

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Meeting
Wednesday, July 11, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
7105 – NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50313-1824

Present: Col. Todd Jacobus, Chair
Dan Gannon, Commissioner
Becky DirksHaugsted, Commissioner
Darlene McMartin, Commissioner
Kate Myers, Commissioner
Larry Spencer, Commissioner
Bill Wallace, Commissioner
Jon Wille, Commissioner
Mickey Williams, Commissioner


Staff: Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, IDVA
Mari Mielke, IDVA – Recording Secretary
Missy Miller, IDVA, Trust Fund Administrator

Michael Hines, Administrative Assistant, IVH

Guests: Mitch Holmes, Cass County Director
Richard Bullock, IA Dept. American Legion
David Thornburg, IVC/DAV
Bart Quick, VACIHCS
Ted Hall, IWD Vet Team
Sondra VanDerPol, IA Nat'l Guard Warrior & Fam.
Jill Jennings, House Rep. Caucus Staff
Lisa Breun, VARO Director
Dick Rue, ESGR

Jerry Hansen, IACCVSO President
Roger Elliott, VVA
David Bolton, DAV
Arlinda McKeen, SPPG
David Huffman, VACIHCS
Zeke Furlong, House Demo. Caucus Staff
John Whitaker, USDA/FSA
Jerry Yellin, Operation Warrior Wellness
Ray Hutchison, VVA

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

APPROVED: 

Col. Todd Jacobus, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

Date: 19 Sep 2012

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Todd Jacobus.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all our service members in harm's way. Chairperson Jacobus read from a news release from the Iowa National Guard and asked for a special moment of silence for native Iowan Sgt. James L. Skalberg, Jr., who was killed in Afghanistan on June 27, 2012.

Amend Agenda

Chairperson Jacobus asked the Commission to amend the agenda as outlined on a revised agenda. Commissioner DirksHaugsted made a motion to amend as presented this morning by adding a few more presenters. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried; voted unanimously.

Roll Call:

The recording secretary took roll call and all Commissioners were present.

Welcome/Introductions of Guests:

Chairperson Jacobus welcomed everyone and asked guests to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4th quarterly meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Wallace. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes of the trust fund conference call held on June 6th and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

State Public Policy Group Contract Update – Arlinda McKeen

Ms. McKeen read from her written update that has become part of the file. She is currently leading the initiative on behalf of ICVA along with four other staff members. Each team member is focusing on one or two elements of the SPPG scope of work.

The first deliverable we actually completed during the last quarter. This was reviewing information from our previously contracted work. We also worked with Chairperson Jacobus to address the remaining materials from Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training which were purchased through a previous ICVA contract.

Our second deliverable is more open-ended; it allows us to represent the Commission at those things that we hear about or think might be coming up and we want to make sure that veteran's mental health issue is brought forward. During this last quarter in May, I met with Dr. Paul Stageberg at the Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) and have subsequently followed up with him related to SF 2312. This legislation included a requirement for the DHR, Division of Criminal and

Juvenile Justice Planning to conduct a statewide study on the feasibility of developing a statewide mental health court system.

Dr. Stageberg indicated to Ms. McKeen that although this legislation is for DHR to do a feasibility study on mental health courts there was no funding to accompany it.

Another deliverable that SPPG is working on is linking your interest in veteran's mental health with the mental health redesign that passed through the legislature this year. With our last monthly report, we provided a summary of that legislation SF 2315.

The final deliverable is the most complicated; SPPG is participating in a state initiative on behalf of the Commission. This includes participating in planning meetings, working to implement the strategies identified, and gathering more information through meetings or webinars.

Ms. McKeen continued reading her report. SPPG expects to continue this level of effort on behalf of the Commission throughout the summer and fall. Discussion continued on the written report.

VA Regional Office Update – Lisa Breun, Director

In April we hired a new veteran's service manager who is from the St. Paul VA Regional Office, which is considered the standup VA office in the country. She brings a lot of great ideas and enthusiasm. We have had two retirements in vocational rehabilitation, one in May and one in June in Cedar Rapids and Davenport. We have been able to replace one of the positions, which is in Davenport and he will go back and forth to Cedar Rapids and Davenport.

