

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on June 14, 2013 at 9:00 am by Chairman Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, and Larry Poltrock

Members Absent: Mike Klimoski

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Carlene Nagel, Dan Kamps, Al Werwie, Tom Matucheski, Richard and Marie Schuh.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, May 13, 2013.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held May 13, 2013, seconded by Jim Jansen. All ayes, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Approve the budget summary, payment of bills and veterans travel pay.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the budget summary, payment of bills and veterans travel pay. Seconded by Jim Jansen. All ayes, motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Communications and Public Comment.

Dale reported that last week Saturday through Tuesday he attended Badger Boys State and did meet with the Badger boys from Langlade County. He was invited down to this event and may be invited back next year. Dale was a Badger Boy in 1966 so he had some insight to offer. They have an excellent program, Thursday night Governor Walker was there to swear in a governor chosen by the boys and the Chief Supreme Court Justice for the state will be there swearing in the boys chosen for supreme court. Friday night will be a program for veterans to wrap up the week.

Sunday is a parade and chicken dinner at King Veterans Home for the public to attend; Dale has been going for the last 5 years to this event.

Al Werwie stated that he heard there will be a new doctor at Rhinelander to replace the late Dr. Potter. Dale stated his name is Dr. Robbins who will be starting in June.

Agenda Item #6. Update on Memorial Day Events.

Tom Matucheski stated that the Phlox Memorial Day Parade went very well and he stressed stated that Dale Oatman did a great job on his address after the parade.

Marie Schuh said the Memorial Day Parade in Elcho and Summit Lake went beautifully also.

Al Werwie stated the White Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony was very nice starting with a continental breakfast and the White Lake American Legion Post performed the Honor Guard, the whole ceremony including visiting all the cemeteries took a total of about 3 and half hours.

Dale commented that he was pleased with the complete coverage of the parades across Langlade County by the Antigo Daily Journal staff.

White Lake Post is putting up 16 foot crosses in the cemeteries. Post members are donating the lumber and also donating their labor putting them up.

Agenda Item #7. Outreach Update.

Dale attended a meeting in Iron Mountain on Monday, June 3. Dale was told the dental department did move into their new offices on the 4th floor, and mental health moved to their area on the third floor. Comments were directed at the fact that sometime doctors were not approving that the spouse could go in with the veteran to their appointment. If the veteran allows someone in the doctor will see the patient with someone else in the room. Patients were not happy with the short visits and that the doctor was putting things in the computer so the patient felt they were not getting the doctors attention enough for their visit. Patient volume has increased per doctor from 1200 to 1400 and for the nurse practioners went from 750 – 900. VA has hired 1600 mental health workers to help with the overload in that area. There were a total of nine hired within the Iron Mountain area, three in Rhinelander, three in Iron Mountain and three at other facilities in Michigan. There have been 1.3 million veterans treated for mental health last year. Years after the war time veteran returns home issues come up in which the family or the veteran may need to seek help for mental health.

Fourth of July events are coming up shortly with the annual parade in Antigo and White Lake. Marie Schuh stated that the Four Corners Church always has a very wonderful ceremony in recognition of all the branches of service.

Karl's Transport is having a picnic for veterans on June 22 at the Hudson Street Shelter. Karl's employs many Vietnam Veterans and has this to honor them and all veterans. Karl's Transport was recognized by all Antigo posts and was honored with a plaque for their support of veterans. Al Werwie is having problems with his hearing aids and his appointment he had in Iron Mountain was cancelled. The person who called him about his appointment told him to go to the walk-in to get these problems resolved but he will not get travel pay for that visit. This walk-in at Iron Mountain will have technicians available to help in repair or adjust the veterans' hearing aids. Marie Schuh commented that this service is also available at Madison VA Hospital and the help is very good in this walk-in clinic. Everyday they have about two hours of this audiology walk-in clinic. There is a sign stating that no travel pay will be paid for this clinic visit.

Agenda Item #8.Set date for July and meeting.

There will be no meeting in July but the date for the August meeting will be August 19, 2013 at 9 a.m. in the Health Center Boardroom

Agenda Item #9 Adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Larry Poltrock to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Jansen. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lex
Deputy CVSO