

**DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
APRIL 13. 2009**

The meeting started at 7:03 with Vice President Mike Boorsma calling the meeting to order. We had nine members and two guests in attendance including Steve Walz, Bill Davis, Jerry Johnson, Frank Beierlotzer and Rich Joslin. Jim Powers and Marty Keeker were at the meeting doing an assessment of the mental health programs available to our area veterans. They discussed the different places that veterans could go to receive help including Hines, Ben Gordon, and different VA facilities. There is a lack of local in-patient facilities. Also discussed was the possibility of payments for minimum wage veterans. Most of the vets get the help they need when they come to the VAC, but many veterans do not know what is available. It was decided that we need more mental health availability and to get rid of the red tape because many veterans get disgusted and just give up trying to get help. There is also a need for female counselors and legal help for female veterans.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and Jerry Johnson seconded the minutes and they were approved.

Tammy Anderson gave the superintendants report and the commission spent \$6705 on helping veterans financially. We helped 53 veterans and made 12 trips to various VA hospitals.

The Vet Fair will be September 19 at the DCVAC building. We will be concentrating on health and jobs. There will be local vets returning from Afghanistan in September and we will try to help them. The military convoy will be coming through DeKalb on September 20th at approximately 2:00 or 2:30. The doll houses are getting behind schedule.

There will be no June meeting. May 12 will be the open house for the new building. The hours will be from 4:30 to 6:30 and there will be hors d'oeuvres

Frank Beierlotzer made the motion to pay the bills and this was seconded by Jerry Johnson. The bills were paid.

The Marine Corps League is having a draw down at the Sycamore Veterans Home on April 25. There will be a \$1000 grand prize.

Frank Beierlotzer made the motion to adjourn at 7:52.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Walz, Secretary