We received a notice from our central office that someone had contacted the Congressional offices regarding our telephones being answered which is a reoccurring issue. We responded with the same response we always use; we don't have people dedicated to answering phone calls. Those positions were taken away when they established a Call Center. We had an employee that was helping people on the phone with county service officers; he was providing services that he should not have been providing when he was sharing information with county service officers who did not have the proper accreditation. Discussion continued on this particular issue.

We did undergo the transformation that you may have heard about; we have had an 8% increase in production and hope this is just the beginning of a positive trend. We have also been able to put more focus on the appeals process. The appeals pending since the beginning of the year have decreased around 25%. The next step in our transformation is going to be the Veterans Benefits Management system, which will be rolled out in Des Moines around the end of August. Ms. Breun has not seen a demo of this yet; this is the system that is supposed to make us a more paperless system, which ultimately could make us more flexible in what the VARO does.

Commissioner McMartin asked if the VARO is still sending claims to Kentucky; Ms. Breun said no, but we haven't received all of them back yet that were originally sent, but they are not sending any more. We had a national contract with a company (she did not mention what company in Kentucky), which assisted us with the development of veterans claims. The company found out that developing claims was much more complicated than they believed it would be; which is why no more claims are going to Kentucky. Discussion continued on this issue.

Executive Director Jodi Tymeson thanked Ms. Breun for the RO's dedication to the "privacy act" and not giving out veteran information and she has directed IDVA to be more diligent on not giving out private information. We need to protect the privacy of all veterans.

Commissioner McMartin mentioned that years ago the RO offered a computer class for the county VSO's to come to the VARO, learn about the security system, etc. Could they get back to possibly offering that service again for the county VSO's. Ms. Breun said she will talk to her training director to see about this request.

Commissioner Gannon asked about some statistics about the claim process on number of days. Ms. Breun indicated that right now our average days pending are 215, which are longer than any other time, and unfortunately nationwide that is a good number. Claims coming into Des Moines have settled down a bit, but we continue to work the claims diligently. At times, the claims process will take longer because filing some claims have more than one or two issues; veterans are more likely now to file for four or five different issues, each of which takes more time to process. Discussion continued on the claims process and how many issues each claim could have seeking compensation percentages.

Commissioner Myers asked about the one new hire for vocational rehab working both in Davenport and Cedar Rapids. Ms. Breun responded that there are three people in the Cedar Rapids office and just one in Davenport. He is spending most of his time in Davenport because he is still in training. We only had permission to fill one of the vacancies which is for the Davenport office.

Iowa Central VA Medical Center Update – David Huffman

The VA has an initiative to hire many more Mental Health Professionals throughout the system and here at VA Central Iowa we are in the process of interviewing, making offers, and hiring an additional 8.5 new health care professionals.

Not only is construction continuing on the outside buildings on the campus but also construction is going on inside to help modernize the facility. We have a new walk way being constructed between our Community Living Center and the main building, so during increment weather the veterans won't be exposed to the elements.

We continue to expand and adding onto our emergency department, and once that is completed we are going to remodel the rest of the emergency department.

We currently have a "wish list" in to our Washington office to acquire some new buildings and additional space as well. One of the things we have talked about doing is trying to provide a new community living center cottage, which would be similar to the new cottages built at the Iowa Veterans Home.

One of the other requests we have for this year, which we don't know about yet because we have to compete nationally; last year all across the nation there are about 1600 different projects that went in for competition for funding, but we're hoping we will get some of that funding this year. One of the ones I'm optimistic about is a new mental health outpatient addition that would go onto the front of the building.

We continue to do more outreach to veterans that had visited us and were treated two or three years ago and for some reason or another haven't continued to use our services. We have been sending out letters and making telephone calls to let them know that we would still like to be their medical provider. We enjoy serving the veteran community and take great pride in doing so. We have had some good response to that outreach and have found that our enrollment has increased about 7%.

New Business

IDVA Executive Director Jodi Tymeson introduced Captain (ret) Jerry Yellin, P-51 pilot from WWII. Mr. Yellin recently returned from Washington, D.C. to talk to some folks at the National PTSD Awareness Day and he is with Operation Warrior Wellness and is here today to talk about Transcendental Meditation technique to help with PTSD.

