

# **Coalition of Veterans Organizations**

## **Minutes of May 21, 2016 Meeting**

June 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center at 10:27 AM and was chaired by Larry Nazimek. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, a Moment of Silence and Introductions of those present.

Report by Larry Nazimek:

He had attended a meeting of Chicago Vets, a thriving group consisting primarily of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. They will join CVO, although they were unable to attend this meeting. While the vast majority of vets group are declining in membership and scope, this group is increasing in these areas. They have many events, including a 4 hour CPR/First Aid Training on June 18.

The National University of Health Sciences, in Lombard, has a Veterans Clinic, where Acupuncture treatment is free, while Chiropractic and other treatment is at a 20% discount.

JBVAMC has hired a Chiropractor who is setting up a clinic and getting trained in VA practices, policies, and computerized records. He will be operating in 6-8 weeks. An Acupuncturist is also being hired, and will probably be operating by the end of this summer.

Chicago is in need of electricians and is hiring without any political recommendation necessary.

The "AARP Bulletin" had an article about the need for veterans organizations to attract younger vets.

Congressman Quigley's staffer, Melanie Thompson, is no longer working in that position. She had a close relationship with CVO and will be missed. We will need to meet with her replacement once one has been named.

The Commemorative Air Force organization is seeking donations for the restoration to flying status of "That's All, Brother," the C-47 that lead the aerial invasion of paratroopers on D-Day.

Elections were held to the CVO Executive Committee: Connie Edwards, Darryl Howard and Frank Thompson were nominated for two-year terms from 2016 to 2018. Connie Edwards was absent due to the funeral that day of her sister and asked to be elected in absentia. Darryl Howard was absent due to surgery the previous day and asked to be elected in absentia. Frank Thompson was present and introduced himself. A motion was made by Bruce Parry and seconded by David Rogers to elect all three nominees by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously.

Jim Balcer presented the Press Conference to be held on Tuesday, May 24th at 11 AM at City Hall on the 2nd floor. There was a discussion about the State Home and homelessness. Abundio showed that there is a disconnect between the VA and the homeless over things like transportation to and from potential homes, deposits, etc.

Larry discussed the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs newsletter.

Reports by Bruce Parry:

The Financial Report was presented and approved (second by Abundio Zaragoza) unanimously.

A Membership list was presented.

A check from Strike Force for their organizational dues was presented. (\$50)

Jim Balcer paid his membership dues (\$10)

The meeting donation was \$20.

There was a discussion of the United Neighbors of the 35th Ward need for veterans participation.

There was a brief discussion of the Maroon Veterans of the University of Chicago event.

Bruce assent in the AG 990 IL to the Attorney General after it was signed by Larry Nazimek and Bruce Parry. The Federal electronic IRS 990 postcard has also been submitted.

Bruce attended the State Treasurer's Advisory Committee meeting for Connie Edwards and reported on that.

Report by Abundio Zaragoza (Superintendent of the VACCC):

May 10th: Juarez HS Cadets were given awards

On May 18th he attended a ceremony for the General Patton JROTC Cadets

There was a discussion of the IDVA veterans homes in Illinois, which is a subject of the upcoming Press Conference.

There was a discussion of the need to use certified VSOs to submit VA Claims. There will be a school in October to become a VSO (IL Association of County Service Officers). Abundio emphasized that it is a tough job. David Rogers expressed interest.

The Veterans Picnic will be July 1 in McKinley Park from 10 AM to sundown. Fliers to come. Bring food, grills and chairs.

Job Fair May 19th; IDVA and VACCC. Annual tribute to Vietnam Vets

New Era Veterans of Chicago [NEVOC2016@gmail.com](mailto:NEVOC2016@gmail.com). Toribio J. Urian, President

Report by John Jacobsen:

Report on Masonic Association's veterans work.

There has been work with blind veterans.

Congressional contact

There has been no contact with Rep. Lapinski. Al will send out info.

There has been no contact with Rep. Robyn Kelly.

Melissa from Rep. Quigley's staff resigned and there will also be a new DC veterans' representative. These were our best Congressional contacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bruce E. Parry*

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