



MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2014

I. Call to Order

The Military Family Assistance Board (MFAB) Meeting was called to order by David LaCerte, Chairman, at 10:17 a.m. on June 25, 2014, 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 eleven members were present, establishing a quorum.

MFAB Members present: Mr. David LaCerte, Representative Chris Hazel, LTC Edward Bush, Mr. Mike McNaughton, Ms. Laura Lapeze, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Don Howard.

LDVA Staff present: Amy Burris, Elizabeth Ellington, and Charmagne Scott.

III. Remarks

Secretary LaCerte commented on the recent Stand Down for Homeless Women Veterans hosted by LDVA on June 14 in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward. MFA funds designated for outreach were used to purchase food for this event. He proudly stated three families received housing assistance.

IV. Approval of May 12, 2014, Minutes

A motion was made by Rep. Hazel, seconded by Col. Bush, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014, meeting as distributed. The motion passed.

V. Fund Report

In the absence of Mr. Alfred Leger, Third Party Administrator, Secretary LaCerte reviewed the standard handout showing the current fund balance and expenditures as of June 19, 2014. The starting balance (August 15, 2013) was \$583,439.31; donations totaled \$82,785.34; expenditures totaled \$27,722.54, of which \$20,160.33 was paid for three need-based claims and \$7,562.21 was paid for LDVA outreach and third-party administration. The current fund balance is \$638,502.11.

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

VI. Discussion of Request from LA National Guard (LANG)

Col. Bush presented the request (via handout) from the 528 EN Battalion for funding for round-trip flights from Fort Bliss, TX to various locations in Louisiana for 77 personnel prior to their deployment to Kuwait. The pass dates are July 13-16, 2014, and the estimated cost is \$46,167. Prior to submission of this request, Col. Bush stated he had advised Maj. Philip White III, Transition Assistance Advisor, that the MFAB could disapprove the request or grant a partial payment toward the estimated total cost. After reviewing the roster of destination points, some members expressed concern that several requests were flights to Las Vegas, Nevada, and how this would be viewed by state legislators. Secretary LaCerte expressed his concern with different price quotes for flights traveling to the same location.

ACTION:

After several motions were proposed, a final motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Rep. Hazel, to approve the amount of \$50,000 to be used toward travel assistance for LANG personnel with the 528 EN Battalion during July 13-16, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Col. Bush, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Charmagne Scott, Executive Assistant

**Copies of all handouts referenced in the minutes are available upon request.*

9/17/2014