

Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
January 15, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Randy Meyer, Chairman
John Aldecoa*
Paul Clark, Vice Chairman
Carol Culbertson
George Cushing
Paul McKenney
Kathy Pearce* (left 3:21)
Larry Struck*
Thomas Troxell*
Stanley Zeitz

Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Deputy Director
Martin Badegian
Larry Brown

** 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 2:05 p.m. Stanley Zeitz noted his name was misspelled in a few instances in the minutes and moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on December 18, 2012 with those corrections. George Cushing 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 2:06 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 3:26 p.m. to vote on applications:

1. 2010E **June D** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved as submitted for \$1,335.28 for auto rental, cell phone and moving truck rental. Per discussion, Carol Culbertson noted the applicant stated they will be hiring an attorney to assist with their Social Security Disability application, and inquired if the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services could assist in that application. Travis Schulte stated ADVS' expertise was representing veterans with their VA disability claims and could refer the veteran for assistance with the Social Security disability application but would not be able to assist the veteran with representation or making the appeal. George Cushing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. 2011 **July F** – George Cushing moved to recommend application be approved for \$2,491.87 for two months of assistance with rent, auto payment, auto insurance and home phone/internet service. Assistance with additional cell phones are not recommended for approval as award criteria limits assistance to one phone. Paul Clark seconded the motion and stated award was modified from the requested three months to two months as the Committee expects applicant to either begin receiving disability compensation or applicant or spouse secure employment within that time. 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 the required super-majority of nine aye and zero nay votes.
3. 2011 **November A** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved for \$1,770.00 for two months rent, but no assistance for electricity or cell phone. Paul Clark seconded the motion. Per discussion, Chairman Meyer stated applicant's monthly deficit is \$754; rent is \$885 so that assistance would give them a positive \$135 per month. 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 the required super-majority of nine aye and zero nay votes.
4. 2012 **May B** – Paul Clark moved to recommend application be approved for \$1,266.73 for one month's assistance with auto payment and cell phone as requested, past due and two months auto insurance, and auto registration, but not overdrawn account as it is ineligible per Award Criteria. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
5. 2012 **May L** – Paul Clark moved to recommend application be approved as submitted for \$800 for one month's rent. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
6. 2012 **September E** – Paul Clark moved to recommend application be approved for \$3,496.38 for three months rent, auto payment and applicable past due amounts but not medical bills. Paul McKenney seconded the motion. 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 the required super-majority of nine aye and zero nay votes.
7. 2012 **November E** – George Cushing moved to recommend application to pay off applicant's two vehicles be denied. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion. Per discussion, Chairman Meyer stated applicant moved to California on a normal PCS, and applicant chose not to relocate the family and maintain two households. That hardship has nothing to do with deployment. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.
8. 2012 **December C** – Paul Clark moved to recommend application to be denied. George Cushing seconded the motion. Per discussion, Paul Clark stated the hardship is the auto repair which is not tied to the fact that applicant was deployed or occurring while applicant was deployed. Auto repair is post deployment and applicant's income is almost in balance with expenses. Chairman Meyer stated applicant could make cuts within their budget to make ends meet, and a significant part of their expenses is the need for the applicant's spouse to travel back to Texas. Larry Struck suggested applicant apply for Social Security Disability if he hasn't already done so. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.
9. 2012 **December E** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved for \$5,116.97 for past due amounts plus two months rent, auto payment and electricity. Paul McKenney seconded the motion. Per discussion, Stanley Zeitz moved for two months assistance instead of the three months requested by applicant as Committee believes disability will start and applicant will be back on his feet. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.
10. 2013 **January A** – George Cushing moved to recommend application be denied as presented because applicant is requesting the payoff of two vehicles and is showing a surplus in the

application. Larry Struck seconded the motion. Per discussion, Committee members stated they were not going to buy an applicant two cars. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MARKETING REPORTS

Travis Schulte reported that MFRF donations hit the income tax credit limit on 19 December. Total donations received was \$1,035,463.65. The amount received over one million was mostly through fundraising opportunities, and a small portion was through company matching contributions.

Travis Schulte reported total awards distributed in 2012 was \$525,904.69. 81 new families were assisted and 170 grants in total were awarded.

Travis Schulte announced the Joint Legislative Budget Committee reviewed all income tax credits, and they will recommend MFRF be continued and continue to report annually to the Legislature on assistance awarded.

Committee members discussed with Paul McKenney how MFRF outreaches to veterans and some of the challenges, such as perception some veterans may not apply because they are afraid of impacting their disability benefit income.

Stanley Zeitz inquired how golf clubs or other groups can donate to the fund, and was informed they can submit the donation just as an individual with a check or money order.

Carol Culbertson is sponsoring a two day event for federal employees and will give out MFRF info.

CALL TO PUBLIC

No public attendance.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Stanley Zeitz moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. Paul Clark seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.