

**Conflict of Interest Policy  
of  
Military Veterans Resource Center**

**General Purpose**

Real and apparent conflicts of interest sometimes can occur in the course of conducting the affairs of Military Veterans Resource Center (MVRC). The appearance of conflict can be troublesome even if in fact no conflict exists. Conflicts occur because the many persons associated with MVRC should be expected to have, and do in fact generally have, multiple interests and affiliations and various positions of responsibility within the community. In these situations, a person will sometimes owe identical duties of loyalty to two or more organizations. The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect MVRC's tax-exempt interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of MVRC or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. The policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Conflicts have the potential to place the interests of others ahead of MVRC's obligations to its charitable purposes and to the public interest. Conflicts also are undesirable because they reflect adversely upon the person involved and upon the institutions with which they are affiliated, regardless of the actual facts or motivations of the parties. However, the long-range best interests of MVRC do not require the termination of all association with persons who may have real or apparent conflicts that are harmless to all individuals or entities involved.

Each member of the board of directors and the staff of the corporation has a duty of loyalty to MVRC. The duty of loyalty generally requires a director or staff member to prefer the interests of MVRC over the director's/staff's interest or the interests of others. In addition, directors and staff of MVRC shall avoid acts of self-dealing which may adversely affect the tax-exempt status of MVRC or cause there to arise any sanction or penalty by a governmental authority.

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

**Definitions**

- Interested Person: Any director, officer or member of a committee with board-delegated powers who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
- Financial Interest: A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
  - (a) An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the corporation has a transaction or arrangement,
  - (b) A compensation arrangement with the corporation or with any entity or individual with which the corporation has a transaction or arrangement, or
  - (c) A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the corporation is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration, as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate board or governing committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

### **Procedures**

- **Duty to Disclose:** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- **Determining whether a Conflict of Interest Exists:** After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

### **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest**

- An interested person may make a presentation at the board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- The chairperson of the board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- After exercising due diligence, the board or committee shall determine whether the corporation can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the corporation's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

### **Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**

- If the board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### **Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the

proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

### **Compensation**

A voting member of the board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from MVRC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from MVRC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

No voting member of the board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from MVRC, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

### **Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- Has read and understands the policy,
- Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- Understands that MVRC is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

### **Periodic Reviews**

To ensure MVRC operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management corporations conform to MVRC's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

### **Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews, MVRC may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

Approved: February 6, 2013