

Coalition of Veterans Organizations

Minutes of September 19, 2015 Meeting

September 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM by Interim Treasurer Parry

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence
- 2) Roll Call: Francine O'Connor [VU], Larry Nazimek [CVO, Strike Force], Don Kimball [18th Ward Veterans Organization], Darryl Howard [CVO], Bruce Parry [CVO], Howard Noey [CVO].

The Chair and the Co-chair were both detained by their jobs and cannot attend. The Recording Secretary had reported she would be unable to attend.

- 3) An agenda was set by the group:
 - 1) Financial Report
 - 2) Minutes of August Meeting
 - 3) CVO Strategy
 - 4) Newsletter
 - 5) Back to School event
 - 6) Visit with Rep. Quigley's staff
 - 7) Veterans Against Violence
 - 8) Veterans Resource Fair
 - 9) Bud Billiken Parade
 - 10) AmVets article
 - 11) Announcements
 - 12) Adjourn

The Agenda was approved unanimously (M: Nazimek; 2nd O'Connor)

- 4) The Financial Report was presented. The withdrawal of \$500 was for school supplies for the Back to School event, which wound up costing \$258.12. Therefore, \$241.88 will be redeposited and be on next month's Financial Report.

The Financial Report was approved unanimously (M: Nazimek, 2d: D Howard)

- 5) The minutes of the August meeting were not available and the reading was tabled. Minutes of the July meeting are on the website, which is the new process for dealing with minutes.
- 6) Strategy: This was to be discussed at this meeting, but the recommendation is that it be discussed at the next meeting, as this meeting is too small to effectively deal with the issue. We need a re-evaluation of the 6 points and need to determine if CVO needs a new direction. Are we going to be an advocacy group or something else?

The next meeting should be announced quickly. The next CVO meeting will be on October 17th at Jesse Brown VA at 10 AM. This should be posted on the website

- 7) Newsletter: Don Kimball will join CVO and send in an article on the 18th Ward Veterans Organization. Francine will send in an article on VU. Darryl Howard will send pictures from the

Back to School event. All will be sent to Howard Noey (hnoey@hotmail.com or 773-621-9062). The deadline is October 15th.

- 8) Darryl Howard reports on the Back to School event at Englewood High School on August 21st from 1 to 8 PM. Over 100 kids from the neighborhood attended the Back to School event this year at Englewood High School. CVO has been a co-sponsor of this event for 3 years. Charles "Smudge" Coleman — formerly a CVO Executive Committee member, now a resident of Paris, Tennessee — led the way on this, returning to Chicago for the event. Fathers United is also a sponsor. We had a table and handed out CVO literature and back to school supplies. Additionally, there was food, including BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. There were also games, contests, and a Jungle Jim bounce-house for the kids to play in. The whole event was a grand success. Congratulations to the organizers of this annual event.
- 9) Visit with Rep. Quigley's staff: Larry Nazimek met with the representative from Washington, DC for veterans affairs for Rep. Quigley of Illinois' 5th Congressional District. Then-Chair Parry and Larry had met with Melanie Thompson — the Chicago veterans' contact for the Representative — several months ago. She contacted CVO for the latest meeting. This is Francine O'Connor's Congressman, which is how the meetings got set up.
- 10) Veterans Against Violence: Darryl Howard chairs this important committee of CVO. It is dedicated to helping end the urban violence in Chicago. He will be calling a meeting to set the strategy for the committee in the coming year. The 18th Ward Veterans Organization under Don Kimball — a new CVO member organization — will be joining this committee as well. For those interested, Darryl Howard can be reached at (773) 592-6072 and BLULU50@GMAIL.COM.

\$50 was collected from Don Kimball for the Organizational Membership of the 18th Ward Veterans Organization with Don as its representative.

\$15 was collected from the Meeting Donation

- 11) Report on the Veterans Resource Fair: This was held at Soldier's Field on August 18th. Larry Nazimek, Chair Stacy Henderson and Eugene Campbell attended. Recording Secretary Connie Edwards also attended and represented both CVO and NWVU. Tables were set up for various veterans and resource organizations. There was no presence on the concourse this year as there had been in the past. The Park District sponsored the event. Larry will write an article for the newsletter on this.
- 12) Bud Billiken Parade: The 555 PIA has an issue with the parade. They were near the end of the parade and didn't pass in review until it was essentially over. Veterans should be at the front of the parade.
- 13) AmVets article: Francine presented an article titled "*Fix*" the VA from the AmVets magazine. Bruce will send it out to all CVO members via email.
- 14) Announcements
 - 1) The article on the property tax break for veterans was circulated. The forms will be available January, 2016.
 - 2) The flier for the Salute to the Armed Forces was available.
 - 3) VU will have a special meeting on Saturday, Nov 7th at the Oak Park Library from 10 to 11:30 AM. (Francine O'Connor)

- 4) There is a new veterans home being built on the north side. It is the first veterans home in Chicago. (Francine O'Connor)
- 5) A new veterans home has been opened on the Hines VA campus (Darryl Howard and Francine O'Connor)

15) The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:16 AM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce E. Parry". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bruce E. Parry
Interim Treasurer
Meeting Chair