

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
January 13, 2022
1:00PM– 3:00PM

777 North Meridian Street, 4th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Commission Meeting Minutes

General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Steuterman, COL DeRue, Mr. Coley, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Caldwell,
- **Absent for meeting:** Senator Mrvan, Representative Pack, Representative Zent, Mr. Kendall and Representative Tomes

Old Business:

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Leirer motion to approve, Caldwell second Motion passes 7-0.

Dennis Wimer, IDVA and IDVA Division Reports

- Joy from IVH moving on after little more than 1 year, 2 years interim. Working towards positive direction with continuous improvement. COVID outbreaks under control
- Mr. Leirer wants to see reports on new MFRF format for IVH and IVC.
- Cemetery - Slowing down in winter months, meeting with National Cemetery regarding \$7.5 million grant beginning on December 14. New roof needed around \$250,000
- Director Wimer to send out email regarding wreaths when they are placed.
- SAA hired a new staff member that does outreach to new businesses. This is new for SAA, previously it was a contractor.
- Chairman Steuterman requests head of SAA to conduct report to Commission periodically.
- License Plates, CVSO's, Tuition Fee/Exempt – IDVA partnering with Fed VA regarding the Virtual Veterans Experience and explains program rollout.
- Chairman Steuterman suggest commission members to sit down with a CVSO to learn about how their day is conducted.

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Gabrielle Owens, Military Family Relief Fund Update

- Significant increases in MFRF applications once the program was adjusted. The online application contributed to this. Walk-ins have increased.
- Day to day MFRF application is heavy on referrals to include free financial counseling, DWD, IN Legal Services and other partners. Per veteran, brochure that was sent saved their life.
- Dir. Wimer states the April meeting commission will review how OHP program rolled out and how it should move forward.
- Mr. Coley discussed the MFRF program using Salesforce and benefits gained from it. Also, addressed concern on proper usage of taxpayer dollars.

Joe Devito, MFRF Outreach Plan Update

- MFRF increase in application averages at 30 per month, then over 80 per month after the ads and media exposure. Twenty percent increase once the recent campaign started.
- Website impressions are increasing, now moving onto Facebook to second part of campaign. Social media across the board has had an uptake except for LinkedIn. Which has still gone from 50 to 300.
- Event sponsorship program has shown good success. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans has been a large focus with CVSO's, 22 approved applications out of 25. IDVA had a vendor table at 18 of them and a total of \$11,000 has been awarded.
- Chairman Steuterman expressed the how to get Vietnam era veterans to reach out regarding their experience and how important it is to reach out to them. The program has now visited about 30 counties. The funding is currently sufficient.
- Mr. Leirer asks about IDVA's other divisions and that the same focus is considered towards them as the CVSO's regarding the events and programs. Also, states that Jill Fewell said she conducted 60+ events in 2021.
- CVSO's will be challenged to host an event in 2022 regarding the Vietnam Veterans.
- Dir. Wimer expresses the difference between the programs and dollars spent. Revenues projected for 2022 fiscal year is \$2.2 million from license plates, which should reflect the same amount of funds available for MFRF. However, staffing will become an issue to process the applications. The need to focus on money out to veterans surpass any amount spent on marketing.
- Chairman Steuterman thanks Lynn from MFRF and expressed her desire to have her at the table for all commission meetings.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Grants for Veterans' Services

- Eleven awards have been granted.
- Each quarter there is mini compliance monitoring.
- Intecare-Working with them to rectify issues.
- Following up with other organizations with \$0 grants.

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- Quarterly meetings with all grant recipients.
- Tony Weber's job is Grant and Legislative Administrator.
- Working through process to amend rule hearing at 777 on January 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM and is open to the public.

Public Comment

No public comment

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- None

Dennis Wimer, Indiana Veteran Memorial Cemetery Expansion Grant

- Road Improvements, Front Gate, Drainage, Internments all conducted by design firm that will then go to VA for approval and finally out for bid.
- Staffing and materials will be a challenge and IDVA is covering extra 30% costs associated with it. It will need to be done by September.
- Chairman Steuterman expressed concern over level headstones and importance of caring for those that have passed. Level headstones will be addressed with the new system under raise and realign. All of which is complete and paid along with adequate equipment.
- Budget was increased for cemetery which was appropriate and IDVA is spending a bit over. Cemetery is purchasing what is needed and provided a time scale on the life of the equipment.

Richard Leirer, Legislative Update

- Most goals for Big 4 will not come to fruition.
- Income reduction for property tax.
- Tuition & Fee exempt considered for spouse of 100% disabled vet.
- Dir. Wimer discusses evaluation of impact of adjustment of tuition and fee exempt program and how IDVA is working with CHE/MPH to review data and provide analysis.
- American Legion is pushing free admission to state parks for veterans, which has not made it onto bill. National Parks currently offers free admission to veterans.
- VFW Service Office is now fully staffed and is getting positive reviews.

Chairman Steuterman, Update

- Today is last meeting as Chairwoman after 5 years
- There is currently no replacement, but mostly likely by next meeting.

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
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- Asked to represent Congressional District for Commission for Higher Education.

Adjournment 2:41

Next meetings

Date

April 12, 2022

July 12, 2022

October 11, 2022

Location

Richmond, Indiana

Madison, IN/Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Indiana Veterans Home

All times are 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Thursday, January 13, 2022
12:30 P.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Kevin Coley, Dennis Wimer, COL Eric DeRue and Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-8798
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-0379
 - Lierer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with the Department of Workforce Development and a financial counselor.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 2-1.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-006
 - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY22-007
 - Coley offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Meeting Adjourned: 12:45 P.M.

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, January 21, 2022
9:00 A.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Eric Derue and Kevin Coley

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-6642
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-008
 - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 A.M.

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
10:00 A.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Kevin Coley, Dennis Wimer, COL DeRue and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Rick Caldwell

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-2554
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non Final Order

- MFRFFY21-014
 - DeRue offered a Motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:12 A.M.

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, February 18, 2022
3:00 P.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Kevin Coley, Dennis Wimer and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Eric Derue and Rick Caldwell

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-5596
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:05 P.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-1421



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission

March 7, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Webex call-in Commission Meeting Minutes

General Information

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Coley and COL Eric DeRue
- **Absent for meeting:** Sen Mrvan, Sen Tomes, and Rep Zent, Rep Pack, and Mr. Kendall

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeals

- Scholar ID 10873093
 - Petitioner attended the hearing telephonically.
 - Petitioner presented his case.
 - IDVA presented IDVA's case.
 - Wimer motion to deny appeal, Coley seconds.
 - Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 10:20 A.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Monday, March 7, 2022
10:15 A.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, COL Eric DeRue, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-7131
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Referral to speak to a CVSO or a State Service Officer.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-2016
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Referral to speak to a CVSO or a State Service Officer.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-7540
 - Caldwell offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 A.M.

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Tuesday March 15, 2022
2:00 P.M.
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, COL Eric DeRue and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY22-9052
 - Lierer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday March 30, 2022
3:00 P.M.
Webex call-in

**Indiana National Guard
Stout Field-Headquarters Building
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241**

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, COL Eric DeRue and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-009
 - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY22-010
 - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-6029
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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- MFRFFY22-4732
 - DeRue offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-5003
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and the Department of Workforce Development.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY22-7347
 - Lierer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:40 P.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
April 12, 2022
1:00PM– 3:00PM

Richmond City Hall
50 North 5th Street
Richmond, IN 47374

General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, COL DeRue, Mr. Coley, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, and Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. Kendall (in part)
- **Absent for meeting:** Representative Pack, Representative Zent, and Representative Tomes

Old Business:

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Leirer motion to approve, Caldwell second Motion passes 7-0.

Mayor Snow, Welcome to Richmond

- The morning started with a tour of Cronin Toyota. It was followed by a tour of the Veterans Memorial Park.

Review of Veteran Services/Programming in Richmond, Indiana

- Wayne County Veteran Service Officer spoke about working in Wayne County. CVSO office is well supported in the community. Cronin Toyota set up a Veterans Assistance Fund. The CVSO along with the DAV set up a transportation network to transport veterans to appointments at the VA health facilities. This transportation is provided by volunteers.
- Director Wimer discussed the purpose of the Commission and IDVA.

Mike Thompson, Military Family Relief Fund Update

- Quarter two consisted of the regular MFRF and a secondary MFRF program during the holidays called Operation Holiday Program.
- 732 MFRF applications received in 2021.

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Mr. Coley discussed the MFRF Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters.
- The Commissioners on the Taskforce review over \$2,500 requests, income waivers, and Other Than Honorable discharges, and non-final orders from the administrative law judge.
- 45 applications approved by taskforce, 16 were over the \$2,500 amount.

Joe Devito, MFRF Outreach Plan Update

- Last quarter we are into text messaging. It is an opportunity to communicate with the veteran community. We had close to 20,000 pieces of data and that was scrubbed to get the info we needed. It is all now in one spot. Interactive system for veterans to find info.
- Text the word VET to IDVA, this gives us the opportunity to get information out to you.
- One of the things we are targeting is nonprofits that help veterans.
- We want to direct veterans to their CVSO's.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Grants for Veterans' Services

- Eleven awards have been granted.
- \$484,000.00 has been granted out. Indiana code sets out what grants can be used for – homelessness, therapeutic services, finding employment, legal services, guardianships.
- Grant program runs on the state fiscal year. We are currently in quarter 3. Reach veteran services as already expended all of their funds. There are 2 that have not expended any of their funds. IDVA has reached out to meet with them to see what we can do to help them spend those funds.
- GVS program is governed by the Indiana Code and we identified some changes we would like to implement. The rule is currently with the Attorney General's office. As soon as we hear back from them, we will update the commissioners. We are looking to put out on Monday the solicitation for the 2023 GVS program. First year we had 20 applications. The next time we had about 80 applications. We anticipate 100 applications for this cycle. Trying to get the maximum exposure to get as many applications as possible.

Public Comment

- Veteran – recent experience at Reid Hospital. Issue with the pharmacy no longer accepting VA insurance.
- Veteran – problem with CPAP. Received a letter from the VA. It could be another 6 months before it is resolved.
- Veteran – trying to get wife registered with CHAMP. Saying it will take a year.

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New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- Appeal for Ms. Wrigley- adoption after she was 18. Did not pursue because of COVID concerns. They have health issues that prevented them from wanting the in home visits. After the hearing, IDVA reached out to him to see if he had any evidence of telephone calls with the attorney the petitioner was working with. Earliest phone calls were made 22 days before she was 18 years old.
- Asking the commission if they want to hear it again.
- Gullion recommends to hear the case again.
- DeRue Motion to deny an additional hearing, Caldwell seconds
- Motion passes 4-2.

Joe Devito, Annual Report

- If you go to the website – commissioners page – you can learn about the report and our commissioners.
- Able to get the report down to 20 pages. Consistency on what is being reported year to year.

Richard Leirer, Legislative Update

- 25 bills written and authored but the Senate had 7, and none of them made it to a committee hearing.
- The house had 18 bills, 2 had a hearing and made it to the Senate, where they died.
- It's a non-budget year and not much happens.

Tim Dyke, Training and Services Update

- Total of 1412 benefits since January – 224 veteran license plates (does not include branch plates), 111 tax, Tuition from last August – just under 1,000, 45 Hunting and Fishing.
- 87 county service officers accredited.
- Working with an organization to make sure we are training the CVSO's as well as we can.
- Have a memorandum of agreement with the VFW to have cross accreditation with IDVA. This allows IDVA to look into the veteran benefit system.
- 2 vacancies in the DSO positions. Trying to get them filled before the state hiring freeze.
- CVSO conference will be held in person again this year.

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Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Claims management system we use was purchased by another company. 86 counties are currently using the system we now have over 157,000 veterans in the system.

Mike Thompson, Division Reports

- Joe Devito went over the Division Reports while discussing the Annual Report.

Adjournment 3:00

Next meetings

Date

July 12, 2022

October 11, 2022

January 11, 2023

April 12, 2023

Location

Madison, IN/Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Indiana Veterans Home

Indiana Veterans' Center

TBD

All times are 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Tuesday April 12, 2022
3:00 PM

Richmond City Hall
50 North 5th Street
Richmond, IN 47374

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley, COL Eric DeRue and Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-3670
 - Leirer offered a Motion to Approve MFRF award in an amount in excess of \$2,500. Recommend applicant's engagement with a financial counselor and Department of Workforce Development.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-0118
 - Caldwell offered a Motion to Approve MFRF award in an amount in excess of \$2,500.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of Income Waiver

- MFRFFY22-8278
 - Leirer offered a motion to deny the request for an income waiver. Recommend applicant's engagement with a financial counselor.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned: 3:30PM

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, April 29, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign War
12863 Old Meridian Street
Carmel, IN 46032
or
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and COL DeRue
- **Not Present:** Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-8787
 - Caldwell offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor, the Department of Workforce Development and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-0014
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 A.M.

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Thursday May 12, 2022
11:30 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** COL Eric DeRue, Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-9023
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-0143
 - DeRue offered a Motion to table packet until more information is gathered.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 P.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday May 20, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** COL Cathy Eaken, , Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Rick Caldwell

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-011
 - Wimer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-0143
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and Department of Workforce Development.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20A.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Monday, June 6, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Indiana National Guard
Stout Field-Headquarters Building
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** COL Cathy Eaken, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and Rick Caldwell
- **Not Present:** Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-012
 - Wimer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-7804
 - Eaken offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20A.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign War
12863 Old Meridian Street
Carmel, IN 46032
Or
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley, COL Cathy Eaken

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-2770
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-6655
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA..
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY22-9846
 - Lierer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 A.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, June 24, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign War
12863 Old Meridian Street
Carmel, IN 46032
Or
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY22-8252
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and Department of Workforce Development.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY22-5740
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and Department of Workforce Development
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 A.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission
Tuesday July 12, 2022
1:00-3:00 PM

Madison City Hall
101 West Main Street
Madison, IN 47250

Meeting Minutes

General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, and Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. Kendall
- **Absent for meeting:** COL DeRue, Mr. Coley, Representative Pack, Representative Zent, and Representative Tomes

Old Business:

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Leirer motion to approve, Caldwell second Motion passes 5-0.

- The morning started with a tour of the Indiana Veterans Cemetery . It was followed by a tour of the Madison Historical Museum.

Mayor Courtney, Welcome to Madison

- Became Mayor in 2018. Attending veteran events is one of the honors of the job.

Review of Veteran Services/Programming in Madison, Indiana

- Jefferson County Veteran Service Officer spoke about working in Jefferson County. CVSO office is well supported in the community. Continues to grow. Went from three DAV vehicles to support veterans to five. Office is in charge of the veteran banner program in the city.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Mike Thompson, Military Family Relief Fund Update

- We are one year out from our implementation of changes made to the MFRF.
- Quarter three is usually slower. 331 applications submitted, 99 approved, 75 denied and 157 closed out.
- We served 64 counties this quarter, an increase from last quarter.
- Removing the stipulation of the connection to military service has allowed us to have more approvals.

Joe Devito and Hirons, MFRF Outreach Plan Update

- We are allowed to use 10% of the funds for outreach. First FY we have had access to these funds.
- Hirons looks at campaign objectives and develops a strategy.
- Looks at KPI's to determine success.
- Using a multi media approach. Layered in paid social media to reach the audience.
- Measured web traffic to see how well the campaign is doing.
- Will run a recap to see what tactics work and pull out the ones that under perform.
- Radio and Facebook play a large role.
- Looking at partnering with Roudebush to do TV ads.
- New MFRF Back to School Program started. It is \$500.00 per child, living with the veteran. Runs from July 1, 2022 – September 15, 2022.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Grants for Veterans' Services

- There are two grantees showing a zero percent reimbursement. In regular contact with them. They are spending funds but are struggling with the reporting aspect of it.
- GVS rule has been completely approved. Former rule said grants had to be 12 months. We now have flexibility with how long.
- Awarded FY23 grants. There are 14 grantees. They encompass all areas of the state.
- \$600,000.00 awarded

Public Comment

- Jefferson County Veterans Council - Is there a way that MFRF can be adjusted to help pay funeral costs for those who are financially unable to afford it?

New Business

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- Scholar ID
 - Petitioner attended the hearing telephonically.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Petitioner presented her case.
- IDVA presented IDVA's case.
- Leirer motion to approve appeal, Caldwell seconds.
- Motion passed 4-1

Richard Leirer, Legislative Update

- The Big 4 veterans organizations are still finalizing priorities.
- Have four or five to take to the legislature this year.
- There are other organizations putting out their legislative agendas. Encourage you to take a look at them.

Mike Thompson, Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery Update

- Gave a brief history of the cemetery and noted some of the distinguished Veterans honored or buried there.

Mike Thompson, Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery Update

- The cemetery is state owned and operated.
- Gave a brief history of the cemetery and noted some of the distinguished Veterans honored or buried there.

Mike Thompson, Division Reports

- We have a new format for the reports that is consistent among the divisions.
- IVC – 3rd Quarter there were 47 interments.
- IVH – New superintendent started. Her name is Amy Zell.

Adjournment 2:40pm

Next meetings

Date

October 18, 2022
January 11, 2023
April 12, 2023
July 12, 2023

Location

Indiana Veterans Home
Indiana Veterans' Center
TBD
TBD

All times are 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
2:30 P.M.

Indiana National Guard
Stout Field Headquarters Building
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Or
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Kevin Coley and COL Eric DeRue
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken. Richard Leirer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of Back to School Requests

- MFRFFY23BTS- 2855
 - Wimer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-5649
 - DeRue offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-3554
 - DeRue offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-4229
 - Wimer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY23BTS-1563
 - DeRue offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0
- MFRFFY23BTS-6029
 - Caldwell offered a motion to approve the request.
 - DeRue seconds. \
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY23-2045
 - DeRue offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-8096
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Anthony Weber, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY22-014
 - DeRue offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY22-013
 - Caldwell offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Wimer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 P.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, July 29, 2022
2:30 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Or
Webex call-in

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Richard Leirer, Kevin Coley and COL Cathy Eaken
- **Not Present:** Dennis Wimer

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of Back to School Requests

- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0
- MFRFFY23BTS-6029
 - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-8695
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 2-1.
- MFRFFY23-3234
 - Coley offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY23-001
 - Coley offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 P.M.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, August 31, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

New Business

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY23BTS-
 - Leirer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-8868
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of Income Waiver

- MFRFFY22-3678
 - DeRue offered a motion to deny the request for an income waiver
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 2:20 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Thursday, September 22, 2022
1:30 P.M.

Indiana National Guard
Stout Field Headquarters Building
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Mike Thompson, COL Cathy Eaken
- **Not Present:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Kevin Coley

New Business

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY23BTS-6939, 5410, 1968, 6685, 0948
 - Caldwell offered a motion to review BTS packets as one vote.
 - Eaken seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY23BTS-010
 - Caldwell offered a motion to deny appeal.
 - Eaken seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-7191
 - Eaken offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and DWD.
 - Thompson seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-9491
 - Eaken offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 1:45 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, October 5, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken

New Business

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY23BTS-5767, 8608, 6670
 - Leirer offered a motion to review BTS packets as one vote. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and DWD.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-7775
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a financial counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-4336
 - Coley offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 10:00 a.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, October 14, 2022
2:30 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, COL Eric DeRue and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Rick Caldwell and Richard Leirer

New Business

Anthony Weber, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-7329
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - DeRue seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-7993
 - DeRue offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 2:45pm

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
1:00-3:00 PM

Indiana Veterans' Home
3851 N. River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Meeting Minutes

General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Wasson, Representative Pack, COL Cathy Eaken and Mr. Coley
- **Absent for meeting:** Representative Zent and Representative Tomes

Old Business:

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Wimer motion to approve, Coley second Motion passes 7-0.

- The morning started with a tour of the Indiana Veterans Home. It was followed by lunch.

Amy Gibson, Indiana Veterans Home Update

- She has been the Superintendent of IVH since July of 2022.
- Currently have beds available. There are 212 total and 111 are full.
- Independent care and short term care.
- Library grand opening is on Friday October 21, 2022.
- With COVID they are working very hard to be transparent about protocols put in place.
- Taking measures to keep everyone safe.
- There are several employment opportunities currently available at IVH.

Mark Friel, Indiana Veterans Home - Cemetery Update

- Cemetery has been part of the campus since 1896.
- 2989 burials on site.
- There have been 12 burial YTD. Burials are for veterans and their spouses who resided at the home.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Two grants have been submitted. The first proposal is for headstone raise and realignment. The second proposal is for expansion.

Review of Veteran Services/Programming in and around Lafayette, Indiana

- Jennifer Shook, Development Director of LTCH, homeless services.
- They are one of our GVS grant recipients.
- Work with veterans and their families who are at risk for homelessness or are already homeless.
- Service several counties in and around Tippecanoe County.
- Funded through federal and state.
- Work with other partners to help veterans get quickly connected to services they need.
- Will host a Veterans Stand Down on November 5.

Mike Thompson, Kevin Coley, Military Family Relief Fund Update

- These are the 4th quarter stats- 331 applications submitted, 99 approved, 75 denied and 157 closed out. Total awarded is \$138,208.62
- Housing is the biggest amount paid out to veterans.
- MFRF Taskforce has held 8 meetings since the last commission meeting. Meetings are scheduled for every Friday.

Gabrielle J. Owens, MFRF Rule Update

- Rule 4 – Recommending a deletion of the sentence that talks about the department can only consider an application if it is complete. It is not sensible to the operation of the program or the veteran. No need to complete the form if it can be determined they are not eligible from what they have already turned in.
- Rule 5 – Application Procedures. Strike the part where it says the veteran needed to be involved in a conflict or war. Suggesting language that says if currently serving or has leave and earning statements, those could be used as proof.
- Section 2 – currently says the department will reach out to the veteran in writing. From an administrative process it slows down the application.
- Any guidelines the commission wants to put in the rules – should there be a hard limit?
- Section about short duration programs. We have OHP and BTS. Department will determined based on available money and veteran need.
- Three Recommendations
 - Recommendation one – Any IDVA staff member that applies for the MFRF program has to go through the commission

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Recommendation two – How do we as the department manage the applicants that will go over \$2,500 when they can apply year after year for the short term programs?
- Recommendation three – Those who have received regular MFRF money. Veterans who have applied and received \$2,500 and those who have applied six or seven times. Still have the taskforce review those.
- Leirer motion to approve the three recommendations, Caldwell seconds. Motion passed 7-0

Dennis A. Wimer, MFRF Outreach Update

- Can spend up to 10% of MFRF money on outreach.
- Doubled the expenditures.
- In the first quarter of this year we are at the \$600,000 mark.
- WINVETS is going to have their next annual meeting at Clifty Falls.

Gabrielle J. Owens, Grants for Veterans' Services

- The end of FY22, close out of the previous fiscal year.
- Some of the grantees did not spend 100% of their money. That money was pulled over to the current fiscal year. Currently 14 grantees were awarded \$680,000 from the previous unspent funds.
- There was a gap where there were no submissions from our grantees. All were received by the June 30th deadline.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

New Business

Gabrielle J. Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- None at this time.

Richard Leirer, Legislative Update

- The Big 4 veterans organizations have four priorities.
 - First Bill – partner with BMV – would like to be able to check a box when you get your plate that gives permission to share your information with DVA.
 - Second Bill – Agency Bill 1017 – There are a couple of key components 1) added IVH as a state cemetery 2) getting rid of the wording for SAA saying all employees have to be veterans.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Third Bill – Can ask for \$2500 amount for MFRF. Take out the sentence that says “one time”.
- Fourth Bill – Any excess funds go to the MFRF Trust Fund. It is up to around \$11M. Would like to set a base around 1M to 2M. Want to put the funds back out into the community.

Anthony Weber, Semi quincentennial of the United States Update

- Indiana General Assembly passed the code referencing the Semi quincentennial in 2026.
- Commission is being led by the DAR and SAR, Indiana Historical Society, VFW, IWM, DVA and others.
- IDVA will provide support according to the code.
- Possible events are a celebration at the IWM and a torch run.
- IDVA has asked for money in the budget from this year legislators.

Mike Thompson, Division Reports

- Reports were sent out in the pre-reads.

Adjournment 3:07pm

Next meetings

Date

January 11, 2023

April 12, 2023

July 12, 2023

Location

Indiana Veterans' Center

TBD

TBD

All times are 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
12863 Old Meridian Street
Carmel, IN
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Rick Caldwell, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-1468
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Officer.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-4841
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-8167
 - Coley offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Officer.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-
 - Wimer offered a Motion to approve Veterans request to dismiss.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non Final Order

- MFRFFY23-012

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY23-4271
 - Wimer offered a Motion to uphold ALJ Decision
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 2:30pm

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Rick Caldwell, Kevin Coley and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-8524
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD and a Financial Counselor.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY23-3554
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-7820
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Coley seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment: 2:30

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
1:00 P.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
12863 Old Meridian Street
Carmel, IN
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Rick Caldwell and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken and Kevin Coley

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- Leirer offered a Motion to approve all packets as one.
- Wimer seconds.
- Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-1263
 - Wimer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-3144
 - Leirer offered a Motion to accept findings from IDVA.
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non Final Order

- MFRFFY23-0011
 - Leirer offered a Motion to uphold ALJ Decision. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD and a State or County Veteran Officer
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY23-4271
 - Leirer offered a Motion to uphold ALJ Decision
 - Caldwell seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 1:30pm

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Rick Caldwell, COL Cathy Eaken and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley

New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- Leirer offered a Motion to approve all packets as one.
- Wimer seconds.
- Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Requesting in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY23-9485
 - Wimer offered a Motion to uphold ALJ Decision. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Officer
 - Leirer seconds.
 - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 2:30pm

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters
Friday, December 30, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Taskforce Meeting Minutes

General Information

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Rick Caldwell and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley, COL Cathy Eaken

New Business:

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- Leirer offered a Motion to approve all packets as one.
- Caldwell seconds.
- Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Adjournment 2:30pm