



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 02-10-22

Committee Present: Mary Johnson, Melvin Bauman, Jill Wolfe, Michael Blundell, Trish Torres, John Baxter, Chris Kamps, Reggie Howard

Committee Absent:

Staff Present: Martha Burkett, Andrew Lapres, Rachel Wustman

Guests: No Guests

1. Meeting called to Order/Introductions –
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson at 9:00am.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee member Chris Kamps led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Month
 - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson motioned to accept the previous meeting's minutes. Trish Torres voted to approve. Mike Blundell seconded. All present voted in favor.
4. Success Stories
 - a. KCVS VSO Reginald Farior shared that he and KCVS VSO Theresa Ergang were able to work a long processing Non-Service-Connected Pension claim. They were successful in getting the claim approved. The approval came with a substantial back pay amount.
5. Manager's Report
 - a. KCVS VSO Reginald Farior shared the monthly impact report. Records requests: 0. Fully developed claims: 13. County IDs 0. Face-to-face contact: 0. Claims in development 92. Claims awarded: 10. SSR: 6. Burials: 7. Phone Contacts: 2678. Meijer Food Vouchers: \$0.
 - b. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that the KCVS budget report for 2022 has not been completely populated by Fiscal.
6. Old Business
 - a. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that the grants are being finalized and sent out to the grantees. The one hold up is the acupuncture grant which is awaiting final approval from Legal. The housecleaning grant has begun accepting applicants.

- b. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared an update on the millage subcommittee report. Since it isn't a renewal, it's a continuation, National Guard and Reservists can be added to the millage. The additions are awaiting on Legal to draft the additions.
- c. Committee member Jill Wolfe shared that she has two classes at GVSU that are working on a marketing campaign for the veteran's millage.
- d. Committee Member Mel Bauman shared that the millage subcommittee needs to reserve a space for a meeting, as well as to do some fundraising for the campaign.

7. New Business

- a. KCVS Manager shared that KCVS has two clerk positions open, and are looking to hire veterans, but the positions are open to anyone.

New Activities

- b. Committee Member Mel Bauman shared that he is working on an initiative to man a volunteer booth at the Grand Rapids Airport to provide services to veterans at the airport.
- c. KCVS Staff member Rachel Wustman shared that she is continuing outreach, specifically with Grand Valley, and is always looking for more opportunities.
- d. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared about the women's veteran group, Veteran's Rising.

8. Public Comment

- a. Paul Ryan shared about a Michigan House Dems video tour being hosted on Facebook Live on 2/11/22. Paul also shared that KCVS Staff Rachel Wustman is assisting former Committee Chair Harold Mast with an upcoming Veteran's Awards Ceremony.

9. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson moved adjourned the meeting at 9:43 am.