

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. by committee chairman Jim Jansen, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed while John Zenkovich read the names of Veterans associated with the Langlade County Veterans Office whom have passed a way since the last committee meeting.

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

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

Agenda Item #4. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held October 10, 2016.

Motion by Dick Schuh to approve the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting held October 10, 2016. Motion seconded by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Approve Budget Summary.

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

Agenda Item #6. Public Comment on Agenda Items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas.

Public Comment Open Forum:

Al Werwie commented that the Veterans Day Program for White Lake was very successful again this year. The Honor Guard of the American Legion had a ceremony outside the school followed by a program inside the school put on by the children. In the evening a dinner was held at the Community Center for veterans and their families. There were about 55 in attendance.

Marie Schuh commented that they were unable to attend the Elcho Veterans Day Program but that it was very successful. There was a flag folding ceremony and The American Legion presented the colors. The school provided a very nice lunch.

Tom Matucheski commented on the Phlox American Legion Post Veterans Day events. It started at Crestwood Elementary with a flag raising ceremony and the rest of the program went very well also.

Dan Kamps commented that the American Legion Post 3 and the 40 et 8 will hold their dinner Tuesday night at the American Legion Clubhouse.

Dan also commented on the loss of Jack Marciniak. Jack was on the veterans committee for many years and also was the Chairman of the Commission Assistance Committee until his health failed to where he couldn't continue any longer.

Agenda Item #7 Veterans Issues and Office Updates

John stated the agenda for December will include a closed session for a department head review. The office will be closed on November 22 and 23 due to PTO by both Mary and John. November 24 and 25 it will be closed due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will be closed on

December 8 and 9 due to a winter meeting in Clark County. John and Mary will be touring the Highground while they are there.

John stated the process of going paperless is going very well. There are no longer any paper files on any living veterans. All veterans are now in the new computer system and files are scanned into the computer.

We are now going through the deceased veterans files now and are about 60% finished. By going through these files we are finding widows who may be eligible for Widows pension or Dependents Indemnity Compensation. There have been a few widows who are eligible for DIC because of new presumptive of Agent Orange since the veteran passed away.

John stated that WDVA Secretary John Scocos has resigned effective January 1, 2017. Governor Walker accepted his resignation. Letters have been sent out to certain veterans asking for suggestions on choosing a new Secretary.

There are two items of importance on the agenda of WDVA for 2017. The first is that the Property Tax Credit become a benefit for all veterans who have at least a 30% disability rating. For example a 30% rated veteran would receive 30% reimbursement of their property tax paid. The second is the WI GI Bill eligibility for veterans from out of state who have lived here for at least 5 years and who are rated at least 30% his/her children and spouse would also be eligible for the WI GI Bill. This is a University of Wisconsin cost not a WDVA cost.

John commented that two events held just recently were very successful.

Iron Mountain VA conducted a town hall meeting at the VFW Clubhouse on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The attendance was close to 100. Representatives from Iron Mountain were very pleased with the great attendance. Veterans were pleased with the information they received and left with a better understanding of the Choice Program.

John stated the first annual Thank a Vet Program headed by the Antigo Radio Station manager Bruce Grassman held at Lakeside on Veterans Day turned out great. Antigo station was broadcasting live for 12 hours from 7 am to 7 pm. A brat fry was held from 10 to 2 which really went well making \$450 in those 4 hours. Bruce had a bucket there for donations which will go to only Langlade County veterans in need of assistance. The first \$500 was donated by the Antigo radio station. The total very impressive amount of money raised was \$4295.94 which will go into the Commission Fund. Thank you to all the generous people of Antigo who donated to this program.

Agenda Item #9. Set Date for December Meeting and Tentative Date for January 2017

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, December 12, 2016 at 1:30 pm. November's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017 at 1:30 pm.

Agenda Item #10. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Dick 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