



Minutes of March 15, 2017

- 1. Call to Order:** Larry Nazimek, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. at Jesse Brown Hospital.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** All
- 3. Moment of Silence:** For those in harm's way
- 4. Roll Call/ Introductions of those present:**
(See Sign-in sheet of March 15, 2017.)
- 5. Mission of CVO:** The Coalition of Veterans Organizations is a group of individuals and member organizations whose purpose is to educate and advocate for veterans and the public on issues that impact veterans and their families. The reading of the mission statement is meant to guide the members during the meeting.
- 6. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of February 15, 2017 were read by Francine L O'Connor.
It was moved by Frank L Thompson and seconded by Anthony Travis to approve the Minutes as read. Motion carried.
- 7. Financial Report:** A copy was circulated among the members. A discussion took place about the high cost of each brochure. The importance of the booklets and brochures was discussed.
It was moved by Frank L Thompson and seconded by Abundio Zaragoza to approve the Financial Report as read. Motion carried.
- 8. Presentation:** Willie Mack, Anthony Travis, and Obie Wordlaw led the discussion about the privatization committee's progress. The membership demonstrated their interest by their questions and participation. Issues included quotes of the Commander-in-Chief, contacts with Congressmen, privatization vs. choice program, cutting of resources, among others. Members were invited to join the committee.
- 9. Veterans Affairs Committee:**
Larry Namizek elaborated about PTSD, complaints about Jesse Brown Hospital, sexual harassment, preferential treatment, and dental care for veterans. A lengthy discussion took place about dental care, eligibility, personal testimonies, impact on the rest of the body, etc.
Larry reported that Jesse Brown VAMC had the most sexual harassment complaints of all the medical centers.
He will follow up with Dick Durbin's office about the provision of dental care for veterans
The Chicago Wolves are having a Military Appreciation Night on April 8, 2017. Those wishing to receive free tickets should give their names to Larry. Tickets will be available at Will Call on the day of the game.

10. Homelessness Committee:

No report

11. Veterans Against Violence:

No report

12. Membership Committee:

Steve Nelson indicated that only 12 individuals and organizations have paid out of a possible 100 plus. A discussion followed about the differences between what an individual pays and what an organization pays. Christopher LaFayette will volunteer an intern to help Steve with the membership tasks.

13. Newsletter Committee:

Christopher spoke about graphics and Constant Contact.

14. Fundraising Committee

No report. However, Francine spoke about opportunities to receive donations such as cheesecake for meetings. She encouraged the members to ask organizations.

15. Veterans Assistance Commission:

Abundio Zaragoza spoke about a Jesse White Career Fair to be held on March 29th, Patriot Tag Day, fundraiser for vets at Jewels. He needs a head count for the March 18, 2017 Corn beef & Cabbage Award Luncheon to be held at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center.

16. Old Business:

17. New Business:

Questions about nominations were raised.

An explanation of the duties of Board members and the Executive Committee took place.

A consensus recommended that nominations be postponed until next month.

It was moved by Christopher LaFayette and seconded by Anthony Travis that the nominations be postponed until April, 2017. Motion carried.

18. Announcements:

Frank L Thompson displayed and explained the various CVO shirts.

Obie Wordlaw explained the Motorcycle/ Walkathon project in Ford Heights.

The purpose is redevelop homes for homeless veterans and their families.

The project culminates on Saturday, May 13, 2017; pledges are needed.

For more information, contact Doll Smith at 708-822-3370.

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center invited the veterans and the public to attend a

Town Hall meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

19. Adjournment

The CVO meeting was Adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Willie Mack**