

Report of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
October 22, 2018 meeting
Jefferson City, Missouri

The meeting was more than 2.5 hours long. A brief summary follows.

- The St. Louis Veterans Home is in for the following improvements: single-occupancy rooms with a new 200-bed facility. The design work is complete and awaiting construction.
- One of the largest problems in providing the best care in the state veteran homes is a shortage and retention problem of Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA). The CNA shortage requires overtime, and is not conducive to retention. Surveys reflect that the CNA's do not feel appreciated for their hard work. MVC is working on ways to improve this problem — it was suggested later in the meeting that veteran organizations throughout the state could help by sponsoring a pizza party or some similar way to show the CNA's how much other veterans appreciated their hard work and dedication.
- While MVC Veteran Homes are always full, long-term care is available to vets in VA Hospitals around the state. As an example, the KC VA Hospital was said to have 376 empty beds available for long-term care.
- MVC currently has 44 Veteran Service Officers serving throughout the state. Randy Watson, who runs the VSO program, is working with other states seeking ways to improve Missouri's outreach to veterans within the limits of budgetary funds.
- Charles Baxter is in charge of the Veteran Cemeteries Program. There are a few minor problems, such as the proper alignment of headstones as they shift over time, that are being corrected.
- In the Legislative Update portion, it was pointed out that, of the 163 State Representatives, in January there will be at least 55 new legislators, all who have advertised and included in their campaign that, if elected, they will support veteran issues. Veteran organizations should exploit this and visit these new legislators and ask for their support of veteran programs.
- MAVO reported that they are in complete compliance with MVC requirements and looking forward to resume their cooperative efforts with MVC.

The next public meeting of MVC will be January 28, 2019