

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

Members Present: Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Spitzfaden, and Timberman

Members Excused: Lank, Lardizzone, Newstadt, Smith and Wasson

Staff Present: Davila, Reid and Groff

Guests: James Collins and Chris Portante (SOS), Rich Robichaud (DELVETS), Nate Robinson (SBA Business Development Specialist), Eugene Hebert (MOWW), Mo Morris (American Legion), and Ron Sarg (MOAA)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Vice-Chairman Thompson opened the meeting by reporting that he was standing in for Chairman Lardizzone and introduced guests.

Mr. Robinson presented information pertaining to the SBA Patriot Express Program and the various funding opportunities available to small business entrepreneurs. He would like to get the information out to veterans in the community and volunteered his time to provide a presentation at any of the veterans organizations that would be interested.

**MOTION BY CORSA TO ACCEPT JANUARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY CARROLL, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Vice-Chairman Thompson reported that he and the Chairman met with Senator Brian Bushweller on January 29, 2009, in reference to the Veterans Home. They also met with Jeff Bullock, the new Secretary of State, and have arranged a follow-up meeting at a time to be determined. On February 20, 2009, they met with Senator George Bunting to discuss a number of veterans issues.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Corsa (VVA) – Chapter 850 is still working on the Vietnam Memorial in Kent County.

Harden (WAVES) – Their meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2009, at which time they will review their two scholarships and the issue of obtaining addition flags for the Northern cemetery.

Kitson (VFW) – The Red, White and Blue Gala was held on January 31, 2009, and they provided a check for \$29,000 to National for Operation Uplink. It looks like they will be able to give another three or four thousand more before the end of April, when their fiscal year ends.

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Commander is visiting Delaware from March 11-13, 2009, and there will be a banquet in his honor on Friday (March 13) at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover.

Carroll (MOPH) – Their Department Convention will be held at Dover AFB on June 13, 2009, 10:00 AM. Their National Adjutant will be in attendance for the installation of officers. Their “March on The Hill” is scheduled to kick-off on March 9, 2009. The schedules are being developed for their JROTC, ROTC and MOPH awards and will be presented prior to the end of the school year.

Mr. Reid introduced Sandy Groff (Veterans Home Chief Financial Officer) and provided the monthly update for the Veterans Home. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Thompson announced that the Joint Finance Committee will meet at Legislative Hall on February 25, 2009, at 1:30 PM and everyone is invited to attend. Commissioner Corsa discussed the issue of reallocating the Domiciliary wing at the Veterans Home to a Dementia or Extended Care Unit wing. Vice-Chairman Thompson indicated that the construction of the wing would require only minor modifications in the event that the wing’s utilization was transitioned to a Dementia wing. Mr. Reid indicated that a special contract was signed by the residents of the Domiciliary wing to allot for such a transition. It was indicated by Mr. Davila that the transition should take approximately 12-18 months.

MOTION BY CORSA THAT THE DOMICILIARY CEASE TO EXIST AND THE WING BE UTILIZED FOR A DEMENTIA UNIT OR EXTENDED CARE UNIT, SECONDED BY KITSON, MOTION CARRIED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 24, 2009 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED