



**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Administrative Officer Bryan Suddith took the roll call.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X	
William Fried, Vice President	X	
Jim Dare, Secretary	X	
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X	
John Theobald, Commissioner	X	

Staff members present: Kim Frisco, Executive Director, Dan Semsel, Deputy Director, Bryan Suddith, Administrative Officer and Veterans Legal Counsel Steve Strain.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Jim Dare led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Commission observed a moment of silence.

**IV. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

Jan 12, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved for approval and Commissioner Dare seconded the motion to approve the January 12, 2022 minutes as presented. All commissioners in attendance vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Former Commissioner Fred Rojas asked to speak with the Commission in private, or without the Executive Director present. The Commission advised Mr. Rojas that he was speaking in a public meeting during time allocated for public comments. Admin Officer Suddith suggested to the Commission that there were no grounds to enter into Executive Session per ORC.

Mr. Rojas provided remarks stating concerns he had about the operations of the MVCSC. Mr. Rojas speaking on behalf of unnamed staff members suggested to the commission that staff concerns could not be addressed adequately by the Union.

When the Commission asked for specifics, Mr. Rojas offered an incident from his time as Commissioner in 2021 dealing with a lunch hour issue.

Mr. Rojas stated to the Commission that this is admittedly hearsay and was not familiar with any specifics.

The Commission thanked him for coming forward.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of personnel issues, per ORC 121.22 g (1). All commissioners voted Aye.

<b><u>Commissioners</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Nay</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented and the commission entered executive session at 10:16 a.m.

The commission exited executive session at 11:04 a.m.

## Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of January 1-31, 2022

A motion to approve the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance report was made by Commissioner Theobald and seconded by Commissioner Fried. All commissioners voted aye.

<b><u>Commissioners</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Nay</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
Jim Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Director Frisco reported to the Commission a request by the Final Salute Society on behalf of the Korean Memorial Association soliciting monetary support for the cleaning and securing of portions of the memorial here in Dayton. Commissioners expressed support for the project and instructed staff to work with the Korean War Memorial Association and to investigate vendors and pricing.
- b) Director Frisco outlined progress and next steps toward launching the new Preventive Dental Care program. Estimated launch is April/May 2022.
- c) Training Program status was shared with the Commission by the Executive Director. Some background was shared by Ms. Frisco and Steve Strain explaining ODVS training and the continued need for internal process and best practice training. This training program would also help us to prepare to on-board a new VSO when that time comes.
- d) Commissioners discussed the need for regular Commissioner office hours. The Commission agreed to staff the Commissioner's office on Thursday afternoons, weekly, with two Commissioners volunteering each week. The Commissioners asked Staff present to make these hours known to the entire staff. Commissioners Hays and Howley volunteered for week one.

## **VIII. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Executive Director presented her report and staff reports from Legal Counsel and Admin Officer. These reports are attached in their entirety to these minutes. Ms. Frisco did remind commissioners of their respective trainings in March and May as well as staff training in March and April.

Deputy Director Dan Semsel gave a brief overview of the budget to date.

Steve Strain spoke to his report and shared that we are successfully tracking "out-of-county" veterans making use of the legal services.

Bryan Suddith spoke to the end of year outreach report. Commissioners urged staff to share that report with the entire staff.

## **IX. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

President Jerry Hays

- DAV Meeting cancelled this month.
- Legion Motorcycle Group still meeting this month.

Vice President Bill Fried

- VVA Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, in Huber Heights.
- Commissioner Fried mentioned a Scholarship for college or trade school students offered by the VVA. He will forward an application to any student interested.
- Kudos to staff for the updated ads appearing in the Dayton Daily that emphasize our services are at no-cost.
- Commissioner Fried thanked Steve Strain and Charles Strong for their attendance at January's VVA meeting sharing what they do for the Veterans Service Commission. The Commissioner also mentioned the McCabe foundation and the work they are doing to provide mobility devices to Vietnam Veterans.

Secretary Jim Dare

- No report

Commissioner John Theobald

- AMVETS Statewide Conference is February 18-24
- Reported on Post 24's support of Ronald McDonald House Charity of Dayton's hospitality room at Dayton Children's hospital and the availability of adding information about our services in that hospitality room at the hospital.
- Post 24 AMVETS will be electing a new president and Commissioner Theobald will now be serving as the Post Finance Officer.

Commissioner Michael Howley

- VFW Post 9927's Commander resigned and a new Commander will be selected soon.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

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Jerry Hays, President

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William Fried, Vice President

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James Dare, Secretary

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John Theobald, Commissioner

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Michael Howley, Commissioner