



## MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2015

### **I. Call to Order**

The Military Family Assistance Board (MFAB) Meeting was called to order by David LaCerte, Chairman, at 10:19 a.m. on August 28, 2015, at the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) Administrative Office in Baton Rouge.

### **II. Pledge/Opening Prayer/Roll Call**

The pledge of allegiance was said in unison, and prayer and roll call were conducted by Charmagne Scott. Seven of ten members were present, establishing a quorum.

MFAB Members present: Mr. David LaCerte, Col. Evans Spiceland, Mr. Marshall Hevron, Mr. Brian Jakes, Ms. Laura Lapeze, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Don Howard.

LDVA Staff present: Alfred Leger, Robin Keller, and Charmagne Scott.

Guest present was: Captain Phillip White, LA National Guard

### **III. Remarks**

Secretary LaCerte noted a continual decrease in donations to the MFA Fund, most likely due to the current state of the economy and more organizations added on the income tax forms. He also expressed his appreciation to the board members for their approval on previous travel requests and need-based claims benefiting our National Guardsmen.

### **IV. Approval of June 25, 2014, Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Col. Spiceland, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2014, meeting as distributed, with one minor correction of title from Major to Captain Phillip White. The motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Fund Report**

Mr. Alfred Leger, Third Party Administrator, reviewed the standard handout showing the current fund balance and expenditures as of August 24, 2015. The starting balance (August 15, 2015) was \$621,480.44; donations totaled \$98,804.27; expenditures totaled \$20,037.24, of which \$8,622.58 was paid for two need-based

claims and one Wounded Warrior claim; and \$11,414.66 was paid for LDVA outreach and third-party administration. The current fund balance is \$700,247.44. Both Mr. Howard and Mr. Hevron expressed that the board should explore an expanded use of the MFA Fund over the next one to two years to better serve military families, specifically the post 9/11 veterans, in addition to need-based claims and travel assistance.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Hevron, to approve the fund report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Discussion of Request from LA National Guard (LANG)**

Captain White briefed on the request for travel assistance for the Army National Guard 1023<sup>rd</sup> Vertical Engineer Company (90 personnel) for flights from Fort Bliss, TX to various locations and back to Fort Bliss prior to deployment to Kuwait. The actual travel dates were March 20-23, 2015, and the cost estimate is \$45,375.79. If approved, the funds would be in the form of a reimbursement.

**ACTION:**

A motion was made by Mr. Jakes, seconded by Col. Spiceland, to approve the request of \$45,375.79 from the MFA Fund for travel assistance for the 1023<sup>rd</sup> Vertical Engineer Company as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Other Business**

There was no other business brought before the MFA Board.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Col. Spiceland, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38am.

*Minutes submitted by: Charmagne Scott, AA6*

*\*Copies of all handouts referenced in the minutes are available upon request.*

10/19/2015

**//Minutes approved by the Military Family Assistance Board at its November 10, 2016, meeting.**