A little history on Mr. Yellin; he was 18 years old in February 1942 two months after Pearl Harbor and enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet and was inducted in the military in August 1942 and graduated from flying school at 19 and 28 of us were signed to go overseas to Hawaii. In 1945 I was just 21 years old had been in combat, lost 16 guys and the memories of war never left me. I wandered for 30 years; didn't know who I was, or what I was supposed to do; it was never over for me. Then in 1975 my wife learned transcendental meditation (TM) and in August of that year I also learned transcendental meditation.

In early 2010 a young friend of mine who had been serving in Bosnia drove his truck in front of his mother's house, and put a 45 gun to his head and killed himself. He was an eight year veteran who had been out of the service for 10 years, a veteran from a war from 10 years ago. I called David Lynch Foundation, who had been teaching TM to children, indigent people and homeless people, and asked if they would like to start a division of the David Lynch Foundation called Operation Warrior Wellness, to teach transcendental meditation to stressed out veterans.

I'm really not here today to ask for your endorsement for transcendental meditation; I'm only here to tell you what we have done and what we will continue to do. Last year around this time the Des Moines Register's headline read "The War on Post-traumatic stress disorder." The story was about Luke Jensen an OEF veteran with 12 years in the Army Reserve. The next day Mr. Yellin contacted him because he was working for the VA office in Story County and asked him if he would like to learn transcendental meditation, and he said "I'll do anything." He has become their spokesperson now; he has learned TM, he offers TM to other veterans.

On Saturday, July 28th at 2:00 p.m. we are having a free public forum to all veterans and their families of Iowa to learn about TM and how it can help them like it has helped Luke Jensen. Learn how Iowa veterans are finding relief from combat-induced stress and escaping the self-destructive cycle of drugs, alcohol, and depression. Scholarships are available for veterans and their families to learn the stress-reducing, evidence-based TM technique. Contact 641-209-6404 and at www.OperationWarriorWellness.org/iowa.

Iowa ESGR – Richard Rue, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Update – The ESGR is a Department of Defense organization that is funded by the DOD; it is comprised of 1400 volunteers nationwide; there are 164 Iowa volunteers that serve across the state, which consists of 12 areas with a chairperson in each area and our mission is to foster the relationship between Guard and Reserve members and their employers. Our targeted audience is the individuals currently serving as Guard and Reserve members and help with any veterans issues any way we can. Just last year we celebrated our 40th Anniversary and we were formed at that time as a result of the decision to eliminate the draft, knowing that the military was going to change the structure to more reliance on Guard and Reserve members and everyone would volunteer. The mission is to serve the Guard and Reserve members and make sure that the relationship between them and their employers is a positive experience. We have several areas of service to our Guard and Reserve members by advocating, recognizing, informing and mediating on behalf of our service members and for their employers.

In the packet that Mr. Rue distributed has lots of information about ESGR with a summary of what they do, a statement of support for employers, information about Heroes 2 Hire (H2H.jobs) that is a Yellow Ribbon program, but ESGR members are trying to steer Guard and Reserve members towards that resource. Also included in the packet is information the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP) and a Hire Our Heroes packet which is the result of Principal Financial Group locally here in Des Moines being selected as a national Premium Award Winner last year; one of about 15 out of 4,000 companies that were selected and recognized. They felt like they needed to give back to the community as a result of being recognized.

Today approximately 50% of our fighting forces are made up of Guard and Reserve members, and Iowa's employers are absolutely the best. Iowa is viewed by the national ESGR as a very positive organization and doing a good job, and it's because our employers are so supportive.

Iowa Farm Service Agency – John Whitaker – State Executive Director on Farming Opportunities for Iowa Veterans. Mr. Whitaker distributed a USDA FSA Fact Sheet to all Commissioners for their review with information for beginning farming opportunities for veterans. The Farmer Veteran Coalition from California has received some funding from the USDA to do seminars in several states including Iowa. One of the things that the Farmers Veterans Coalition has is a series of grants available to producers, so that once they get a little experience; it will help them get an operation started. Some of the examples of productions are starting smaller operations like vegetable production or organic meat.

A veteran that wants to start is going to be considered a beginning farmer if they have farmed less than 10 years. We do not have any specific criteria set aside for veterans because the majority of the veterans that they deal with are beginning farmers. We get a block of money from Congress to use for loans, which are very low interest loans for operating expenses on

a farm, approximately 1.25%. For those beginning producers, our loan officers are very hands on, and try to direct them and give them a lot of guidance.

