

ICBYR Task Force Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020
Via Conference Call

Attendance: Jim Rostberg, Kathy Rostberg, Carol Ann Smith, Gail Genin, Andrea Dunn, Bruce Danielson, Jim Johnson, Dan Meyer, Dan Jakovich, Sean Wilson, Bob Fredell, Rachel Johnson

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Veterans Issues
4. Secretary Report (Feb)
5. Treasurer Report (Feb & March)
6. Investment Coordinator Report
7. Fundraising Chair Report - Dinner Dance & Raffle
8. Scholarship Committee Update
9. Other Committee Reports as pertinent
10. Old Business-None
11. New Business - Votes on Veterans Issues
12. YYROC Updates
13. Open Agenda

1A - Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by chair Jim Rostberg.

2A- Meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance

Verbal Roll Call for attendance

3A- 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.
Dan stated the veteran gave him a very emotional thank you.

3B- 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. Mailed. Total spent \$2200 plus postage

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

3C- 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. Dan stated he received a thank you note from the veteran.

3D- 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. Dan stated he received a thank you note from the veteran.

3E- 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. A new water softener with a sand filter is needed. Estimate \$1500

3F- 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. You can apply online. The CVSO office can assist with the application and the letter explaining the reason for the need.

3G- 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 there have been multiple applications for both grants. You can submit an application to Dan via email and he can submit it through his portal.

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.

3H- Dan stated he received an email from his military unit stating that Walmart, Amazon and the VA are all hiring veterans

3I- Dan is a member of the Isanti County emergency operation center during this COVID-19 crisis and working to partner with the entire community.

3J- Dan expressed his thanks to ICBYR, stating they are an invaluable asset to the Isanti County CVSO

4A- The Secretary Report for February was approved. There was no March meeting.

5A- Kathy R. gave the Treasurer Report for February and March. \$4541.65 was spent in direct support of veterans in February. Motion to set aside report for audit made by Jim J. and Dan J. Motion approved.

\$4025 was spent in direct support of veterans in March. Motion to set aside report for audit made by Jim J. and Bruce D. Motion approved.

6A- Gail G. states that the most recent investment report showed our total value down 1/3rd at the end of 1st quarter

7A- Email sent to task force on March 25 that dinner dance date changed to June 20. Committee will make a final decision by mid May if dinner dance will be held or canceled. Fortunately no food has been purchased yet. The raffle will continue. If you would like to purchase or sell raffle tickets please contact Jim Rostberg

8A- Bruce D. reports nine scholarship applications sent to committee. Four winners were selected and they were contacted yesterday. Thanks to Dan Meyer and Erin Yerigan for all of their work.

Libby Voss- Senior Ogilvie High School. Will attend St. Cloud State University. Eligible through father in Army and mother in US Public Health Service.

Riley Geyen-Helget - Senior Monticello High School. Will attend Arizona State University. Eligible through step-father in Army National Guard serving at Cambridge AFRCC.

Cassandra Galligan - Kansas State University 2nd Year Graduate Student. Eligible through father in Army National Guard.

Megan Duff- Sophomore at Bethel University. Eligible through father in U.S. Army Reserves.

Certificates and letters will be mailed to each student. Each winner asked to submit a photo to ICBYR for the website. Also given the option to send us a video. High school principals will be notified. The County News Review will be doing an article featuring the winners. They will be invited to a Task Force meeting in the future.

The five applicants who were not selected to receive a scholarship were notified by email yesterday.

10A- No Old Business

11A- Vote on Veterans Needs:

Veteran 3A- \$1150 for rent. Motion made by Jim J. and second by Dan J. Motion approved.

3B- \$2200 for gift cards for 850th HEC soldiers. Motion made by Dan J. and seconded by Jim J. Motion approved.

3C- \$206 for veteran's electric bill. Motion made by Jim J. and seconded by Dan J. Motion approved.

3D- \$900 for veteran's April rent. Motion made by Jim J. and seconded by Dan J. Motion approved.

3E- \$1500 for soldier's water softener. Motion made by Jim J. and seconded by Dan J. Motion approved.

12A- Rachel J. stated that the new Military and Family Readiness position has been posted for the Cambridge Armed Forces Reserve Center. This position is a combination of the family assistance center family specialist and family readiness positions.

12B- MN BYR is holding Virtual Coffee Talks weekly, Wednesdays from 9 AM to 10 AM, beginning April 1. Email the secretary if you want the call in number.

12C- 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

12D- BYR Reintegration Program is currently scheduled for Saturday, May 30. If it cannot be held in person, it will be held online. This includes the units 34NP, 1194 and 2134, post 1 & 2.

Rachel asks the soldiers to self identify their contact information, and then she will notify the community BYR networks if they have a soldier deploying.

12E- Fall joining community forces conference October 1-2.

12F- To reach out to the National Guard family assistance centers for needs call 1-888-234-1274.

13A- For COVID-19 Resources visit [MN.gov/COVID19](https://mn.gov/COVID19)

13B- Mental health first aid for veterans course held March 13 was attended by Carol Ann. It was excellent. It was hosted by the Mind and Body Connection in Anoka. Hope to collaborate with them in the future.

13C- If anyone would like to sew masks for Family Pathways food shelf and domestic violence shelter, please contact them. They will provide the materials.

13D- Jim R stated President Trump announced the three phases to open up the country. Decisions are left to the individual Governors. We will need to decide if we are able to have the May Task Force meeting in person or by telephone. The AFRCC is closed through the end of May.

13E- Bruce D. stated that he is proud to be a part of an organization that does so much good. Pleased that we gave out over \$8000 in direct support over the last two months. Thanks to Gail G. for fundraising leadership and Dan M. for referring those in need.

13F- Bob F. reminds us to be generous to those in need.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim J. and seconded by Dan J. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Carol Ann Smith, ICBYR Secretary

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255