

**MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**
Friday, May 20, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base,
765 N. 2200 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Members Present:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Dr. Steven Allen
Ms. Jackie L. Chamberlain
Mr. Tim M. Cosgrove
Mr. Bart Davis
Mr. Brian Garrett
Mr. George Gutzmer
Mr. Jared A. Haines
Mr. Johnnie B. Janes
Mr. Paul Patrick
Mr. Terry D. Schow

Members Absent:

Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Major General Jefferson S. Burton
Dr. Blair K. Carruth
Mr. Tage I. Flint
Mr. Gary Harter
Mr. Frank Maughan
Mr. Jon Pierpont
Mr. Greg Rowley

Staff Present:

Mr. Gregg A. Girvan, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Sen. Mayne, Rep. Poulson, Dr. Blair Carruth, Tage Flint, Gary Harter, Frank Maughan, Jon Pierpont, and Greg Rowley were excused from the meeting.

Chair Knudson recognized Brigadier General Ken Gammon in attendance for Major General Jefferson Burton, Ted Frederick in attendance for Gary Harter, and Bruce Summers in attendance for Jon Pierpont.

MOTION: Mr. Cosgrove moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Air National Guard Update

Colonel Kristin Streukens, Air National Guard, provided commission members with an overview of the mission and accomplishments of the Utah Air National Guard. Colonel Streukens highlighted the air refueling wing's recent self-inspection exercise, training missions, medical humanitarian efforts, and local emergency response involvement. She noted that education benefits are the top recruiting tool of the Air National Guard.

3. Commission Membership

Ms. Chelsea-McCarty briefed commission members on the statutory requirements regarding the appointment of temporary commission members. She indicated that this would be the final meeting for Dr. Steve Allen, Jared Haines, and Terry Schow as members of the commission if they are not reappointed.

Chair Knudson indicated that additionally, Dr. Marc Babitz asked that a replacement commission member be appointed to his place, and, due to a change in the statute, Mr. Rick Schwermer's position as a representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts was eliminated from the commission membership. He noted that letters have been prepared thanking them for the contributions they have made to the Veterans Reintegration Task Force and the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Schow moved that the commission support the letters thanking Dr. Marc Babitz and Rick Schwermer for their service to the Veterans Reintegration Task Force and the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Ray moved that Dr. Steve Allen and Terry Schow be reappointed to the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Brian Garrett moved that Zachary Barrus be appointed as a member of the Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission in place of Jared Haines. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity

Mr. Brian Garrett explained that there are discrepancies in the interstate compact regarding educational opportunities for military children regarding whose children are eligible for special consideration when changing schools during a school year.

Mrs. Jacqueline Newman, military spouse, distributed "Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and the ART Child" and discussed the disadvantages children of military families often face when necessarily changing schools.

Commission discussion followed in which Ms. Chelsea-McCarty indicated that it is possible for the Legislature to make amendments to the compact.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved that the commission direct staff to draft legislation amending Section 53A-1-1001, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, to delete the reference to U.S.C. Sections 1209 and 1211 in the definition of "Active duty" in Article II. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Veteran's Preference

Mr. Rick Hughes, Director, Learning and Development, Department of Human Resource Management, briefed commission members on how veteran's preference standards are utilized in the hiring of employees. Mr. Hughes referred to "Utah Code Title 71, Chapter 10, Veteran's Preference" and an excerpt from "State Jobs, Business Practice Manual" regarding veteran's preference, which he provided to the commission prior to the meeting.

Commission discussion followed about the creation of a working group to look more closely at veteran's preference issues and who would be included in the working group.

MOTION: Mr. Garrett moved that the commission establish a working group to examine the issue and to include members of the commission together with Mr. Hughes. Included in the motion was a recommendation to obtain additional information from the Department of Workforce Services about how veteran's preference is working throughout the state. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Knudson recommended that Mr. Garrett serve as chair of the working group. He also asked that the working group include Mr. Schow, Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Gutzmer, Colonel Osborne, Major General Burton, a representative from the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, and a representative from the Department of Workforce Services.

MOTION: Mr. Garrett moved that the membership of the working group will include Brian Garrett, Gary Harter, Jon Pierpont, Terry Schow, Tim Cosgrove, George Gutzmer, and Major General Jefferson Burton. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business/Adjourn

Chair Knudson thanked those hosting the meeting at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base and commission members heard briefly from Technical Sergeant Joe Davis, Technical Sergeant Amber Monio, Colonel Christine Burckle, and Major Jennifer Eaton.

Brigadier General Ken Gammon noted that those introduced reflect the dedication of the nearly 1500 airmen who work at the base and thanked the Legislature for the support of their work.

MOTION: Mr. Gutzmer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Knudson adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.