We are going to have in the very near future for veterans that want to be a beginning farmer and start a smaller operation is the Micro program. It will be \$35,000 and credit score based. It will be a great reduction in paperwork for both the applicant and the loan office to fill out. We are hoping it will be about a 90% reduction in the amount of paperwork. Because this loan is just \$35,000 it will help with those 2, 3, or 4 acre operations that are very hands on and very intense production style operations. FSA supports production agriculture to increase food security and having new producers always producing is one of the keys to food security. Contact Mr. Whitaker at FSA at john.whitaker@ia.usda.gov. Discussion continued with the Commission members talking about how important agriculture is to Iowa and now how the Iowa Farm Service Agency can and will help veterans become the future producers in this great State of Iowa.

Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) – Sondra VanDerPol was introduced by Chair Todd Jacobus. The Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee is changing its name to Joint Community Forces, which meets quarterly. She is the Inter-Service Family Assistance Coordinator for the Iowa National Guard, and serves as a government contractor. Right now her position has eight family assistant specialists under it and their job is basically to help the service members and their families with anything; we are a resource and a referral system, so it is important that we know a lot about a lot of things so we can refer the service members and their families to the right resources.

We now have family assistant specialists in Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Waterloo, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, and two here at Camp Dodge. She passed out a resource pamphlet with a listing of telephone numbers for these contacts. There have been a lot of changes in personnel since she last updated the Commission, which now been updated in the pamphlets that have been distributed.

The Family Assistance people actually assist families with financial assistance; we assist them with referrals to JAG and counseling. They are considered the “first stop shopping” and then they are referred on for other needs.

Another positive thing going on in Iowa is that we are part of a group with the Military and Child Education Coalition, which is an organization that comes together and trains educators and counselors within the school system to improve what we do to help our children. They have chosen Iowa as one of their best states that they have provided training. We had 4-5 training classes last year and we invite the counselors and the teachers and people that work with students to come in, take the training which consists of how to initially talk to a military child to how to assist them if there is a death or casualty.

Veterans Home Update – Mike Hines on behalf of Commandant Worley

The Eagle Bus participated in the “Salute to Our Veterans and Service Members” parade on June 30th with several IVH residents on the bus and me walking/marching in front of the bus. We will also be participating in the Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair on Monday, August 13th. In February the Donna Reed Film Festival came to Marshalltown, a lot of

WWII veterans were very eager to meet Donna Reed's daughter, who came to IVH to meet the veterans and had a tour of the facility.

Recently eight residents at IVH went on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.; it went very well and was a long day for them, everyone made it back and had some great stories to tell. There was a video made of the trip and the rest of the residents were able to watch it. An employee with McTV (Marshalltown Cable Television) has been doing a lot of filming for IVH. McTV is a local cable television show that has been doing half-hour segments about IVH so that people understand what we do at IVH. We are trying to educate the community and the State of Iowa about the Iowa Veterans Home and it seems to be working very well.

Commissioner Jacobus informed the Commissioners if they didn't already know about a resident that fell at IVH in June and when something like that happens, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals will go visit the facility to do an assessment of the incident. This is the procedure for all nursing facilities throughout the state. We as a Commission ask that Commandant Worley let all of the Commissioners know about it so if somebody in the community asks them about it, you will be aware of the situation.

IDVA and Iowa Veterans Cemetery Update – Jodi Tymeson

The June 30th "Salute to Our Veterans and Service Members" parade was a huge success. We received over 103 entry applications and IPTV did run a program on it and it ran for a 1:45 minutes from start to finish. There were several volunteers and vendors that donated food and water and we really appreciate all the time and effort that went in to the event.

The Veterans Trust Fund legislation passed at the end of session – that allowed the Trust Fund to receive \$300,000 from the principle amount to the spendable account to help with working down the backlog – encouraged the counties to get their applications in before June 30th so that the backlog can get paid within the FY2012 funds. Out of that \$300,000 we have spent or obligated to spend in FY2012 about \$110,000. The balance of that will then be transferred back to the principle. The Trust Fund will receive approximately \$300,000 from the Lottery sometime in August that the Commission will have use for applications for FY2013. Discussion continued regarding the new games that benefit the Trust Fund. Jodi also distributed a copy of H.F. 2466 describing the legislation that passed pertaining to the Trust Fund.

