



**Meeting Minutes of the
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
January 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

I. Call to Order

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

II. Roll Call

Bryan Suddith took the roll call.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</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, Director, Dan Semsel, Deputy Director, Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel, and Bryan Suddith, Admin Officer. Nathaniel Peterson from the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office, Josh Shaw from Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office and Fred Rojas, former MCVSC Commissioner.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission President Jerry Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Commission observed a moment of silence.

The Commission moved to start the agenda with New Business item VII a.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dare moved to accept the December 21, 2022 meeting minutes with no changes. Commissioner Theobald seconded the motion.

Discussion about how changes are reported and more specific information on topics of discussion. In addition it was requested that all acronyms are spelled out in full for the first time of use.

<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.

V. Public Comments

Fred Rojas, VFW 9550 Centerville, invites all Veterans to a monthly breakfast. Archer’s Tavern in Kettering will host the monthly Veterans breakfast. Cost is \$8.50. Very similar menu and pricing to the old breakfast meeting in Germantown. Last Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. January 28 will be the first meeting at this new location.

Centerville High School basketball is hosting a Veterans night.

VI. Old Business

- a) Consideration of the Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the Period of December 1-31, 2022

Commissioner Theobald moved to accept the report without changes and Commissioner Howley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Howley had questions about a decision regarding a veteran who was denied due to excessive expenses including an insurance policy. Howley noted that the comment box seems inadequate. Howley and Theobald discussed the pros and cons on the “boilerplate” language included in the denials.

Commissioner Theobald noted the lack of Budget Class referrals in the denials. Deputy Director Semsel commented that he will make sure that the Class referrals are included more consistently.

Further discussion occurred about referrals and the decision matrix used to award or deny Emergency Financial Support.

<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.

VII. New Business

- a) Pending Litigation

Commissioner Theobald moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 3, discussion of pending litigation. Commissioner Fried seconded the motion.

<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 and entered Executive Session at 9:59 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 10:24 a.m.

b) 2023 Meeting Schedule

Director Frisco presented a draft set of dates for regular scheduled Commission meetings.

Commissioners agreed to the presented schedule, second Wednesday of the month July through December. The commission plans to continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month January through June.

c) COLA Increases for Staff

Executive Director Frisco presented research on a Cost of Living Increase for all staff.

Commissioner Theobald moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for reasons outlined in ORC 121.22 G 1, discussion of public employee compensation. Commissioner Dare seconded the motion.

<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 and entered Executive Session at 11:04 a.m.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 11:29 a.m.

d) Election of Officers

Proposed Slate

Commissioner Howley nominated Jerry Hays for President. Withdrawn by Mr. Howley.
 Bill Fried mentioned he was interested in the President's seat noting Mr. Hays responsibility to the state association where he serves as 1st Vice.
 Commissioner Howley restated his motion, to keep the current slate as is.
 Commissioner Dare seconded the motion.

<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

Motion carries 5-0.

Commissioner Hays asked for volunteers to work on the Collective Bargaining process starting in the fall of 2023. Commissioner Theobald volunteered.

Commissioner Hays asked for volunteers to work on the Personnel Committee which activates whenever a vacancy is created and filled. Commissioner Fried volunteered. Staff members explained the process of screening candidates and preparing a list for the Personnel Committee choose candidates to interview with the full commission.

VIII. Management Report

Executive Director Frisco welcomed and congratulated the newly re-appointed AMVETS Rep, John Theobald to a new 5 year term that commenced this month.

Deputy Director Semsel presented a draft year-end budget review. Commissioner Theobald suggested we investigate new software to replace the legacy system that was built by the County IT department.

Steve Strain presented the Legal Services Report. 82 new cases, 2022 total surpassed 700. Strain presented a new plan for scheduling clients and that prioritizes Montgomery County residents.

Admin Officer Suddith presented the Transportation report. 120 completed appointments in December.

Director Frisco reported on the ^{They discussed the} success of another regional Director's Roundtable with 7 area Veterans Service Commission Directors. The VA, Strategic Ohio Council of Higher Education and Society for the Improvement and Condition of Stray Animals were in attendance speaking to directors. The directors also discussed the need for an Attorney to visit area counties.

