



MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2013

I. Call to Order

The Military Family Assistance Board (MFAB) Meeting was called to order by David LaCerte, Secretary/Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2013, at the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) Administrative Office in Baton Rouge.

II. Pledge/Opening Prayer/Roll Call

The pledge of allegiance was said in unison, and prayer and roll call were conducted by Charmagne Scott. Seven of ten members were present.

MFAB Members present: Secretary David LaCerte, Mr. Mike McNaughton, Senator Robert Adley, Mr. Sammy Guillory, Ms. Laura Lapeze, Mr. Brian Jakes, and Representative Chris Hazel

LDVA Staff present: Al Leger and Charmagne Scott.

III. Remarks

None.

IV. Approval of February 27, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Adley, seconded by Mr. Jakes, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2013, meeting as distributed. The motion passed.

V. Fund Report

Mr. Leger, Third Party Administrator, reviewed the standard handout showing the current fund balance and expenditures as of August 6, 2013. The starting fund balance for FY 2013/2014 (beginning July 1, 2013) was \$571,228.51. Donations to date (plus interest) totaled \$105,180.90. Expenditures totaled \$109,979.48, of which \$88,261.05 was paid for pre-deployment travel expenses for 359 National Guardsmen/Reservists and \$21,718.43 was paid for LDVA outreach and third-party administration. The current fund balance is \$566,429.93.

Secretary LaCerte noted a decline in donations due to the current state of the economy and more charitable organizations added to the income tax forms.

A motion was made by Mr. Jakes, seconded by Mr. McNaughton, to approve the fund report as presented. The motion passed.

VI. Discussion of Need-Based Claim

Mr. Leger briefed on an application submitted for the maximum amount of \$10,000 by a National Guardsman who is facing home foreclosure in a week. The applicant lost his job after being called to active duty, during which time he fell behind in his mortgage payments. Since his return from deployment, the applicant has secured other employment but has not been able to catch up on mortgage payments totaling approximately \$8,626 and other remaining debts totaling \$2,600. Mr. Leger and Mr. McNaughton spoke with the applicant to verify that his circumstances do warrant the amount requested.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Senator Adley, seconded by Representative Hazel, to approve the need-based claim for \$10,000 as requested, pending submission of appropriate documentation by the applicant and validation of past due mortgage payments and other remaining debts by LDVA staff. The motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

In closing, Secretary LaCerte thanked the Members for once again meeting on very short notice to address the need-based claim request. It was also noted that open meeting laws do not permit the board to meet and/or vote via telephone or proxy.

A motion was made by Representative Hazel, seconded by Mr. McNaughton, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Charmagne Scott, AA6

10/28/2013