

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2009**

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

Members Excused: Corsa

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Charles M. Dorman (VA Medical Center Director), James Collins (SOS), Betty Lou Evans (American Legion), David Rich (DOL)

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

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by discussing the upcoming DAFB Air Show.

Mr. Reid provided the Veterans Home monthly update. Commissioner Carroll thanked Mr. Reid for his presentation at the MOPH Convention. Commissioner Lank felt the anniversary ceremony was done very nicely.

Mr. Rich reported that the Stand Down is scheduled for October 31, 2009, at the NUR Temple. They are still working on grants in Delaware for homeless veterans.

**MOTION BY CARROLL TO ACCEPT MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Lank commented that he felt this year's Flag Day Ceremony was the best one so far. Mr. Davila reported that the Southern Cemetery has been awarded \$1.8M from the federal government for new construction and provided the details of the construction.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lardizzone (DAV) – The DAV will be at the Dover AFB on June 19, 2009, from 12-5 pm, for a mini Air Show. Their Convention will be held June 26, 2009, at their Department Headquarters and the main Convention will be held at the Dover Sheraton on June 27, 2009.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL Department Convention will be held on June 24, 2009, at Oak Orchard in Millsboro, DE.

Carroll (MOPH) – They held their Convention last Saturday. They do not have anything planned for the summer; but are tentatively planning a fishing trip for September or October timeframe.

Evans (American Legion) – The Boys State and Trooper Youth Group programs are in progress. Their State Convention will be held July 10-11, 2009, at the Dover Sheraton. He thanked everyone who sent get-well cards during his recent illness.

Harden (WAVES) – Reported that their last meeting for the summer is scheduled for next week; at which time they will install their officers.

Kitson (VFW) – The VFW and Military Order of the Cooties recently held their State Convention. Some upcoming events are their School of Instruction scheduled for July 25, 2009, and their National Convention will be held August 15-22, 2009, in Phoenix, AZ.

Lank (MOWW) – Their National Conviction will be held in Baltimore, MD, in August 2009. Their local chapter will be in stand down until September 2009.

Newstadt (JWV) – They had a very successful poppy drive this year and decided to donate approximately \$5,000 to the VA Hospital for handicap-accessible fitness equipment.

Timberman (CPVA) – This past Friday they had their annual membership meeting, along with their Director's meeting. They held their annual Trap Shoot on June 5-6, 2009. They will shut down until September 12, 2009, when they will have their annual Beef & Beer at the Elkton VFW, from 4-10 pm. If you are interested in attending, call the Chapter office at (302) 368-4898.

Wasson (DELVETS) – They held a Memorial Day Service at the post on May 23, 2009, at which time they honored the Gold Star Mothers.

Weir (AMVETS) – A current list of department officers is now available. He attended an inter-service Family Assistance Committee meeting that was just started up in Wilmington by various service organizations. The Committee is a volunteer military community cooperative partnership organized to assist with connecting service members and families to local military and/or community resources. He will provide more information as it becomes available.

Mr. Dorman reported that he is a member of the Delaware Health Care Association and recently the Governor invited them to meet with him and discuss issues of concern associated with healthcare in the State of Delaware. He also reported on current VA health care issues in reference to the VISN4 region. The Welcome Home event at the VA Medical Center for returning Iraq and Afghanistan service members is scheduled for August 1, 2009. He indicated there are approximately 1,000–2,000 returning service members in the area. Mr. Dorman was questioned with concerns about the recently contaminated colonoscopy equipment and he discussed the issue in reference to the Wilmington VA Medical Center.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Newstadt brought up the issue of guest speakers at the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Commissioner Harden commented that there is not enough publicity for these events and discussion followed.

Mr. Reid added that there were several distinguished visitors at the Veterans Home this month.

Mr. Davila discussed the staffing crisis at both Cemeteries and the Commission Office. Mr. Collins indicated that the staffing crisis has been identified at the SOS level and they are working with the Commission to identify critical positions.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: JULY 28, 2009 (10:00 AM)

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

ADJOURNED