

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Mike Klimoski, and Larry Poltrock.

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

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held October 14, 2013.

Motion by Mike Klimoski to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held Monday, October 14, 2013. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Approve Budget Summary.

The 2013 budget summary was reviewed by the Committee. Motion by Larry Poltrock to approve the budget summary report. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #5. Communications and Public Comment .

David Lee commented on the Honor Flight Fundraiser held at the VFW on October 26 stating that it went very well. There were many artifacts and pictures from all wars on display. Keith Wilson coordinated this and there are plans for another one next year, possibly in the summer so it can be held outdoors. Those meetings will start in January of 2014. Total amount of money raised for the Honor Flight will be close to \$6000 once everything is submitted. VFW and DAV received some new members at that fundraiser also.

Chairman Jim Jansen asked if memberships were increasing in Veterans organizations, David Lee replied that it is increasing somewhat but many Iraq veterans who are disabled would rather not be a member to prevent from being labeled as disabled. Steve Bradley commented that by being a member they can obtain assistance if they have the need, which is a great reason to become a member, but overlooked by some veterans.

Mike Klimoski commented that he read that 22 veterans commit suicide every day. If that figure were to include active duty military that number would be higher.

Al Werwie reported on the Veterans Day ceremony at the school in White Lake and then they were in for the school program and invited for lunch. In the evening there was a dinner at the White Lake center with about 60 or more in attendance. Keith Wilson spoke about the Honor Flight program. Al Werwie stated that he is going on the Honor Flight in the spring.

Steve Bradley reported that there was a ceremony at the Antigo middle school on Veterans Day, local veterans did the rifle salute, next year Dr. Turnbull will be the speaker. Elcho also had a great turnout with a ceremony at the school where the band played and the choir sang which was very nice. On Veterans Day the Marine Corp League had the Marine Corp birthday celebration at Schwartzendrubers Supper Club. On the 12th the 40 et 8 had their veteran dinner at Schwartzendrubers.

Dale reported that the post office had a Marine Corp function on Friday morning. There were a number of veteran's organizations in the area that also had functions on Veterans Day. Steve Bradley stated that there was a service at Eastview and one at Evergreen Terrace as well. Tom Matucheski stated that after the ceremony at the school on Veterans Day, Strasser-Roller Funeral Home invited veterans to have cookies and coffee at their business.

Agenda Item #6. Outreach Update.

Dale reported that he and Mary attended training at the National Guard Armory in Wausau on November 6. It was very informative covering filing compensation claims for traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, presumptive of agent orange exposure and explaining Nehmer law which is if a veteran previously filed a claim for an illness now to be a presumptive of agent orange and was denied. His date of claim goes back to that previously denied claim. This training helps Mary and Dale keep their accreditation. Several guard units throughout the state held these trainings which was a video conference from Milwaukee VA Regional Office. Dale attended a meeting in Iron Mountain on Tuesday, November 12 and a Northwest CVSO meeting on Friday in Fond du Lac.

A veteran identification marker can be put on your drivers license. Veterans first fill out an application form and send it by mail or fax to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to apply for eligibility and verification is sent to DOT. New license will be issued starting on December 2, 2013. If you wish a new license be issued the veteran is required to pay the cost of a new license. Please stop in the CVSO office to answer any questions or if you want help in filling out the form. Our office cannot verify veteran status but we can help in filling out the form to be submitted to WDVA.

Agenda Item #7. Set date for December meeting and tentative date for January meeting.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, December 9, 2013 at 9:00 in the Health Service Center Boardroom. January meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2014 at 9:00.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Larry Poltrock to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

Submitted by,
Mary Lex
Deputy CVSO