

The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held the regular monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. on June 12, 2008 at 1914 Carpenter Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lipovac, Quijano, O'Kane

Moved by Lipovac, Seconded by Quijano to approve the claims submitted for the month.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O'Kane, Quijano

Moved by Lipovac, Seconded by Quijano to approve the minutes of May 8, 2008 meetings are submitted.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O'Kane, Quijano

Director's report was given by David DeBolt, Director and Rebecca Buch. Budget will not be affected unless it is worse than 1993 because people still have electric and water. If someone needs help with cleanup they go to FEMA or the Red Cross. Per Rebecca Buch in the Flood of 1993 we did not get involved with the cleanup because there were other agencies to assist everyone. Our office did assist with food.

We did not have enough time to get our furniture and files out of the building. The bottom file cabinet file draws have been emptied but if the water gets as high as expected than we shall lose more than that.

General Assistant scanned all their hard copies into the computer and we should be able to do that too. This will be our next IT priority.

MidAmerican Energy advised us that because of the flooding downtown if the third station is flooded they will have to shut off the power indefinitely. We will then move a block away to the same building as FEMA. They will have power.

Director thought it would assist veterans to have our same number rolled over to the temporary site. This was done the next day.

Before we moved to the new building we gave cemeteries almost all of our flags and markers so we didn't have to move them to the new building.

Rebecca was on the local news informing veterans of our move and new address.

Angela Connolly, Chris Coleman, and Leonard Boswell came to the new building before the flood.

Website has been changed to reflect the new office. It was then updated to show the temporary move because of the flood.

Director went to Johnston Library for a meeting with the firm hired by Patrick Palmersheim, Director of Iowa Department of Veterans, who thinks that Palmersheim is trying to get Iowa

Code 35b changed to make each veteran affairs office run the same. This will not work because of home rule and the number of veterans in each county.

If our office must do claims for veterans Walter Gearino in our office is the most experienced candidate because of the years he worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The smaller veteran affairs offices need the head count in order to get more funding. If we need to have someone certified we will but it would be harder for the smaller counties.

David Heim was moved from Camp Dodge to the Federal Bldg to do claims and not administration paperwork. He wants us to send veterans to him so he can assist them with their claims.

Client #GZ0753 – Veteran requested to meet Commission because he didn't understand what the veteran representative told him concerning how the medical should read. After Rebecca Buch explained what the guidelines are and what we needed he understood. Commissioner O'Kane will assist Veteran in having the medical updated.

No vote was taken.

July's meeting: will be held on July 10, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at 1914 Carpenter Ave.

Moved by O'Kane. Seconded by Lipovac to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE YEA: Lipovac, O'Kane, Quijano

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Mindi O'Kane, Chairperson