

**Minutes of the
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting
Wednesday January 20, 2010
Jayhawk Tower Central Office, Topeka, KS**

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 Webster Roth, IT Director.

Guests in attendance: Christian Kramer, DAV and Ken Stodgell, VFW.

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, Steve Dunkin. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
3. Chairman Wiegers began with the December 18, 2010 Commission minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Jim Buterbaugh moved to approve the December 18, 2010 Commission minutes. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

4. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates. (A) Director Fowler reported that he briefed his agency's budget to the House Veterans', Military and Homeland Security Committee. In addition to the Legionnaires, and service organization representatives appearing (with their overseas caps on), representatives from the American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans', Vietnam Veterans of American and the American Forum also appeared. An article was published on the front page of the Topeka Capital Journal on January 20, 2010 regarding the

meeting. **(B)** Director Fowler reported that he met with the VFW last Friday evening in regards to the budget. He asked that we all come together as Kansas Veterans all seeking the same goals to enhance and preserve the benefits that our Veterans have earned. The VFW plans on publishing an article in regards to the KCVA's budget in their February 2010 newsletter. **(C)** Director Fowler reported that he also had a meeting with the Governor's Chief of Operations, Rae Anne Davis. Director Fowler gave her a copy of his proposed remarks and asked that she also give a copy to the Lieutenant Governor, Troy Findley. **(D)** Director Fowler reported about the 37mm gun at Fort Dodge. He reported that at some point there will be a swap out of the gun that is presently at Fort Dodge with a 37mm gun that will be mobile.

5. Chief Fiscal Officer Marshall Kennedy reported on budget issues. **(A)** Mr. Kennedy reported that we are fifty percent into the current fiscal year. The Administration, Veteran Services, VCAP and the Kansas Veterans' Home programs are all over budget right now but we have already taken the adjustments necessary to get them back on track. **(B)** Mr. Kennedy showed where the agency is on the budget cycle. In January, the Governor presented his recommendations regarding agency budgets to the Legislature.
6. Human Resources Director Kim Tatum reported on program updates. **(A)** Mrs. Tatum reported on the classification and compensation implementation. Group one has been delayed to FY 2012, the initial target date was FY 2010. Group two has also been delayed to FY 2012, the initial target date was FY 2011. All the other facets of the implementation remain on track, which are classification review, salary surveys and market rate adjustments. **(B)** Mrs. Tatum reported on the SHARP department rollout for the SMART implementation. The combo codes have been completed and are in test environment. Department budget tables are completed and also in test environment. The new payroll departments have been established. The transfer of all positions to the new departments by March 15, 2010 is on track.
7. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig gave an update on the Veterans Services offices. The Pittsburg and the Hutchinson office are closed and now covered by itinerant travel and the Marysville office will be closing February 19, 2010, but we will have itinerant coverage for that office. A new territory map identifying which field office covers each area is available on our website. **(B)** Mr. Bollig reported on the medallion program. He reported that we are now

taking applications. He indicated that the KARs have been tentatively approved. He also indicated that the public response period and public hearing are complete. The KARs are ready for adoption by the commission by roll call vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Jim Buterbaugh moved to adopt KARs 97-7-1 thru 97-7-6.

Commissioner Jonathan Small seconded. A roll call vote was done, and was unanimously approved. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

Director Fowler commented that we have approximately eighty dollars in donations to the fund for the medallions. He believes that it will cost close to ten thousand dollars for the first batch of five thousand medallions. **(C)** Mr. Bollig reported on claims production. Fifty percent of the fiscal year has been completed and claims production is down two percent. **(D)** Mr. Bollig reported on recent events.

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 December 2009 KCVA cemeteries completed 18 interments and 41 new pre-certifications. Total interments for the cemeteries are at 794, and pre-certifications are at 2,090 YTD. **(B)** Mr. Peele reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Mr. Peele reported on operational funds as of December 2009. **(D)** Mr. Peele reported on recent events.
9. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 134 residents which includes 114 veterans and 20 non-veterans. There were two admissions and three deaths. There are 37 applicants on the KVH waiting list. **(B)** Superintendent Hays reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on operation and finance as of December 31, 2009. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. He reported that the KVH submitted their Medicaid application November 10, 2009 and they got their confirmation of receipt December 31, 2009. The request for certification survey was submitted to Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) January 8, 2010. Last year the annual KDOA survey occurred January 28 thru February 4, 2009. A letter was sent to the KDOA requesting the certification survey to coincide with the annual state survey. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on recent and upcoming events at the KVH.

10. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census is 146 residents, of which 120 are veterans and 26 are non-veterans. There were three admissions, three discharges and two deaths. There are four applicants on the KSH waiting list. **(B)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on operation and finance as of January 13, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on surveys at the KSH. The VA survey was cleared; the resurvey was January 13, 2010. The next VA survey will be in November 2010. The KDOA survey will be in August 2010 and the State Fire Marshall's survey will also be in August 2010. **(F)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. Today there are five Medicare Part A residents and two Medicare Part B residents. Medicare billing training will be finalized the first week of February. **(G)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on recent and upcoming events at the KSH.
11. Chairman Wieggers asked Director Fowler what the status was with Pinon Management. Director Fowler reported that Patrick Hurley is working on it.
12. Chairman Wieggers opened the forum to the audience. Ken Stodgell from the VFW in Topeka and Christian Kramer from the DAV both commented saying they will stand behind us and do whatever they can to help us with our budget.
13. 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.
14. Chairman Wieggers adjourned the meeting at 11:10 PM.

Ed Wieggers, Chairman

February 17, 2010