The American Legion monument is now in place at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and was dedicated on May 5th. The Commission has approved the VFW monument and looking at Veterans Day as a possible dedication day for their monument. A Seabees representative contacted for a copy of the monument policy. As of July 10th the cemetery has interred 1,246 and over 6,500 applications on file. The Missing in America Project was held on June 29th and interred 21 veterans and 2 spouses. We continue to improve the grounds with sod, trees, mulch, and changing of the flower beds (shrubs). The federal Grant request has been submitted that was due by July 1.

There is one minor change to the Injured Veteran Grant program that is purely a definition so that veterans that are seriously injured or very seriously injured as defined in the DOD joint publication are the ones that are eligible for the Injured Veteran Grant.

The Military Homeownership Grant was appropriated \$1.6 million for this new fiscal year and already receiving several applications. The IDVA website is currently being updated and IT is working on the security certificate.

IDVA budget – we will finish FY2012 in the black; mostly because we are saving salary and benefits costs with one employee being deployed and an open position at the Cemetery. In FY2013 the legislature increased the department's budget by \$26,987, which will be taken up by salary increases that have already been negotiated. The legislature does not pass a separate salary bill to cover the negotiated salaries.

Upcoming events include: July 14th is the Korean War Veteran Recognition at the Knapp Center by DOD. August 8th will be the 2nd Annual Coalition Roundtable (has been rescheduled for September 26th); August 13th is the Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair. Veterans Day is Sunday, November 11th, which is always November 11th regardless of what day of the week that it falls on. We are planning on having our Veterans Day program at the Cemetery on Sunday beginning at 8:00 a.m.

New Business - Continued

Update on the Korean War Ceremony Event at the Knapp Center on July 14th – Sherrie Colbert, Director at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. The program begins at 1:00 which is being initiated by the DOD to honor our Korean War veterans. Since Governor Branstad and General Orr will be in Virginia at the National Governor's Conference, BG Janet Phipps will speak on behalf of the Iowa National Guard. Congressmen Leonard Boswell, Tom Latham and Bruce Braley all plan to attend. We have had over 1,100 RSVPs and counting of veterans signing up to attend and to receive certificates. If a Korean War veteran has not submitted their detailed information application, they will not have a certificate waiting for them to be presented, but they are still encouraged to come to the event and then fill out the application while there so that their certificate can then be mailed to them. We don't want them to miss out on the opportunity to be at the ceremony and to get their certificate.

Dave Thornburg representing the Iowa Veterans Council asked if the Governor's Office had done anything yet or been notified about the State changing the procedure used when flying the POW Flag. Currently the State flies the POW flag after the State flag, when in fact it should be flown 2nd after the U.S. Flag and prior to the State flag. This is an issue and discussion continued.

The Commission approved via email a lease for the Iowa Veterans Home requested by the community to do some construction work on IVH's property. This lease was approved by the Commission that basically is saying the Commission is in agreement for the community to lease a small piece of land on the south end of the facility by the entrance, so the community could pay to have some work done. It was a unanimous vote and motion carried.

The motion reads in part: The city needs to lease this small piece of land to do some renovation for the 13th street renovation project. This is work we would have done anyway. They are going to enlarge the culvert under the road to alleviate some flooding issues we've had in the past. DAS legal counsel has reviewed this and DOM is aware of what we are doing.

The Commission is considering ordering more Quick Books Services of Veterans Benefits to be distributed again throughout the state. After discussion Commissioner McMartin made a motion to have 25,000 more books printed and Commissioner Gannon seconded the motion. Motion carried, approved unanimously.

After extensive discussion of the suspended items of the Veterans Trust Fund and the Trust Fund as a whole, Commissioner DirksHaugsted made a motion to unsuspend education, emergency travel, medical/counseling services, and Honor Guard reimbursements. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously to unsuspend these services.

These services are as follows: IAC Chapter 14.4(1) Travel expenses for wounded veterans and their spouses directly related to follow-up medical care; 14.4(2) Job training or college tuition assistance for job retraining; 14.4(6) Individual counseling or family counseling programs; 14.4(7) Expenses relating to ambulance and emergency room services for veterans; and 14.4(11) Honor Guard services.

