

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on September 10, 2012 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held August 13, 2012.

Motion by Mike Klimoski to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held August 13, 2012. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Communications and Public Comment.

Al Werwie reported that Veterans Day plans are underway for American Legion Post 524. Because Veterans Day is on a Sunday, the day the activities will take place has not been decided on at this time. Plans are also underway in White Lake to purchase and install an 8 foot cross in both Sherry and Brown Cemeteries.

Dale has a speaking engagement at Elcho school for Veterans Day.

Dale brought it to our attention that Jack Marciniak is in the Eastview Medical & Rehab Center for therapy following a stay at the hospital.

Dale reported that President Obama issued an Executive Order on Friday to improve suicide prevention services. The new order requires VA to ensure Veterans in crisis who seek help from VA see a mental health professional within 24 hours, and it requires the VA to hire additional mental health employees so VA meets increasing demand for treatment. The number of suicides by veterans is the highest suicide rate since the Army began keeping track. A veteran commits suicide every 80 minutes. This decision by the President is a huge leap for troubled veterans.

Dale reported the VA will not cover the costs of service dogs assigned to veterans for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Even though many individual veterans' testimonials said that mental health service dogs provide relief from the symptoms of PTSD, research was lacking substantiating that effect. VA will continue to cover the costs of service dogs to help veterans with impaired hearing, vision or mobility.

Dale reported that research is underway and evidence is emerging that the newest combat veterans in their 20s and 30s are growing old before their time. Scientists see early signs of heart disease and diabetes, maladies more common to middle age or later. This research is in its early stages and scientists are trying to understand the effect combat stress has on aging.

Dale reported the Veterans Office will be closed September 24 through September 28. Dale and Mary will be at the fall conference for training purposes. Veterans are able to contact the front desk at the Social Services Department to set up appointments.

VA claims offices are thanking veterans for those individuals who provide all the necessary information for a claim at the time it is submitted, which saves much time for all who are working the claim.

Tom Matucheski reported that he attended the "Welcome Home" event for the Vietnam Veterans that Karl's Transport put on at the city park and the event went very well and had about 30 to 40 veterans in attendance. Some veterans were there from Green Bay and Appleton. Karl's provided food and refreshments in honor of a Vietnam veteran who was employed with their trucking business and passed away. Karl's Transport plans on this being an annual event.

Agenda Item #5. Discuss and approve 2012 Budget Summary report, travel pay, and payment of the bills.

The bills, the 2012 budget summary and the travel pay reports were reviewed by the Committee. Motion made by Larry Poltrock to approve the 2012 budget summary report, the travel pay report, and authorize payment of the bills. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #6. Outreach Update

Dale reported that he was at Camp American Legion and had a talk with Kevin Moshea the director of the camp and Kevin said it was another great year for the camp. They do schedule groups before individuals which fill up the camp, but the individual veterans can still schedule a time for their visit. Al Werwie was not happy with this plan, Al feels the veteran is put off and needs to schedule his week there around these groups and not able to be at the camp when it is convenient for him/her.

Dale reported the annual Commission meeting will be held at King Veterans Home on September 14, 2012. Our commission committee consists of Jack Marciniak, Tommie Stuckert and Dan Kamps. Because of Jack's illness he will not be able to attend. Tommie Stuckert will be able to attend with Dale.

Agenda Item #7. Confirm date and time set for October committee meeting and set date and time for November's committee meeting.

Dale Oatman reported the date set for October's meeting was Monday, October 15, 2012 in the Health Care Center Boardroom at 9:00 a.m. Will set November's meeting at the October meeting.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mike Klimoski to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Larry Poltrock. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Submitted by,
Mary Lex
Deputy CVSO