

# Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on April 15, 2013 at 9:00 am by Chairman Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock, and Mike Klimoski

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Carlene Nagel, Dan Kamps, Randy Adair, David Lee, Steve Bradley, Ken Szitta and Tom Matucheski.

## Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, travel pay and payment of bills

Motion by Mike Klimoski to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held March 11, 2013 and to approve the travel pay and payment of bills. Motion was seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

## Agenda Item #4. Communications and Public Comment.

David Lee stated that the sale of candy and various snacks for DAV Support the Troops raised over \$300 with the help of the Boy Scouts at the Military Sport and Gun Show the weekend of April 5. The candy and snacks were donated by the manufacturer in Hartford to the DAV and half of that money was sent to troops overseas.

Ken Szitta shared that the American Legion had a very joyous celebration of those veterans who have been members in excess of 50 years. They had 13 certificates for those special members and presented two of those certificates at the celebration. The late Dick Lund thought of the concept of "See Wisconsin" a raffle which the American Legion started in January. This raffle consisted of many prizes to include a grand prize of over \$1000 worth of certificates to visit museums, gas cards and various other items from Wisconsin businesses. There were about 35 members who attended.

Dale stated that there will be a commission meeting held on Wednesday, April 17, in the Veterans Boardroom.

Flags are available for cemetery sextons to pick up in preparation for placing them on the veterans' graves for Memorial Day. Queen of Peace and the City of Antigo will be using some of the flags they took down from last year. Those sextons will be putting them out with the boy scouts.

Dale attended a meeting in Rhinelander on March 12 held by the director of the Iron Mountain VA Hospital. There were also 6 staff members there to answer questions about the VA healthcare. There were a few veterans from Langlade County that attended also. It was very well done and it may be done yearly at all the clinics associated with Iron Mountain.

Dale marched in the parade in Pickerel for St. Patrick's Day, spoke at three American Legion birthday dinners. Saturday April 13 Dale was at Marinette County and briefed at this meeting Governor Walker's budget ideas and stressed that Federal VA is not under sequestration. President Obama is suggesting 10.2% increase but it is skeptical as to if the VA will actually get this amount of money when other federal programs are being cut, but everyone should pressure their congressman and senators to help this pass.

Governor Walker would like the DVOP-Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and LVER-Local Veterans Employment Representative under his instruction headed by Secretary Scocos under the care of WDVA-(Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs). It is now a Wisconsin Department of Labor program. WDVA has lost some state benefits such as the home loan

program, personal loan and home improvement loan and may be given 5 million to reactivate this program. Secretary Scocos will use about 3.5 million of this for wages.

Agenda Item #6. Outreach Update.

Dale attended a meeting in Iron Mountain on April 1 with the director and his staff. This summer they will be remodeling the surgery department, some of the surgeries will be sent to Madison . I was told Milwaukee does not have room for any more surgeries so most surgeries now that are planned will be fee based out with the veterans choice for place of surgery in this area. This remodeling will be taking place for about 4 months. Iron Mountain will be adding more specialty doctors. The new office in Green Bay will be hiring doctors and staff and hope to be open in August. This new office will be called a medical facility allowing them to do some outpatient surgeries but will not have an intensive care unit. This will take some of the pressure off of Iron Mountain as far as having some compensation and pension exams being done there. Dale will be attending a meeting in Appleton and meet with the director of Milwaukee VA on Friday this week.

Langlade County Veterans Office will be closed for the week of April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 3 because of the CVSO Association spring conference and training which must be attended to keep accreditations with the VA organizations we have contact with.

Agenda Item #7. Confirm date and time set for May committee meeting and set tentative date and time for the June committee meeting. Meeting date is set for Monday, May 13 at 9:00 in the Health Service Center Boardroom. The June meeting date will be decided upon at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Klimoski. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lex  
Deputy CVSO