update about how the two national cemeteries operate.

Chuck Long with the Iowa Sports Foundation briefed the Commission about the Foundation and the four pillars of the organization, which include the Iowa Games, Live Healthy Iowa, Senior Games, and Adaptive Sports Program, which Mike Boone is here to brief the Commission. The Adaptive Sports Iowa program is especially geared in sports and recreation for people with physical disabilities and vision impairment.

Carmen Gamble with MyVA briefed the Commission about MyVA and introduced Veronica Jackson-Patrick with the MyVA Veterans Experience Office.

**VA Regional Office**

Terri Beer, Director of the VA regional office gave the Commission her quarterly update.

**Iowa City VA Medical Center**

Judith Johnson-Mekota, Director with the Iowa City VAMC gave the Commission her quarterly update.

**Des Moines VA Medical Center**

Gail Graham, Director of the Des Moines VAMC gave the Commission her quarterly update.

**Sioux Falls VA Medical Center**

Shirley Redmond, Director at the Sioux Falls, SD Medical Center submitted a written report to update the Commission.

### **Veterans Home Update**

Commandant, Jodi Tymeson reported the following:

- Current census 530 residents (nursing 432; residential 98)
- DIA required IVH to alarm all exit doors
- Requesting status quo budget (9% of budget is state appropriations)

### **Camp Dodge Office Update**

Interim Executive Director Bob Steben gave the Commission an update

### **Old Business**

Chairperson Gannon updated the Commission about the Kuwait Books and distribution and an update of the process of getting the Vietnam books ready for production and distribution.

Chairperson Gannon submitted email correspondence that took place back in December with the Commission members to approve an additional \$100,000 from the License Fee Fund to be added to the already approved \$300,000 for a total \$400,000 from the License Fee Fund to start the production of 40,000 of the Vietnam Veterans books so that they can start the publication process.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Gannon reminded the Commission members of the January 18<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day at the Capitol program and asking for all to be in attendance.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments.

### **Next Commission meeting**

Next quarterly meeting will be held at the Iowa Veterans Home on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.