

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2009**

Members Present: Lardizzone, Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Sarg, Timberman, Wasson and Weir

Members Excused: Evans

Staff Present: Davila, Reid and Galvin

Guests: James Collins (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), David Rich (DOL), Charles M. Dorman (VA Medical Center Director), Henry Smith (AMVETS), Ronnie Revels (DAV), Peg Tigue, Kennard Wiggins, Jr. and Thomas Kelly (Delaware Military Heritage & Education Foundation, Inc.)

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

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by introducing the new members of the Commission: Dr. Ronald Sarg (MOAA) and Albert Weir (AMVETS). He announced that Dover AFB is starting for the first time, a Disabled American Veterans Day at the Base on June 19, 2009 (12:00 - 5:00 pm). Commissioner Evans was in the hospital and is recuperating at home.

Peg Tigue and Kennard Wiggins, Jr. (Delaware Military Heritage & Education Foundation, Inc.) provided a presentation to raise funds for renovations of the Delaware Military Museum.

Mr. Rich provided information about the upcoming Delaware Stand Down/Veterans Employment Expo. He indicated that the event is now planned for just one day; October 31, 2009 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm). They are working on finalizing arrangements at the NUR Temple in New Castle, DE.

Mr. Collins provided an update in reference to the pavilion planned for the Delaware Veterans Home.

Mr. Dorman reported on outreach programs provided in Kent and Sussex Counties. He also discussed next year's prospective budget and touched on a few issues that the stimulus program would affect. He requested input as to what information would be most helpful in future annual reports.

Mr. Reid reviewed the Veterans Home monthly update that was provided for each Commissioner. He introduced Nancy Galvin, the new Director of Activities. Ms. Galvin reported on some of the Delaware Veterans Home activities and the requested funds for FY 2010.

MOTION BY CORSA TO TABLE THE 2010 BUDGET REQUEST UNTIL THE JUNE COMMISSION MEETING, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.

There was additional discussion about the Delaware Veterans Home in reference to needed space and future projections based on the number and changing needs of Delaware veterans.

MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT APRIL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mr. Davila reported on the pre-bid meeting held at the Southern Cemetery and outlined the details of this phase of the 10-year expansion project. He felt the meeting was very successful and stated that all final bids are due by June 9, 2009, 1:00 pm. There will be a meeting at the Thomas Collins building to open the bids; this meeting will be open to the public. He reported that he requested \$365,000 at the Bond Bill meeting for A&E funds for the Northern Cemetery.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Lardizzone reported that the DAV will be hosting the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and Commissioner Lank (MOWW) will be conducting the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Northern Cemetery. Commissioner Carroll reported that MOPH will be hosting the Flag Day Ceremony at the Southern Cemetery on June 14, 2009, 2:00 pm.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Vice Chairman Thompson reported that they met with the full House Veterans Affairs Committee to discuss "oversight" regarding the Veterans Home. Mr. Davila discussed the issue of reappointments and new members to the Commission.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Davila discussed future personnel changes at the Cemeteries and how OMB will be handling future position changes.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lardizzone (DAV) – Reported that the bus trip to the Washington DC Memorials was nearly full and everyone had a good time. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Blue Rocks game on May 28, 2009. He reported that he will be attending the New Jersey State Convention on June 10, 2009.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL and DAFB Honor Guard joined together for a Memorial Day Ceremony at Sharon Hills Cemetery. The State Convention will be held June 27, 2009, at the Oak Orchard American Legion in Millsboro.

Carroll (MOPH) – The MOPH State Convention, elections and installation of officers will be held on June 13, 2009, noon, at the Dover AFB Museum.

Corsa (VVA) – He attended the Memorial Day Service in Georgetown.

Harden (WAVES) – They will be having a meeting in June for installation of officers and that will be their last meeting until September.

Kitson (VFW) – The VFW State Honor Guard will be presenting the colors at the Dover Downs race and he will be there as a State representative. He will also be at the Bridge Ceremony on May 30, 2009. The VFW State Convention will be the following weekend.

Lank (MOWW) – He attended a service at the United Methodist Church in Harbeson and was presented with a check for the Delaware Veterans Home. The MOWW National Convention is scheduled for August 11-16, 2009, in Baltimore, MD. He also attended a JROTC Ceremony at Cape Henlopen High School.

Newstadt (JWV) – They had their annual installation of officers and luncheon on May 17, 2009. He represented the MOAA at the Middletown High School JROTC Ceremony. He also attended the Delaware Military Museum Reception.

Sarg (MOAA) – In April, he represented MOAA in “Storming the Hill” in Washington, DC. The MOAA provided 24 sets of gold bars to the newly commissioned 2nd lieutenants at the University of Delaware. The MOAA has also provided \$6,000 in scholarships to students in Kent County.

Wasson (DELVETS) – They had their Memorial Day Service on Saturday; at which time they honored the Gold Star Mothers. As the State Commander of the KWVA, he was asked to speak at a luncheon at the Baptist Church in New Castle.

Weir (AMVETS) – They recently held their State Convention on May 16, 2009, and new officers were elected and installed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Davila informed the Chairman that the Lt. Governor would attend the Memorial Day Service at the Bridge and the Governor would be attending the Ceremony at the Northern Cemetery. Senator Kaufman’s staff will be presenting a Purple Heart Medal at the Bridge Ceremony.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: June 16, 2009 (10:00 AM)

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

ADJOURNED