

Minutes of Langlede County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on March 11, 2013 at 9:00 am by Chairman Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Larry Poltrock.

Members Absent: Mike Klimoski

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Carlene Nagel, Dan Kamps, Al Werwie, David Lee and Tom Matucheski.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held February 11, 2013.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held February 11, 2013. Motion was seconded by Chairman Jim Jansen. Two ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Communications and Public Comment.

Al Werwie stated that he finally received his hearing aids from Iron Mountain VA and explained that after waiting over a year for them he was happy with how they worked. Al said Saturday, March 16, is the White Lake American Legion's birthday ceremony and dinner. There have been 68 responses so far and hopefully attendance will hit the 100 mark.

David Lee stated that on April 5, 6 and 7th at the Military Sport and Gun Show at the Langlede County Fairgrounds the DAV will have a table set up to raise money for Support the Troops, they will be selling Boy Scout items such as bags of caramel popcorn, chocolate covered peanuts, cranberry fudge and jalepeno cheese popcorn at \$1.50 per bag. The money raised will go towards sending boxes of necessities to our troops.

Tom Matucheski stated that he and his wife attended the Honor Flight movie at the Palace Theater and there was a good attendance for this show. Veterans are admitted for free. The next movie will be Sunday, March 17.

Dale commented that the St.Patricks Day Parade will be Saturday, March 16. Dale and Tom Arndt will be marching in it and the Crandon Post will also be there to participate.

Dale stated that the CVSO grant paperwork for 2013 was completed and sent to Madison. Our grant was decreased in 2012 from \$10,000 to \$8,500 and we will be receiving \$8,500 again this year. Dale attended the finance committee meeting because of this \$1,500 decrease our budget was over extended by \$1000. Finance will take the \$1000 from the contingency fund to cover this oversight. The Veterans budget in the future will have an additional \$1000 because of the decrease in the grant.

Agenda Item #5 Discuss and approve Budget Summary Report, travel pay and payment of bills.

The bills, the budget summary and the travel pay reports were reviewed by the Committee. Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the budget summary report, the travel pay report, and

authorize payment of the bills. Motion second by Chair Jim Jansen. Two ayes; one absent. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6. Outreach Update.

Dale stated that tomorrow, March 12, Iron Mountain VA director and some of the staff will hold a town hall meeting in Rhinelander at the VFW building from 4:30 – 5:30. Rhinelander is the first in the start of these meetings to take place. Others are held in the upper peninsula. Dale will be attending this meeting, and has been briefing at various meetings for veterans who have questions to attend this meeting.

Dale stated that he attended the re-integration of the National Guard troops in Green Bay for those returning from Afghanistan. He counseled the single veterans, male and female. Those veterans who were not from Langlade County were given information on how to contact the county that they will return to for applying for benefits.

David Lee stated that veterans are upset about the new travel pay program and he talked to Representative Tom Tiffany who said he will look into this matter. Representative Tiffany said David should contact Congressman Sean Duffy about this because it is a federal matter. Dale stated that the federal regulation set up is that the veteran gets paid to the closest VA facility not necessarily to the facility in which he has traveled. Because of our location our veterans will get paid to Wausau instead of payment to Rhinelander when they visit the Rhinelander facility. This new software program is called Dashboard and it automatically calculates how far the veteran has traveled from his home to the VA facility. It does not always follow the exact roads the veteran may have traveled so mileage may not match exactly what the veteran has traveled. This new system has been put into use to cut back on funds.

Agenda Item #7. Confirm date and time set for April committee meeting and set tentative date and time for the May committee meeting. Meeting date is set for Monday, April 15 at 9:00 in the Health Service Center Boardroom. Monday, May 13 at the time of 9:00 a.m. will be the tentative date until verified at April's meeting.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Chair Jim Jansen. Two ayes; one absent. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lex
Deputy CVSO