



MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2014

I. Call to Order

The Military Family Assistance Board (MFAB) Meeting was called to order by David LaCerte, Chairman, at 10:13 a.m. on May 12, 2014, 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.

MFAB Members present: Mr. David LaCerte, Representative Chris Hazel, LTC Edward Bush, Mr. Mike McNaughton, Ms. Laura Lapeze, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Don Howard.

LDVA Staff present: Al Leger and Charmagne Scott.

III. Remarks

None.

IV. Approval of August 7, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Rep. Hazel, to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2013, meeting as distributed. The motion passed.

V. Fund Report

Mr. Leger, Third Party Administrator, reviewed the standard handout showing the current fund balance and expenditures as of May 6, 2014. The starting balance (August 15, 2013) was \$583,439.31; donations totaled \$82,785.34; expenditures totaled \$17,722.54, of which \$10,160.33 was paid for two need-based claims and \$7,562.21 was paid for LDVA outreach and third-party administration. The current fund balance is \$648,502.11.

A motion was made by LTC Bush, seconded by Mr. McNaughton, to approve the fund report as presented. The motion passed.

VI. Discussion of Need-Based Claim

Mr. Leger briefed on an application submitted by the spouse of a National Guardsman via the unit's Family Assistance Specialist. The family's home was destroyed by fire in March and everything was lost, including damage to the family's vehicle. The family has purchased a used mobile home and requests assistance for the following expenses: septic system, \$4,200; water line, \$1,400; plumbing connection, \$750; and vehicle repairs, \$3,957.21. Mr. LaCerte stated that all expenses have been validated, and efforts to receive assistance from other veteran and civic organizations have been exhausted.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Representative Hazel, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the need-based claim for the maximum amount of \$10,000. The motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, LTC Bush requested that he, in his capacity as a MFAB member, be included in the review process for future need-based claims submitted from National Guardsmen. He noted that this particular claim affected a Guardsman under his supervision, yet he was not aware or apprised of the situation.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Representative Hazel, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Charmagne Scott, AA6

06/24/2014