

Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
November 19, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Randy Meyer, Chairman
Larry Brown*
Paul Clark*, Vice Chairman (2:08)
George Cushing*
Paul McKenney*
Larry Struck*
Thomas Troxell*
Stanley Zeitz

Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Deputy Director/Designee
John Aldecoa
Martin Badegian
Carol Culbertson
Kathy Pearce

** 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

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. George Cushing moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on October 15, 2013. Larry Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Chairman Meyer 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

Chairman Meyer moved the meeting to executive session at 2:07 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

Chairman Meyer returned the meeting to public session at 2:29 p.m. to vote on applications:

1. **2012 July N** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be approved for \$1,419.96 for two months' rent and electricity, but not for three months as requested as that amount would exceed the \$10,000 lifetime assistance limit, contingent upon applicant providing documentation from the VA that applicant has been getting some kind of treatment or assistance for her claimed PTSD. Larry Brown seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. **2013 November A** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be approved for \$4,080.51 for three months' rent, water, cell phone, auto insurance and internet, less the life insurance request as it is a financial benefit in the name of the applicant's fiancé and therefore

ineligible for assistance. Applicant's request for six months assistance is not approved as assistance grants are limited to a maximum of three months at a time per Award Criteria. Larry Struck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

MARKETING REPORTS

Larry Struck distributed MFRF marketing materials to the Fort Huachuca Army Community Services and Chaplain's Office, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He also attended the United Arizona Veterans (UAV) meeting on 2 November and the Sierra Vista Veterans Day Benefit Expo on 11 November, where he also distributed handouts and information.

Paul Clark is a board member of the Friends of Freedom organization and they are considering an initiative to work with American Legion or VFW posts to remodel them and make them inviting and attractive to younger veterans, similar to and possibly in conjunction with Extreme Home Makeover. This will help those younger veterans connect not only with other veterans who can offer peer support, but also to community and veteran resources that are available to assist young veterans such as MFRF. Paul Clark asked his fellow MFRF Committee members to assist them in locating a suitable post with proactive leadership to make the initiative successful.

Larry Brown has sent out an email about the Horse Rhythm foundation needing assistance to locate a new property.

ADVS Staff updated the Committee that the donor reminder postcards were mailed on 6 Nov, and MFRF has currently received \$477,000 in donations as of 19 November.

ADVS Staff provided a summary of MFRF marketing materials available for use at events and by Committee members. Those materials include 16" x 24" posters, 4" x 6" information cards targeting veterans and service members, a tri-fold brochure targeting donors, a 72" tall banner for events, and limited give-away items such as branded dog tags and temporary tattoos.

ADVS Staff discussed past and current marketing efforts. Marketing materials have been distributed to all ADVS Benefits Counselors offices, VA Medical Centers and some CBOCs, Military Family Readiness Centers on Arizona's active duty bases, Arizona National Guard Armories and Veteran Service Organizations facilities when possible. Stanley Zeitz inquired if MFRF pursues broadcast opportunities, and staff informed him that we do when available but we do not receive many broadcast media inquiries. Print and online media opportunities have been more fruitful, and MFRF normally gets a write-up three or four times per year. Solicitations are made to create a video PSA for MFRF, but no donor has been found to-date.

ADVS Staff also recapped our target audiences, primarily the families of Service Members killed or wounded in action, the families of currently deployed Service Members, and Post-9/11 combat Veterans who are struggling with a hardship caused by their combat deployment, and addressed other resources that serve those populations as well, including DOD benefits, relief funds/societies affiliated with their branch of service, and Supportive Services for Veteran Families programs, respectively.

RE-ELECTION OF 2014 VICE CHAIR

Vice Chairman Paul Clark notified Chairman Meyer that due to professional obligations he did not have the proper amount of time available to serve as Vice Chair in 2014. Chairman Meyer noted that Stanley Zeitz had expressed interest in the position at the previous meeting if Paul Clark was no longer able to serve, and opened the floor for nominations.

Larry Brown nominated Stanley Zeitz for 2014 Vice Chair. Larry Struck seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. Paul Clark called for the vote, and per vote Stanley Zeitz was confirmed as 2014 Vice Chair.

CALL TO PUBLIC

No public attendance.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

George Cushing moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. Larry Brown seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Due to holiday schedules, the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.