

**Minutes of the  
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting  
Wednesday June 16, 2010  
Jayhawk Tower Topeka, KS**

1. Commission members present: Ed Wieggers, Chairman; Jim Buterbaugh, Vice Chairman; Joy Moser, Commissioner; Michael Neer, Commissioner; and Jonathan Small, Commissioner.
2. Staff present: Jack Fowler, Executive Director; Jim Hays, KVH Superintendent; and Steve Dunkin, KSH Superintendent; Wayne Bollig, Veteran Services Director; Marshall Kennedy, Chief Fiscal Officer; Kafer Peele, Cemetery Program Director; and Kim Tatum, Human Resources Director
3. Guests in attendance: Loren Pontious, Winfield Legion Post #16; Larry Kramer, Viet Nam Vet; Christian Kramer, DAV; Jeff Hansen, FRA; Darrel Bencken, VFW; and Ken Stodgell, VFW.
4. Chairman Ed Wieggers opened the meeting of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00 AM.
5. Executive Director Jack Fowler presented Vicki Vawter with her 30-year service pin.
6. Executive Director Jack Fowler introduced the pledge leader, Mrs. Kim Tatum. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
7. Chairman Ed Wieggers began with the May 12, 2010 Commission minutes.

**MOTION:** Vice Chairman Jim Buterbaugh moved to approve the May 12, 2010 Commission minutes. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

8. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates. (A) Director Fowler reported on the status of the KCVA's budget. All programs will end FY 2010 in the black, the KVH in Winfield will be some dollars short, but we will be able to use some funds from another program to take

care of that shortfall. For FY 2011 both the Administrative and Cemetery program have no changes. The KSH and KVH received less money than expected; they should be adequate with the money that will be received from Medicare and Medicaid funds. For Veterans' Services, the first recommendation for the commission is to raise the VCAP budget to 500 thousand. The second recommendation for the commission is that we reopen the Hutchinson and Marysville offices as quickly as possible, if the commission approves. To re-open those offices will cost approximately 93 thousand dollars. We also have 488 thousand to open an enhanced delivery system which we are recommending to the commission that we purchase two vans that will cost approximately 100 thousand a piece and hire the FTE's to man those two mobile offices. One will be stationed in Hayes and the other in Dodge City. They will cover over sixty counties in Kansas.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Joy Moser moved to approve that the KCVA re-staff the Hutchinson and Marysville Offices and open two mobile offices. Commissioner Jonathan Small seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jonathan Small moved to adopt Travel Policy IMPP3-1-014; the Commission and all KCVA employees will adhere and travel to the state regulations. Commissioner Joy Moser seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Human Resources Director Kim Tatum reported on program updates. **(A)** Veterans Preference (VP). The Legislature directed the Legislative Post Audit to conduct and audit on compliance with the VP law. Large state agencies are expected to be contacted as part of the audit. The date for audit has not yet been set. **(B)** I-9 E-Verify program. The agency is going through the process with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify all new employees I-9 information electronically. HR Directors have been taking web-based training with DHS. The program is 100% verification that must be done between one and three days of hire date. Special notification must be posted at all work locations. The KCVA is incorporating these new regulations into the interview process. The target implementation date is on or before July 1, 2010. **(C)** Performance Management Process. We are currently in the mid-year review process; the mid-year reviews must be completed by June 30, 2010. **(D)** The SHARP/SMART test upload of new FY 2012 funding codes was successful. Direct deposit will be mandatory for all employees by October 1, 2010. Payroll deductions for U.S. Savings Bonds have been eliminated.

Worker's Compensation rates for FY 2011 have been reduced: FY 2011 was 8.094, now 7.808; FY 2012 will be 8.084; and FY 2013 will be 8.256. There will be substantial health insurance increases for both employees and employer. The employee 9% increase will go into effect January 1, 2011 and the employer 15% increase will be effective beginning in FY 2012. **(E)** Agency Affirmative Action Plan. The KCVA plan is due to the Division of Personnel Services in December of 2010. It is required every three years. **(F)** Market Rate Adjustments. The adjustments were authorized by the 2010 Legislature. The State Oversight Committee met June 10, 2010, for final decisions. The final information will be communicated when it is released. **(G)** KOSE Memorandum of Agreement. The new MOA has been ratified. It is currently being signed with an effective date of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. The significant areas of impact include: the policy on equal distribution of overtime opportunities amongst KOSE employees who volunteer to work overtime; employees must be made aware within 21 calendar days from the date of discovery, unless facts and circumstances exist which require a longer period of time, of any adverse information that may be used on evaluations (including client/patient/inmate/ customer complaints) and shall be provided an opportunity to offer a rebuttal. Any adverse information used during the evaluation must be validated by the immediate supervisor. The current MOA requires 30 days. It grants funeral leave with pay in the event of the death of a domestic partner. Ties in length of service will be broken by using the last four digits of the affected employee's social security number. Supervisory files, grievance appeals and evaluation appeals. **(H)** Health Care Reform. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were signed into law on March 23, 2010. It incorporates modifications of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 which was signed into law on March 30, 2010. The Complex Law implementation is in phases over several years; regulations are under development. The key provision for 2010 that impact the state group is that it mandates dependant coverage to age 26 (currently 23). Employees that are affected by this will be receiving letters.

10. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig reported on operating financial issues and claims production. During the last 11 months of production the KCVA has had 4,670 in new claims approved; last year for the same period we had 3,600 claims. Contacts are up by 9,474; this is a 14% increase. Claims production year to date has increased by 17 million dollars over the same period last year. New claims production has increased by 8.4 million dollars. The KCVA

has 3,823 new claims approved YTD for FY10. One dollar in SGF puts 92 dollars in federal benefits in the hands of Kansas Veterans, survivors and dependents.

11. Cemetery Program Director Kafer Peele reported on the cemetery program. **(A)** In May 2010 the KCVA cemeteries completed 19 new interments and 30 new pre-certifications. **(B)** Financials. Mr. Peele reported on operational financials as of May 31, 2010. The Cemetery Program is on target to finish the year in the black.
12. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census is 127 residents, which includes 100 veterans and 27 non-veterans. There was one admission, four deaths and zero discharges. There were six inquiries to the KSH. **(B)** Medicare/Medicaid project. The current Medicare census is two residents on Medicare Part A and six residents on Medicare Part B. There is one resident on Medicaid. **(C)** A surprise visit from the State Marshall was made. The Marshall stayed all day. Five minor deficiencies were found. **(D)** June 6 the American Legion Riders 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Poker Run took place. The attendance of this event was 200. The attendance brought \$8,000 to KSH.
13. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 130 residents, which includes 113 veterans and 17 non-veterans. There were four admissions, two discharges, and one death in long-term care. There is one applicant active on the KVH waiting list. **(B)** Financials. After 911 the economy went into a slump, 1.2 million was lost. The bed count went down from 155 to 130. There seems to be some competition from other facilities in the area. There is a great need for a marketing person.
14. Chairman Ed Wieggers opened the forum to the audience. Christopher Kramer with the DAV reported that at the State Convention Clifford Dillard was elected as the new State Commander.
15. Chairman Ed Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session for not more than ten minutes and talk exclusively about personnel matters.

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

16. Chairman Ed Wieggers reopened the meeting.

Vice Chairman Jim Buterbaugh announced that the commission accepted Superintendent Jim Hays' retirement letter and he will retire effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

17. Chairman Ed Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

18. Chairman Ed Wieggers adjourned the meeting at 11:48 AM.

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Ed Wieggers, Chairman

July 21, 2010