

## Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room  
3839 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012  
April 23, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

### Committee Members Present

Paul Clark, Vice Chairman  
John Aldecoa\*  
Larry Brown\*  
Carol Culbertson  
George Cushing  
Paul McKenney  
Kathy Pearce\*  
Larry Struck\*  
Thomas Troxell\*  
Stanley Zeitz

### Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Interim Director  
Randy Meyer, Chairman  
Martin Badegian

*\* Participated in the meeting by teleconference*

### MFRF Committee Staff

Travis Schulte, ADVS/MFRF

Assistant Arizona Attorney General - Invited

## CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. George Cushing moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on March 19, 2013. Paul McKenney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Vice Chairman Clark read the Advisory Committee's Disclosure Policy. Advisory Committee members must disclose their knowledge of an applicant to the Advisory Committee during the consideration process. Knowledge of an applicant that benefits all members of the Advisory Committee during the consideration process does not create a conflict of interest. If an Advisory Committee member has knowledge of an applicant and has a vested interest in the outcome of the Committee's findings or seeks to benefit or gain from a vote on a particular application, he/she is required to recuse his or herself from consideration of that applicant as it creates a conflict of interest.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Clark moved the meeting to executive session at 2:05 p.m. to discuss MFRF applications that are, according to ARS 41-608.04.E., confidential. Executive Session is allowable under ARS 41-608.04.E.

## APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Vice Chairman Clark returned the meeting to public session at 3:35 p.m. to vote on applications. As a point of order, Vice Chairman Clark reiterated to the Committee that any motion awarding more than the \$10,000 mark would require a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee's membership, which is nine of the ten votes present. For procedural purposes on applicable applications, Vice Chairman Clark stated he will call first for a motion that would award greater than the \$10,000 limit, and if that motion failed he would then call for a second motion to approve up to the \$10,000 limit.

1. 2012 **June M** – Paul McKenney moved to recommend application be approved for \$3,299.97 for three months rent, auto insurance, cell phone, internet and electricity, but not assistance to break the applicant's current lease as there was a lot of objection to that. Thomas Troxell seconded the

motion. Per discussion, Carol Culbertson clarified that the assistance for rent would be made to the new landlord specifically for three months of rent, and nothing toward breaking the lease. Vice Chairman Clark and Paul McKenney confirmed and that if the applicant breaks his lease he will either have to make arrangements to pay the fee or take a hit to his credit if he deems it necessary. The proposed award would exceed the \$10,000 threshold so it does require a 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine). Paul McKenney stated that the justification for his motion is that this is the one applicant that has the most hope and is really trying to improve his situation. Per vote, the motion passed with nine ayes and one nay.

