

Coalition of Veterans Organizations Meeting Minutes of 20JUN2015

Meeting Called to Order at 1015. Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison. Moment of Silence.

Introductions

Larry Nazimek motioned to approve the CVO Agenda; Motion 2nd by Dr. Bruce Parry. Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Nazimek motioned to delay the reading of the CVO Meeting Minutes of 18APR2015 due to the absence of Dr. Constance Edwards, Recording Secretary; Motion 2nd by Dr. Bruce Parry. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Committee Reports;

Dr. Stacy L. Henderson - CVO Chair:

Thanks CVO Members for their continued membership/support of CVO

Asked that CVO Members continue to support other veterans and community outreach initiatives and functions, and share CVO Handbooks/brochures

Familiarize yourselves with CVO's Mission and be ready/willing/able to engage others in dialogue about CVO

Abundio Zaragoza - CVO Co-Chair:

VAC Superintendent, provided information on VAC initiatives and programs. Notes that if anyone needs assistance to let him know immediately.

He attended the AMVETS State Convention

Starting July 1, 2015, veterans can get a license plate and/or driver's license - noting their veteran status. Have your DD214s verified by the IDVA prior to going to the DMV

VAC Meeting and Elections will be held on 30JUN2015 at 7pm

There will be an all-veterans BBQ on July 2, 2015 at McKinley Park. Veterans, families and friends are welcome; please bring a dish to share.

Larry Nazimek:

Encourages ALL to get a copy of the Consumer Action Handbook and the Handbook of IL Government (flyer provided for ordering free of charge)

Shared information about the Chicago Sky's 'Military Moment of the Game.' He was honored during a half-time show and presented a plaque and posed for photos with the team and Mascot. A local news story and CVO Newsletter article were published.

David Rogers - Homeless Committee Chair:

Multi-Faith Veterans Project (West Side area of responsibility)

Partnerships with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Operation Upgrade - servicing those veterans who received less than honorable discharges from military service
Needs CVO assistance with upcoming quality of life initiatives for veterans

Dr. Constance Edwards - Veterans Affairs Committee Chair:

No Report; Committee needs to meet ASAP to address needs of veterans

Treasury Report - Dr. Bruce Parry:

Current financial Report provided. Motion to accept report, pending audit; Motion 2nd by David Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Larry Nazimek to appoint Dr. Parry as interim Treasurer. Motion 2nd by MeoSha Thomas (One Savvy Veteran - CEO). Motion carried unanimously.

CVO Member concerns:

CVO needs a Membership Coordinator; we need to track Member Organizations; status; send letters to members regarding membership; connect with the young veteran population; increase the CVO social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, etc); connect with Greek Letter Organizations; combined Veterans Day event/fundraiser with other veteran groups; CVO Booth at upcoming Veteran Resource Fairs and Expos; expand CVO nationally; apply for **more** Grants; consider getting a CVO office space; utilize student Interns to assist with CVO initiatives; expand our reach nationally!

Dr. Parry motioned to establish a Membership Coordinator position on the CVO Executive Committee and appoint MeoSha Thomas, who volunteered for the position. Motion 2nd by David Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements:

Chicago Stand Down Saturday 27JUN2015, General Jones Armory (Fri -Sat/overnight)

One Savvy Veteran Tea Party, Saturday July 18, 2015 12pm-3pm; JBVA 2nd Floor Conference Room (Damen Pavilion); Tickets are \$10, see MeoSha Thomas for purchase

MPMA Chicago Chapter #2 'Mardi Gras In The Windy City' Scholarship Fundraiser; 18JUL2015 7011 S. Vincennes Avenue Chicago, IL. Tickets are \$25, see Dr. Henderson for purchase

NWVU Women Veterans Community Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Saturday 25JUL2015 at 12pm, 7907-11 S. Racine (at 79th Street)

Larry Nazimek motioned to adjourn the CVO Meeting. Motion 2nd by David Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1134. Next CVO Meeting will be held on Saturday 18JUL2015, 10am at Jesse Brown VA, 830 S. Damen Avenue (2nd Floor Conference Room) Chicago, IL

Minutes taken/submitted by Dr. Stacy L. Henderson, Chair - CVO