

**Minutes of the
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting
Wednesday March 24, 2010
Jayhawk Tower Central Office, Topeka, KS**

1. Commission members present: Ed Wiegers, 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; 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: Christian Kramer, DAV; and Loren Pontious, WaKeeney American Legion Post #10.
4. Chairman Ed Wiegers opened the meeting of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00 AM.
5. Executive Director Jack Fowler introduced the pledge leader, Kafer Peele. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
6. Chairman Ed Wiegers began with the February 17, 2010 Commission minutes.
 - A. **MOTION:** Commissioner Michael Neer moved to approve the February 17, 2010 Commission minutes. Commissioner Joy Moser seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.
7. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates. (A) Director Fowler reported on the status of the KCVA's budget. There are two mega appropriations bills, one in each house. The house bill is house substitute for SB73 and the senate is senate substitute for HB2631. These appropriation bills address all of the state agencies and neither have been reported out of either house. A five percent pay cut for all state employees (excluding direct care workers and including all employees appointed by statute) will go in affect at the beginning of FY11 and sunset and the

end of FY11. The executive director, commissioners and superintendents' five percent pay cut began on March 21, 2010.

8. Chief Fiscal Officer Marshall Kennedy reported on budget issues. **(A)** Mr. Kennedy reported that we are sixty-six percent into the current fiscal year. Several programs are still over budget because of the allotment. The savings will be realized over the next four months for the programs that are currently over budget.
9. Human Resources Director Kim Tatum reported on program updates. **(A)** Mrs. Tatum reported on the SHARP department rollout for SMART implementation. The new payroll departments have been established and all the positions have been transferred to new departments.
10. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig reported on the Veteran Services/VCAP budget for FY10. **(B)** Mr. Bollig reported on the medallion program. We need \$12,700 for the first minimum order; we currently have \$275.30 in donations. Currently, 372 applicants have been approved for the medallion and we are receiving between eight and ten a day. Mr. Bollig was contacted by a couple of American Legion posts that were asking about doing fundraisers just for this purpose. **(C)** Mr. Bollig reported on claims production. Claims production year to date has increased by 14 million over the same period last year. New claims production has increased by over 2.6 million so far this year. One dollar in SGF puts 90 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)** Mr. Peele reported on the operational activities of the cemetery program and statistics. In February 2010 KCVA cemeteries completed 20 new interments and 30 new pre-certifications. Total interments for the cemeteries are at 836, and pre-certifications are at 2,137 YTD. **(B)** Mr. Peele reported on interment and pre-certification statistics. **(C)** Mr. Peele reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(D)** Mr. Peele reported on operational funds as of February 2010. **(E)** Mr. Peele reported on recent events.
12. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census is 138 residents, which includes 111 veterans and 27 non-veterans. There was one

admission, two deaths and three discharges. There were eight inquiries to the KSH. **(B)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on operation and finance as of February 28, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on surveys at the KSH. The 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 repair and rehabilitation issues. **(G)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. The current Medicare census is five residents on Medicare Part A and one resident on Medicare Part B. Current billing for Medicare Part A is \$48,278 and Medicare Part B \$7,362. The KSH was notified on March 16, 2010 that the KSH is Medicaid certified. **(H)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on open issues at the KSH. **(I)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on recent and upcoming events at the KSH.

13. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 130 residents, which includes 112 veterans and 18 non-veterans. There were three admissions, two discharges and three deaths. There are 36 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 February 28, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. The Medicaid application was submitted November 10, 2009; the confirmation of receipt was received December 31, 2009. The request for certification survey was submitted to the Kansas Department of Aging on January 8, 2010 and is pending. The MDS (minimum data set) test transmission validation was March 2, 2010. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on surveys at the KVH. He reported that the Medicaid certification survey should be combined with the annual KDOA survey and will occur very soon; the annual inspection for the VA Survey is due in March 2010; the annual inspection for the State Fire Marshal Survey was completed March 17, 2010, three minor deficiencies were found. The domiciliary inspection is due in June 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on the USDVA per diem program. The nursing home care per diem rate will increase twenty two percent for FFY2011; and the domiciliary per diem rate will increase eight and a half percent for FFY2011. **(E)** Superintendent Hays reported on recent and upcoming events at the KVH. **(F)** Superintendent Hays reported that as of yesterday, they have surveyors from the VA and from Ascellon surveying the KVH.

14. Chairman Ed Wiegers opened the forum to the audience.

15. Chairman Ed Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session 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.

MOTION: Commissioner Michael Neer moved to make an offer to Jason Hinman with the annual salary of 72,000 dollars plus housing for the position of Director of Nursing at the KSH, subject to the approval of the Governor. Commissioner Jonathan Small seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

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

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

19. Chairman Ed Wieggers adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Ed Wieggers, Chairman

April 21, 2010