

**Minutes of the  
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting  
Friday, December 18, 2009  
Telephonic Meeting**

Commission members present: Ed Wiegers, Chairman; Jim Buterbaugh, Commissioner; Joy Moser, Commissioner; Michael Neer, Commissioner; and Jonathan Small, Commissioner.

Staff present: Jack Fowler, Executive Director; Jim Hays, KVH Superintendent; Steve Dunkin, KSH Superintendent; Wayne Bollig, Veteran Services Director; Marshall Kennedy, Chief Fiscal Officer; Kafer Peele, Cemetery Program Director; Kim Tatum, Human Resources Director; and Dave Murach, SAA Program Director.

Guests in attendance: Jeff Hansen, Fleet Reserve Association; and Jerry Holley, American Legion.

1. Chairman Ed Wiegers opened the meeting of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00 AM.
2. Executive Director Jack Fowler introduced the pledge leader, Dave Anderson. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
3. Chairman Wiegers began with the November 20, 2009 Commission minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jim Buterbaugh moved to accept the November 20, 2009 Commission minutes. Commissioner Joy Moser seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

4. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates along with the budget updates. (A) Executive Director Jack Fowler reported on the budget recommendations. The latest appeal was denied by the director of the budget and the Governor. Director Fowler sent a letter to Representative Peggy Mast and carbon copied Lee Tafanelli in regards to the budget. Also, a letter regarding the budget was sent out to each Representative and to all the Senators in Kansas. The letter pointed out how many veterans we believe each Representative and Senator has in each

of their districts and urging their support for the KCVA. Chuck Yunker from the American Legion published an article in their newsletter also trying to spread the word about the KCVA budget. Director Fowler reported that he will be addressing Representative Don Myer's Veterans' Committee on January 19, 2009 in regards to our budget. **(B)** Director Fowler reported that at this point, the commission meetings for the year 2010 will be held at the locations as published. **(C)** Director Fowler reported that Senator Pat Roberts contacted him concerning the artillery piece at Fort Dodge. Director Fowler explained to Senator Roberts that the 37mm gun is not owned by the KCVA. At the suggestion of the Senator, Director Fowler contacted a non-profit educational organization that goes around the country on an annual basis and meets with veterans and they suggested to Director Fowler that they would like to trade the 37mm gun that is on display at Fort Dodge for a piece of equipment that is on wheels that could be moved and used locally. Director Fowler reported that this matter will be discussed further with Superintendent Steve Dunkin. **(D)** Director Fowler reported that he sent a letter to the Attorney General's office in regards to the DD214 and its relationship to eligibility for being a member of the commission. The Attorney General's opinion stated that a commissioner's eligibility for appointment is not limited to a DD214 only.

5. Human Resources Director Kim Tatum reported on program updates. **(A)** Mrs. Tatum reported that she is working with the different program managers on the different workforce reductions. With the layoffs and the end of probation we have already lost about ten percent of our workforce.
6. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig reported on the medallion program. There will be a public hearing on December 29, 2009 on the KARS, which is the final step before the medallion KARS are presented to the commission. He also reported that we are now taking applications for the medallion. **(B)** Mr. Bollig reported on claims production. We are at 60 million with five months of the fiscal year gone, that's down seven percent for the year. Expenditures are at \$725,000, that's 83 dollars returned for each dollar spent. New claims approved are at 2,156. Last year at this time we had 2,104. Denied claims are down by 42%.
7. Mr. Dave Murach reported on the State Approving Agency. **(A)** Mr. Murach reported on SAA outreach and other activities. He reported that they are on time and on schedule with all of the

visits, they will have 31 visits by the end of December and there have been two outreach contacts since the last commissioners meeting. Director Fowler asked the commission to consider reducing the SAA briefing to a quarterly briefing instead of monthly.

8. Cemetery Program Director Kafer Peele reported on the cemetery program. **(A)** Mr. Peele reported on the operational activities of the cemetery program and statistics. In November 2009 KCVA cemeteries completed 11 interments and 28 new pre-certifications. Total interments for the cemeteries are at 776, and pre-certifications are at 2,410 YTD. **(B)** Mr. Peele reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Mr. Peele reported on operational funds as of November 2009. This month Mr. Peele has begun the process to close out the Fort Riley grant and he has submitted for the final payment. He reported that once we receive the final payment we will then begin the process to pay back the state its \$455,000 that they gave us in the beginning for the planning dollars to build our first cemetery at Fort Dodge. **(D)** Mr. Peele reported on recent events.
9. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census as of December 2009 is 149 residents, of which 119 are veterans and 30 are non-veterans. The net change for the month of November was a positive one. There were two admissions, and one discharge. **(B)** Superintendent Dunkin reported that they have started the conversion of the non-veterans to the Medicare Part D program. The residents were notified that their pharmacy benefit is going to be discontinued as of December 31, 2009. That decision was followed up with a letter. He also reported that the rate increase letters have been sent out. The rate increase will go into effect February 2010. **(F)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. Today there are five Medicare Part A residents and two Medicare Part B residents. Training will be finalized the first week of January. **(G)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on recent and upcoming events and donations that have been received at the KSH.
10. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 135 residents which includes 116 veterans and 19 non-veterans. Two admissions are scheduled for December 22, 2009. They will be admitted to the domiciliary unit. Triplet Hall is in the process of closing; all 14 residents have been moved. **(B)** Superintendent Hays reported that the KVH is also in the process of converting non veterans to the Medicare Part D program. **(C)**

Superintendent Hays reported on recent and upcoming events and donations that have been received at the KVH.

11. Chairman Wieggers opened the forum to the audience.
12. Chairman Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting for not more than 20 minutes and go into an executive session and talk exclusively about personnel matters.

**MOTION:** Chairman Jim Buterbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jonathan Small seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

13. Chairman Wieggers reopened the meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jim Buterbaugh moved that the Executive Director be given the authority to implement the first layoff plan for the Kansas Veterans' Home effective February 5, 2009, as described in the executive session. Commissioner Jonathan Small seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jonathan Small moved that the Executive Director be given the authority to implement the second layoff plan for two classified regular veteran services positions in the veteran services program effective February 19, 2009 and it is to be modified per discussion as described in the executive session. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

14. Chairman Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Chairman Wieggers moved to adjourn the meeting. No one seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

15. Chairman Wieggers adjourned the meeting at 11:15 PM.

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Ed Wieggers, Chairman

January 20, 2009