April 25 will be the date of our next annual community stakeholders meeting. Location and times are to be determined.

Labor Management Meeting with the Bargaining Unit to be held later in January.

IX. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hays

- No report.

Commissioner Dare

- Post 165 wants to thank Loren Scott, Transportation Coordinator, for the work she did to assist Veteran Staley.
- Honor Guard at Post 165 completed 125 funeral details for the year.

Commissioner Fried

- The Vietnam Veterans Post participated in Laying of the Wreaths for Vietnam Vets at the Dayton National Cemetery Wreath Ceremony in December.
- January 25 there will be a Muster and Mingle at the Tipp Center in Tipp City. All Vets invited.
- VVA meeting on 1/21, 3rd Thursday of the month.

- 1st Saturday of the month, Longhorn Steakhouse on Miller Lane, provides breakfast free of charge for Veterans. RSVP to Dave Fuch 937-750-6951.

Commissioner Theobald

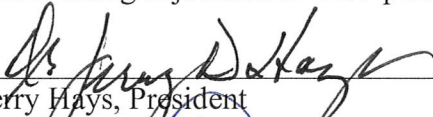
- Home post hosted a holiday breakfast for United Rehabilitative Services (URS) clients, providing a special social occasion for these adults who are served by the URS organization.
- Asked staff to investigate ways to help Veterans create better financial habits to help reduce rejections for financial aid.
- Requested the commission consider adding a part-time paralegal to assist the Veterans Counsel.
- Asked the staff to investigate a joint meeting with County Commissioners.

Commissioner Howley

- No report.

X. Adjournment


The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.



Jerry Hays, President



William Fried, Vice President



James Dare, Secretary



John Theobald, Commissioner



Michael Howley, Commissioner



Legal Services Report
January 2023

New Client Appointments.....51
YTD Monthly Average.....51

Practice Areas

Housing Defense.....3
Civil/Family.....15
Estate Planning.....27
Miscellaneous Legal Advice.....6

Service By County

Montgomery.....41
Greene.....2
Miami.....3
Warren.....1
Butler.....1
Allen.....1
Hamilton.....1
Pickaway.....1

Total Counties Served.....31



Transportation Report | December 2022/January 2023

Monthly Appointments

January 2023

*Client Appointments	160
2023 Monthly Average	160
YTD Total	160
2022 Total	1,049
2022 Monthly Average	87

Monthly Cost

December 2022

RTA/UBER/Valley	\$5,326.82
2022 Monthly Average	\$2,789.24
YTD Total	\$33,470.92
2022 Total	\$33,470.92
2022 Monthly Average	\$2,789.24

December Trip Totals**

• RTA/UBER	60
• RTA/Paratransit	121
• Valley Transport	47
• RTA Bus Pass (Medical)	2
• RTA Bus Pass (Grocery)	5

*Appointments are generally round trip.

**One-way trips

Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission

Soldier and Sailors Report

January 2023

1. Data Statistics

a. Financial Assistance:

i. *January 2023*

1. Approved 37/\$42,658.14
2. Shelter: 11/\$14,297.77
3. Utilities: 25/\$6,315.37
4. Disapprovals: 9
 - a. 8 – No emergency
 - b. 1 – Does not meet requirements

ii. *December 2022*

1. Approved 37/\$26,084.89
2. Shelter: 13/\$10,248.47
3. Utilities: 20/\$4,288.42
4. Disapprovals: 14
 - a. 9 – No emergency
 - b. 4 – Incomplete
 - c. 1 – Does not meet requirements

iii. *November 2022*

1. Approved 51/\$22,408.51
2. Shelter: 9/\$9,217.50
3. Utilities: 9/\$2,258.60
4. Disapprovals: 15
 - a. 8 - Incomplete application
 - b. 7 - No financial emergency/no need demonstrated
 - c. 1 – Assistance Overturned/Approved

b. Dental: 3/\$3,462.00

- i. 2022 YTD: 10/\$6,584.00

c. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 1/\$1000

- i. 2022 YTD: 27/\$31,755.61

d. COVID: 0/\$0

- i. 2022 YTD: 3/\$3,000