2. **2012 September A** – At the request of the Committee, Vice Chairman Clark summarized the applicant's injury and application history. Applicant has received consideration from MFRF four times in little less than a year. Application submitted is requesting two months past due plus subsequent months' rent payment and over two months worth of vehicle payments past due plus subsequent months' vehicle payments. Approving the applicant's total request would bring applicant to \$14,168.17. Below the \$10,000 mark there is \$1,109 available. Discussion previously has rotated around how to utilize the balance available under the \$10,000 limit, and that it would make him eligible for vehicle payments to cover past due and all but \$68 of future payment going forward. Because only \$1,109 is available under the \$10,000 limit, paying a portion of the rent would not prevent eviction. Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved for three months rent and auto payment plus past due totaling \$5,278.09. The proposed award would exceed \$10,000 thereby requiring 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine) to approve the motion. Larry Struck seconded the motion. Per vote, the motion failed to achieve the required super-majority by receiving seven aye and three nay votes. Paul McKenney moved to recommend approval of \$1,109.92 to assist with the past due vehicle payments. Paul McKenney stated the reason for turning down the full request is that he does not see any hope of this applicant getting on their feet and they're in a position where they have to make hard choices, he doesn't want to leave them without transportation but they need to make hard choices and changes because they don't have any means to earn an income. Vice Chairman Clark stated the Committee has not seen any progress or changes towards fixing anything in the past year. Paul McKenney concurred that is what he is concerned about and stated assistance is not a long term solution with the Committee. Larry Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **2013 March D** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend approval of \$4,237.71 for one month's rent, and three month's auto payment and electrical payment plus past due amounts. The purpose of the partial award is to get the applicant caught up and back on his feet. Paul McKenney seconded the motion. Per discussion, Larry Struck and Vice Chairman Clark both stated that the applicant should be able to use this help to square away other financial obligations and apply for food stamps, all of which will help the applicant to bring his monthly expenses in line with his income and the additional requests exceeded the applicant's stated financial need. Per vote, motion passed unanimously.
4. **2013 April A** – Carol Culbertson moved to recommend application to purchase an air conditioner and automobile be denied as the applicant has a sufficient fixed income and the applicant's current financial hardship cannot be tied to deployment. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. **2013 April B** – George Cushing moved to recommend application be tabled pending further documentation so that the Committee can relate hardship to a combat condition. Kathy Pearce seconded the motion, and the motion pass unanimously. Veteran can receive assistance through the Emergency Subcommittee once the requested documentation has been received.
6. **2013 April C** – George Cushing moved to recommend approval of \$11,783.96 for six months mortgage, auto payment on the Kia, electricity, water, cell phone, internet and auto insurance. Thomas Troxell seconded the motion. Per discussion, Stanley Zeitz requested the motion be amended to included two months payments of the second auto payment for the GMC to buy the applicant time to sell the vehicle. George Cushing amended his motion to recommend approval of

six months mortgage, auto payment on the Kia, electricity, water, cell phone, internet and auto insurance, and two months payment for the GMC if a bill can be produced. Stanley Zeitz seconded the motion. Per discussion, Carol Culbertson inquired if the motion would exceed the \$20,000 limit, and was informed that the proposed award would not and would leave approximately three months of assistance available if needed. Kathy Pearce asked if they could include a recommendation that the applicant needs to do something about the other debt, and Vice Chairman Clark reiterated options the family could pursue for the public record but that's as far as the Committee could go. The proposed award would exceed \$10,000 thereby requiring 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine) to approve the motion. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously with ten ayes.

## **MARKETING REPORTS**

Carol Culbertson inserted MFRF info cards into 50 registration bags at her event last month.

Volunteers are being requested to attend the "Remember the Fallen" event on Memorial Day in Surprise on behalf of the MFRF. Stanley Zeitz volunteered to attend, and Vice Chairman Clark will attempt to attend. The event has been changed to Radiant Church on Monday, May 27 so as not to conflict with the City of Surprise's event on Saturday, May 25.

Paul McKenney has distributed the MFRF info card at the University Club and other venues he attends, and they have been well received. McKenney spoke at the Veterans' Chamber of Commerce, and received feed back from three people. Adam Bird, co-host of an online radio show, has invited the MFRF Committee to go on the show. Vice Chairman Clark said he would give Chairman Meyer first shot to accept, but if Meyer cannot he would be happy to do so. A veterans transition group will follow up with McKenney, who will then forward the contact info to Travis Schulte to follow up and investigate ways to support one another. The third is a truck driving training program who is interested in recruiting veterans. Schulte will give the information to the ADVS Outreach Coordinator for follow up. McKenney has also reached out to the Board of Directors of the Greater Phoenix Area YMCA which has a veterans program. McKenney gave them a stack of the info cards as well, so they may be a new referral source.

Kathy Pearce has a golf tournament for her foundation on May 18, and would like to invite MFRF to come out and sign-up for a foursome.

Paul Clark spoke to the Sun Lakes Korean War Veterans Association Tuesday morning.

Larry Struck has contacted the Wounded Warrior Program at Fort Huachuca. There are only two service members currently participating in the program and none meet Arizona residency requirements.

Members of the Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee will attend the UAV conference on May 4 at 10:00 at the Phoenix Veteran Home.

## **CALL TO PUBLIC**

No public attendance.

## **ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

George Cushing moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. Larry Struck seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.