

## **Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting**

The meeting was called to order on Monday, May 11, 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, Robert Graupner, Dale Oatman, Al Werwie, Tom Matucheski, and Marie Schuh.

### Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held April 13, 2015.

Motion by Richard Schuh to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held April 13, 2015. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Agenda Item #4. Approve Budget Summary.

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

### Agenda Item #5 Public Comment.

Dale Oatman commented that the Honor Flight went today and there were three from Antigo on this flight.

Marie Schuh stated that there is an appreciation dinner at the Convention Center in Cedar Creek on June 7 for all veterans that went on an honor flight. Richard received an invitation to attend.

John stated that VFW is planning on having all WWII veterans be the Grand Marshalls for the Memorial Day Parade because of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII.

Tom Matucheski stated that the Phlox parade will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> also. Everyone is welcome.

Marie Schuh stated that Elcho has 8 cemeteries they do ceremonies at on Memorial Day.

John commented that the Memorial Parade in Antigo starts out at Eastview and proceeds down Hudson Street where they toss a wreath in to honor all veterans who died at sea, it then proceeds to the WWI Memorial then the Vietnam Memorial and the courthouse by the Veterans Memorial. John will be giving the speech.

### Agenda Item #6. Veterans Issues and Office Updates

John stated that he will be gone to Fort Bragg for three days leaving on Tuesday and returning on Thursday. Then on Friday John and Mary will be going to King Veterans Home for training by WDVA out of Madison on State Benefits. This is the first training done by the state for a long time.

John also reminded that the office will be closed from June 1 through the 5<sup>th</sup> because of the spring National Conference in Appleton.

John commented on the article for Primetime in the first week of May he listed all the veterans who were KIA or MIA during the wars. John stated that he missed a couple names on the Vietnam Memorial and that he had a call about a veteran of WWII who was missed and one from Korea period. John will add those names and plans on making this a yearly article for this time of year. Records from Navy and Marine Corp are not specific on which county the deceased were from.

Flags need to be picked up yet by Neva and St. Wencels, Township of Vilas, Township of Rolling, the Bohemian and Bent Cemeteries. The office will call and remind them to pick up those to get them on before Memorial Day.

John said that the PIV cards which are our access to the VA system, have finally been finalized with both John and Mary having e-QIP paperwork completed. Fingerprints are only good for 120 days so this time we have fallen within those guidelines. We can better answer veterans questions with this card.

John stated the laws of the Choice card have changed and now veterans in this area should be getting new cards that state they are now eligible for this benefit. John called the number on the back of his card and he now has eligibility to seek local care for eyeglasses.

Jim stated that with the previous card he received he was not eligible because of the 40 mile rule so he may have tossed his. John stated that there is a number to call to have them send a new card if you misplaced yours.

John brought up the issue of having a number of veterans needing rides to their scheduled appointments at VA medical centers. Sometimes the office can find volunteers who can drive veterans to their appointments but the list is small. If anybody knows of a volunteer who would be willing to help out these veterans please call our office and let us know. Veterans who are receiving 30% or more compensation will get paid by the VA facility and need to arrange a payment to the volunteer. Hopefully no driver will get short changed and we do try to help that situation by paying the veteran travel pay which gives him money to pay the driver.

John is now accredited with the WDVA, American Legion and VFW is pending. John now can do a claim and call these organizations to check on a previous claim or other questions the veteran may have with his claim.

John stated that rumors have been going around that Iron Mountain VA Hospital is shutting down their long term care. This is not the case but there will be less beds for long term care and more short term care for rehab. Previously it was 70% long term care and 30% short term that will now be flip flopped. The hospital records show that they need more short term care than long term care.

Commission meeting was held last month. Approved six cases since the last quarterly meeting.

John reminded all that the King Veterans Home open house is this Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a nice celebration to attend if able to.

John reported that our laptop computer and printer are in, the IT department needs to make it ready for our department.

Dale asked if we received any information on a State Executive Commission meeting. John stated that Tommie Stuckert did get his invitation and he believes it is in Green Bay. Dale stated that the CVSO from Oconto county is retiring and that there is a rumor that their county board is trying to have the position half time or combine with another county.

John commented that he was not invited to this meeting and can talk to the CVSO in June at the National Conference to find out if this is rumor or fact.

John stated that the WDVA state CVSO grant is trying to be taken away with more specific ways to spend this grant money. This grant is for \$8500. Amount of money is based on veteran population and our county is only 19 veterans short of receiving \$10,000. Only 50% can be spent on salary this next year and after that none can be spent on salary. This money needs to be spent on helping veterans in the county. We will have to work with the finance department to adjust the budget after 2017.

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

The committee scheduled the next meeting for June 8, 2015 at 1:30 pm. July's meeting date was tentatively set for Monday, July 13, 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 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Mary Lex