

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, June 08, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock and Richard Schuh.

Others Present: John Zenkovich, Mary Lex, Al Werwie, Dan Kamps, Tom Matucheski, and Marie Schuh.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held May 11, 2015.

John stated a correction be made to the May 11, 2015 minutes regarding the CVSO grant. Amount of grant is based on total county population not the veteran population as stated in the minutes. Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and amend and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held May 11, 2015. Motion seconded by Richard Schuh. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Approve Budget Summary.

Motion by Richard Schuh to approve the budget summary report. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5 Public Comment.

Marie Schuh commented that Richard was invited to the reunion for the Honor Flight participants from Never Forgotten Honor Flight out of Wausau. Estimated about 3000 attended the celebration. There were two separate groups for the event. It was held at the Patriot Center in the Cedar Creek Mall.

Al Werwie stated that the White Lake Memorial Day visits to the White Lake cemeteries was cancelled due to the rain but they did have a ceremony outside in between raindrops.

Tom Matucheski stated the Phlox Memorial Day Parade took place but the ceremony was held in the Phlox fire department building. Tom also attended the Gold Star Mother ceremony at the Langlade Hospital and he provided the bugle needed for the event.

Agenda Item #6. Veterans Issues and Office Updates

Al Werwie asked if John could explain the article he had written for the Primetime regarding extra benefits regarding Social Security. John stated that from WWII the Social Security Administration did not count your service time as credit towards your Social Security earnings. From 1950 until 2001 they offered a stipend that added \$100 to \$160 per month on active duty more than you actually did earn which went toward the lifetime earnings that Social Security counts towards your benefit. We have had many phone calls on the article. Veterans need to call Social Security and find out if they are already credited for their military service before going into the office. If not take the DD214 and they add that stipend on to your years of active duty so your may be eligible for more payout on your Social Security. The information is on the Social Security website and also on the VA website if veterans want to find out more about this program. I also had an e-mail on a retirement seminar which had this topic discussed so that is why I decided to cover this in the Primetime hopefully to help out a few veterans.

John stated that the office was closed last week while he and Mary attended the National Conference in Appleton where he has now obtained his accreditation for VA purposes. Now he is eligible to do claims, pension, and any other benefits veterans need to apply for. There were many phone calls and messages to follow up with upon returning.

John stated that our office will begin working on the 2016 and 2017 budgets in July and will bring it to the meeting in August for approval. John also brought up that we will ask for an increase in the veterans transportation budget because by law as explained by Gary Olsen, finance director, the only money we can carry forward is the commission assistance.

John stated that he found out the Choice Card does work. He called the 800 number on the back of the card for an eye appointment and now has an appointment with an optometrist in Antigo.

John attended a meeting with Travis Rose, financial advisor from Thrivent but who is also a veteran and they are looking to set up a house in White Lake, a 501C charity. This charity wishes to purchase a house in White Lake and will offer it on a six month basis for veterans with PTSD issues. During this stay they would work on a dairy farm to help with chores to educate them on farming and for therapy. White Lake softball team will turn the money they collect at the tournament in July over to this charity.

John stated that Camp American Legion is also being expanded. The DNR turned over 1500 acres so that they can expand. Richard Schuh stated that the Camp owned that land and turned it over to the DNR and now they have requested it back.

John also commented that the Memorial Day parade was cancelled because of the rain. The ceremony was held in the American Legion Clubhouse and the ceremony went very well.

Attendance was high.

Agenda Item #07. Set Date for July meeting and Tentative Date for August.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for July 13, 2015 at 1:30 pm. August's meeting date was tentatively set for Monday, August 10, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item #09. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Richard Schuh to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Submitted by,
Mary Lex