



## Louisiana Military Family Assistance Program Application

### Board Meeting Minutes

24 April 2018- 1:00 PM

Meeting called to order by Holly Talley at 1:05 pm

Roll Call taken with the following Board members in attendance:

- Sulanda Lonnette
- Denis Andras
- Col. Jona Hughes
- Thomas Enright
- Sammy Guillory
- Alex Juan
- Vanessa Melancon
- Billy Robbins

Non-Board Members Present

- Holly Talley, MFA Administrator
- Julie Baxter Payer, LDVA Executive Counsel

Quorum was determined for business to continue.

Pledge was recited.

Moment of Silent Reflection/Prayer.

Previous Minutes from the 20 March 2018 MFA Board Meeting were approved.

- Motion to approve by: Alex Juan; Seconded by: Sulanda Lonnette
- Approved without objection.

The MFA 3-Person Fund Committee met on 21 March 2018 and approved 1 application totaling \$339.89 for assistance with the Entergy Bill of a disabled Veteran and his family. The Board met again on 27 March 2018 and approved an application for \$395.00 to assist a Veteran with his auto insurance.

Holly Talley discussed the balance of the MFA Fund Balance. The most recent S07 report from the treasury had not been received prior to the meeting. Balance numbers are based on LDVA Fiscal records.

- The fund balance is \$418,719.87.
- Total spent to date for FY 2017-18: \$91,399.40.
- Motion to approve by: Sammy Guillory; Seconded by: Thomas Enright
- Approved without objection.

Presentation of 5 applications for consideration of the Board by Holly Talley:



## Louisiana Military Family Assistance Program Application

1. ACHA0418 Board Action: Deny
  - Board recommends encouraging Veteran to follow up with his local VAC to see if there is any further assistance/benefits he may be eligible for from the Federal VA.
  - Application denied as stands because all bills submitted are current and have no delinquent balances.
  - Motion to Deny: Dennis Andras • 2<sup>nd</sup> By: Thomas Enright
  
2. HGRE0418 Board Action: Deny/Approve, based on certain conditions
  - Board approved to assist up to \$3,000 if the taxes owed are for the Veterans primary residence and losing home would risk Veteran becoming homeless and if the application was updated by being signed/dated in all places. Holly Talley was to follow-up
  - *NOTE: Holly Talley followed up with Veteran immediately after the 24 Apr meeting. The taxes owed were for a vacant property, located next to the Veteran's home. This property is not his primary residence and taxes owed do not effect his current home/property. Based on the Board's instruction, the application was denied since this property was not the Veteran's primary residence.*
  - Motion by: Alex Juan • 2<sup>nd</sup> By: Jona Hughes
  
3. JWIL0418 Application withdrawn by Veteran
  - The Veteran received his back pay from the VA that had been wrongly deposited in someone else's account. The Veteran was not longer in need of assistance and could meet his current obligations. The Veteran withdrew his application for assistance.
  - No action taken or needed by the Board.
  
4. GBER0418 Board Action: Deny
  - Application was denied for lack of sufficient documentation for the need of a large 10x16 raised deck on the Veterans home. The amount requested was not supported by documents provided.
  - Motion to Deny: Vanessa Melancon • 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Billy Robbins
  
5. BWHI0318 (application tabled from 20 Mar) Board Action: Refer back to Fund Committee
  - Thomas Enright made the motion to approve up to \$2500 for the application, once the Veteran can show her actual portion owed of debt. Once this amount is shown by Veteran, it should be sent to the Fund committee for final approval.
  - Also, waiting on pending application from the American Legion to see what amount they will be approving.
  - Motion to Accept suggestion: Sulanda Lonette • 2<sup>nd</sup> By: Alex Juan
  
6. MCOL0318 (application tabled from 20 Mar) Board Action: Deny
  - This application was tabled during the 20 Mar 2018 meeting to give the Veteran additional time to provide updated documents/statements to reflect his current need, as all bill when verified show they are current. Veteran did not provide additional requested documents, after multiple attempts were made. Therefor the Board voted to deny his application.



**Louisiana Military Family Assistance Program Application**

- Motion to Deny: Thomas Enright
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sammy Guillory

Additional matters:

- Sammy Guillory addressed concern with the current MFA application and the “eligible/ineligible” expense list on page 2 of the application. It was suggested that the application be amended to remove “Taxes- property or otherwise”. This will be corrected and amended prior to the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

- Motion made by Alex Juan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sulanda Lonnette. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned.