

# Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

## STATE FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017**

STATE FAIR, SUNDAY AUGUST 13, 2017  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS

**CALL TO ORDER:** Harry Sawyer

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**WELCOME:** Harry Sawyer

- Attendance -

Springfield: Patrick L. Noel, Robert R. Tyler, Rex K. Berry, Alfred C. Reynolds, Gary Jenson, Col. Richard V. Smith, Dave MacDonna, Tom D. Brandt, John Haines, Bob Day, Ray Serati, Ryan Zavala, Richard Shea Jr., Crystal Blakeman, Eric Huckaby, Gwen Diehl, Harry Sawyer, Dennis Morris

Chicago: Sam Miller, Evelyn Couture, Jerry Fields, Nicole Mandeville, Anthony Vaughn

### ORDER of MEETING

- **TREASURERS REPORT** JOHN HAINES
  - Current Balance is \$10,200.01
  - Received a donation of \$1,000 from the American Legion
  - Donation checks need to be made out to State Fair Veterans' Day *(Need to Verify!)*
- **MEMORIAL SERVICE** NICOLE MANDEVILLE, PROGRAM MANAGER
  - Four new Gold Star Families
  - Families asked for more support
  - Used the pavilion last year
  - Last year's identifying pins were provided by the State Fair Committee Funds
- **BENEFITS EXPO** ANTHONY VAUGHN, MANAGER OF FIELD SERVICES
  - The Shed was good location – would love to stay there.
    - Dennis Morris said May be able to get the tennis courts next to the Shed where the golf cars were located; they are considering putting a door in the end of The Shed and could put up a tent
  - Luncheon service was a small hic-up
  - Notices will go out May/June 2017

- JROTC DRILL TEAMS RENYSHA BROWN, CHIEF OF STAFF
  - Planning to begin meeting with the JROTC Command – list has been established of schools with programs
  - Trophies and monetary prizes were provided by the Organizations last year
- KIDS CORNER CRYSTAL BLAKEMAN, AMVETS
  - Bounce House and Face Painting was good, games no so much
  - Crystal may be at AMVETS National Convention during the time of the State Fair
  - Department Commander will be at Convention, but may be able to participate in the DuQuoin State Fair Activities
- OFFICIAL PROGRAM HARRY SAWYER, RENYSHA BROWN, GWEN DIEHL
  - Diehl Reviewed the official program agenda from last year
- VETERAN'S LUNCH GWEN DIEHL
  - The 2016 menu :
    - Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Chicken Breast Sandwiches
    - Cole Slaw and Potato Salad or Potato Chips
    - Hot Dogs with Potato Chips and Baked Beans or Cole Slaw
    - Beverages were Tea and Lemonade (for an additional cost)
  - Luncheon cost: \$8,951.56
  - Comment was made that having both tea and lemonade was a good option
  - A motion was made to serve the same menu as last year, but Diehl suggested waiting until the menu selection and costs are established to make a motion.
  - USAA Donated \$10,000 to the State Fair for the Veterans' Luncheon (because they have a FEIN Number)
    - Gary Jensen said he talked to USAA – they wanted to be contacted as early as possible for the 2017 State Fair
- MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT HARRY SAWYER, RENYSHA BROWN, GWEN DIEHL
  - Many favorable comments about the Harmony Sisters who performed last year.
  - The State Fair normally has a number of musical entertainment acts and we may be able to make a selection when they acts are known later in the year.
- PARADE AMERICAN LEGION, MARTY CONATSER & STAFF
  - Gary Jensen (American Legion) presented copies of the Letter of Instruction (LOI) prepared by the American Legion to all attendees.
    - The LOI establishes the order of march for participating organizations
    - Suggests that the Organization that organizes the Parade be the leading element.
    - Recommends that a different organization be in charge of the parade each year.
  - Doesn't believe he will be available to take charge of the Du Quoin State Fair Parade.
- STATIC DISPLAYS MARK PATTERSON
  - Military Vehicles
  - Fallen Heroes Traveling Wall
  - Other Suggestions?

- ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

DENNIS MORRIS

- Same locations – Lincoln Stage and The Shed
- Need to work out where meal will be served (Poe's Catering has the contract again this year)
- They will bring in bleachers again.
- **Get the dimensions of the Competition Fields to Dennis** and he will see if they can place the fields end to end on the street - - - will have to have a way for people to get across the street without cutting across the competition field.

Harry Sawyer said the goal is to replicate the Springfield State Fair down at DuQuoin

- **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Dave MacDonna:
  - 2/05 – Chicago Four Chaplains – Hines Hospital 1:00pm
  - 2/22 – Chicago Tribute to African American Veterans at Noon @ JRTC
  - 2/28 – Desert Storm Remembrance at 11:30am @ Capitol Rotunda
- Next Meeting – TBD (about 30 days)
- Harry requested all attendees check in with Ryan and Crystal before departing to insure their names and contact info is captured legibly.

**ADJOURNMENT 12:10pm**