

ICBYR Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Summary
April 8, 2020
Via Conference Call

Attendance: Jim Rostberg, Dave Oslund, Kathy Rostberg, Carol Ann Smith, and Gail Genin
(Gail entered call @ 4:52)
Guest: Dan Meyer

Agenda:

1. Veterans Issues
2. Investment Coordinator Report
3. Fundraising Chair Report
4. 2019 Annual Report
5. Scholarship Committee Update
6. Bylaws
7. April Task Force Meeting
8. YYROC Updates
9. Open Agenda

Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by chair Jim Rostberg.

1A - CVSO request to assist veteran with March rent \$1150 and a gift card for essentials. Board approved over email to pay rent and give a \$200 gift card. Done.
Dan stated the veteran gave him a very emotional thank you.

1B - SFC Robin requesting assistance for twenty 850th soldiers. Request is for gas cards and food gift cards. Board approved via email. \$100 Walmart gift cards and \$50 holiday gas cards for 18 soldiers and \$200 Walmart gift card and holiday gas gift cards for 2 soldiers. Done.

Addendum: Two soldiers do not live near a holiday gas station, so they were given an extra \$50 Walmart gift card instead.

1C- CVSO request assistance for a veteran that just obtained new housing under a voucher. Requesting \$206 to connexus energy for connection fee and electricity bill. Board approved via email. Done. Dan stated he received a thank you note from the veteran.

1D- CVSO requests assistance for a veteran who just was discharged from inpatient mental health program. Requesting April rent in the amount of \$900. Approved by board via email. Done. Dan stated he received a thank you note from the veteran.

1E- CVSO requests assistance for wife of deployed soldier. Water softener not functioning and there is sand in the water. Estimate done by Bill's Well Drilling. The exact need is still under

assessment. Will probably need a new water softener with a sand filter installed. CVSO to follow up and get back to ICBYR executive board.

1F- Dan stated that the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has established a Disaster Relief Grant for up to \$1000 if there are financial concerns due to COVID 19. The CVSO office can assist with the application and the letter explaining the reason for the need.

1G- The MDVA has also established a COVID-19 special needs grant if there are financial concerns up to \$3000. Minnesota has been given \$6.2 million from the federal government for this special-needs grant. Veterans may access this grant even if they have been awarded a previous special-needs grant.

Dan stated that typically there are about 250 applications a month for special-needs grants. There have been 900 applications since this special funding went into effect.

Dan also stated that the policy about taking LSS CORE classes for financial counseling will not be required if the grant is only because of a COVID-19 related issue.

It was discussed that veterans should apply for this COVID-19 special-needs grant before requesting funds from ICBYR.

1H- Dan stated he received an email from his military unit stating that Walmart, Amazon and the VA are all hiring veterans

1I- Dan is a member of the Isanti County emergency operation center during this COVID-19 crisis and working to partner with the entire community.

2A- Gail states that the most recent investment report has not yet been received.

3A- Email sent to task force on March 25 that dinner dance date changed to June 20. Newspapers need to be notified. Further discussion given COVID-19 restrictions. We will wait until mid-May to decide if we need to cancel the dinner dance. Orders from the State are to continue social distancing through May 4. The AFRCC is closed through the end of May.

4A- The annual report is nearly finished. It will not be able to be printed until businesses re-open.

5A- Nine scholarship applications sent to committee. Scoring of the applications begins this week. Plan is to announce winners at April Task Force meeting. Discussed ways to announce winners when there will not be an in person meeting.

6A- Chisago Lakes BTYR bylaws were re-viewed by each board member prior to the meeting. Will table this agenda item until we can have an in person meeting that focuses just on the bylaws.

7A- AFRCC closed through May 30. After discussion it was decided the April Task Force meeting will be held over a conference call. Task Force members will be sent information on how to call in to attend the meeting. The agenda will focus on veterans issues, the dinner dance, the raffle, the investment coordinator report, and scholarships. A brief update will also be emailed out with the agenda.

8A- MN BYR is holding Virtual coffee talks weekly, Wednesdays from 9 AM to 10 AM, beginning April 1. Jim R called in for today's meeting.

8B- Spring joining community forces conference at camp Ripley changed to a WebEx on May 1 from 12:00 noon through 2 PM. WebEx connection 651-268-8000
Meeting number 996 315 901

8C- Military mental health coalition conference scheduled for May has been rescheduled for August 13 and 14.

8D- Army emergency relief fund for reservists and guardsmen. Zero interest loans.
www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19/

8E- Fall joining community forces conference October 1-2.

8F- Military appreciation day at the Minnesota state fair September 1.

8G- To reach out to the National Guard family assistance centers for needs call 1-888-234-1274.

Note: The family assistance specialist position at the Cambridge AFRCC FAC is currently vacant, but the phone is being answered by Yolonda Von Itter who will assist with needs.

8H- Gold star family weekend June 5-7 at Camp Bliss.

8I- Rachel sent a COVID-19 resource guide for veterans, service members and families. If you would like that forwarded to you please contact Carol Ann through the ICBYR Gmail and she will send it to you.

9A- For COVID-19 Resources visit
MN.gov/COVID19

9B- Upcoming executive board meetings. Isanti County Government Center has canceled our room reservations for April and May.

9C- Chisago Lakes BTYR Brews for warriors fundraiser is cancelled.

9D- Senior resource fairs in Braham and Cambridge canceled for April 6 and 23 respectively.

9E- Mental health first aid for veterans course held March 13 was attended by Carol Ann. It was just excellent.

Motion to adjourn made by Gail and seconded by Kathy. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Meeting summary respectfully submitted by Carol Ann Smith, ICBYR Secretary