Executive Director Tymeson made a recommendation to the Commission to start paying the Honor Guard applications beginning July 1, 2012 with a simplified application and moving forward on these reimbursements on an annual basis for a maximum of \$500 annually. Discussion continued on this process, The Commission brought up the possibility of opening up the backlog of prior years of submitted applications that have been suspended since 2008 with FY2012 money.

After more discussion on paying the backlog of Honor Guard applications submitted since the Honor Guard services were suspended since 2008, Commissioner DirksHaugsted made a motion to pay the backlog of unsuspended Honor Guard services, pending the verification of the language used to continue sending in the applications to IDVA while suspended. Commissioner Gannon seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. These funds will come out of the FY2012 account.

There was also discussion about changing the Honor Guard application for FY2013 which began July 1, 2012. This application will also indicate that they need to wait until the end of the fiscal year to submit their applications for no more than \$500 per said year.

The next item of business for the Commission is to vote on SF 2112 from this last legislative session that requires the Commission submit \$50,000 to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to design an identification process on new drivers licenses that would identify on the license that the card holder is a veteran. After further discussion, Commissioner Myers made a motion to pay up to \$50,000 for the DOT to do the design work to have the word "veteran" on future driver's licenses. Commissioner DirksHaugsted seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. The funds will come out of the Veterans License Fee Fund.

Discussion continued about creating the form that will be needed for the veteran to show the DOT at the time of getting the licenses that they have a "veteran" status. The counties would do the initial verification of their veteran status.

There was discussion about the process of how the Commission members are reimbursed for their expenses to attend the four quarterly meetings and any other meetings that a member would attend by representing the Commission. This would include costs for mileage, hotel costs and meal expenses. It was determined that the Commission members need to be informed on the correct process. IDVA will research this issue and report back to the Commission at the next Commission meeting in September.

Chairperson Jacobus asked that the Commission members to think about drafting a 5-year strategic plan that would include items such as “what is the purpose of the Commission, what are we doing to achieve the purpose of the Commission and what are we not doing that we should be doing, etc.”

Chairperson Jacobus passed around his print out of the Commission’s sub-committee members and added Kate Meyers to the License Plate Fund committee and Jon Wille to the Iowa Veterans Cemetery committee.

Election of Officers

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to elect Todd Jacobus as Chair and Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gannon made a motion to elect Darlene McMartin as Senior Vice-Chair and Commissioner Becky DirksHaugsted seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to elect Dan Gannon as Junior Vice-Chair and Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dan Gannon wanted to inform the Commission that the VVA will be scheduling a town hall meeting that has to do with Agent Orange education for the next 6-7-8 generations because we know that grandchildren and so on are afflicted with health issues from Agent Orange. No date mentioned when this meeting was going to take place.

Determine next Commission meeting

Next regular quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at the Iowa Veterans Home in Malloy Hall.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Mielke

Mari Mielke

Recording Secretary

Cc: Jeffrey Boeyink, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Ted Stopulos, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management
Barbara Galloway, Assistant Attorney, Attorney General's Office
Jennifer Acton, Legislative Fiscal Agency
Jenny Lawrence, Auditor's Office
Steven Ainger, Department of Administrative Services
David Worley, Commandant, IVH
Mike Hines, Administrative Assistant, IVH
Senator Daryl Beall, Senate VA Committee, Chair
Senator Jeff Danielson, Senate VA Committee, Vice Chair
Senator James Seymour, Senate VA Committee, RM
Representative Royd Chambers, House VA Committee, Chair
Representative Guy Vander Linden, House VA Committee, Vice-C
Representative Jerry Kearns, House VA Committee, RM
Jill Jennings, House Republican Caucus Staff
Tom Ashworth, Senate Republican Caucus Staff
Julie Simon, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Zeke Furlong, House Democratic Research Staff

Jerry Hansen, President, IACCVSO
Lisa Breun, Director, VA Regional Office
Barry Sharp, Director, VAMC, Iowa City
Don Cooper, Director, VAMC, Des Moines
Lyle Schaffer, Commander, American Legion
John Derner, Adjutant, American Legion
Jon Schneider, President, PVA
Dale Purdy, Commander, AMVETS
David Thornburg, Commander, DAV
Allan Packer, Commander, Ex-Prisoners of War
William Gansemer, Commander, MCL
Paul Pickard, Commander, MOPH
Larry Winther, Commander, VFW
Ray Hutchison, Commander, VVA
Jill Joseph, Outreach Coordinator, IDVA