

Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
September 17, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Randy Meyer, Chairman
John Aldecoa* (2:19)
Larry Brown*
Carol Culbertson*
George Cushing
Paul McKenney*
Kathy Pearce* (2:05 – 3:33)
Larry Struck*
Thomas Troxell* (left 3:19)
Stanley Zeitz* (2:28)

Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Deputy Director/Designee
Martin Badegian
Paul Clark, Vice Chairman

* 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 2:04 p.m. George Cushing moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on August 20, 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 2:05 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

Chairman Meyer returned the meeting to public session at 3:04 p.m. to vote on applications:

1. **2011E January F** – Larry Brown moved to recommend the application be denied as submitted. George Cushing seconded. Per discussion, Larry Brown stated he did not feel the applicant's request to move to Vietnam was a qualified use of MFRF funds. Larry Struck stated the individual funded his own trip to Vietnam previously on less money than he has now, and with his increased disability compensation he should be able to fund it again. Chairman Meyer also observed that the applicant also has not provided anything to prove he would be able to continue to get mental health treatment in Vietnam. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. 2012 **October A** – Larry Brown moved to recommend the application be denied as submitted. Kathy Pearce seconded the motion. Per discussion, applicant stated her financial hardship was due to being laid off of work which is ineligible for assistance per award criteria. Applicant has stated she is not fit for work due to claimed service connected disabilities, but the Social Security Administration has determined in their denial of her disability claim that her claimed disabilities do not prevent her from working. Stanley Zeitz stated that the applicant is requesting assistance with repairs that cost more than the vehicle is worth and is trying to maintain two vehicles when only one is needed, and that the applicant did not provide any documentation that being laid off is related to her deployment. Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.
3. 2013 **August C** – John Aldecoa moved to recommend the application be approved for \$1,825.61 for October's rent, electricity, cell phone, auto payment and auto insurance, but not for food assistance as applicant is receiving food stamps or cable/internet. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
4. 2013 **August E** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be approved as submitted for \$3,688.02 for a total of three months' assistance with rent, electricity, water, cell phone, dental insurance and renter's insurance. John Aldecoa seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
5. 2013 **September B** – John Aldecoa moved to recommend the application be denied as submitted as all requests for a home down payment, purchase of enclosed trailer and camper shell are ineligible for assistance per award criteria. Per discussion, the applicant states the requested items are needed to move to Florida after disability separation from the Air Force, but all branches of the Armed Forces assist with the moving costs after separation. In addition, applicant has a stated monthly surplus of \$710.00, which does not demonstrate a financial hardship. Per vote, and the motion carried unanimously.
6. 2013 **September C** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be approved as submitted for \$3,700.47 for assistance with three months' mortgage payments. Kathy Pearce seconded the motion. Per discussion, Larry Struck recommended applicant look into opportunities to reduce the mortgage interest rate and consider applying for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Per vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Chairman Meyer rearranged the agenda to move the Call to the Public up.

Heidi Chapp and Joshua Chapp from Vendetta Inks Art Studio presented their Patriot Project proposal, which is a planned series of themed calendars honoring heroes within the state and will begin by honoring the military. Vendetta Inks Art Studio would like to use the proceeds of the calendar to support military families. With permission from the Advisory Committee, the calendar could be branded with the MFRF logo and information to serve as a statewide outreach piece and fundraiser with MFRF receiving 80% of the proceeds. The estimated cost of the calendar is \$15 to \$20. The Advisory Committee gave their approval to press forward with the advice and consent of ADVS and the Attorney General's Office.

UPDATED MFRF BYLAWS, MEMBER STATEMENT, FAQS AND APPLICATION

Chairman Meyer opened the table for discussion on the proposed updates to the MFRF Bylaws, Member Statement, FAQs and Application that were presented at the July meeting. No discussion took place. George Cushing moved to accept the updated MFRF Bylaws, Member Statement, FAQs and Application as presented. John Aldecoa seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

MARKETING REPORTS

MFRF has been invited to be the beneficiary of a golf tournament planned for January 2014. More information to follow as details are learned.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Larry Brown moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. George Cushing seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room, but three members of the Advisory Committee will not be available so the date may be changed to ensure enough members are available.