

Minutes of Langlade County Veterans Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 9:00 am by Chair Jim Jansen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jim Jansen, Richard Hurlbert and Mike Klimoski.

Others Present: Dale Oatman, Mary Lex, Jack Marciniak, Al Wewrie, Earl Clay and Liane Blahnik.

Agenda Item #3. Approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting held August 8, 2011.

Motion by Richard Hurlbert to approve the agenda and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held Monday, August 8, 2011. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #4. Communications and Public Comment.

Earl Clay introduced himself to the Committee. Earl reported he is a member of American Legion Post 524, a member of the DAV and the Forty & Eight.

Dale Oatman commented on the article in the Antigo Daily Journal about the second side of the mural at Veterans Memorial Park. Dale continues to brief this Veteran's memorial at area meetings.

Dale reported that Governor Walker selected John Scocos as the new Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and selected Jason John, as Deputy Secretary. Dale reported he received an email from Scocos as Dale served on the CVSO Advisory Committee who advised the Board of Directors, but this is one of the subcommittees that Scocos eliminated.

Agenda Item #5. Discuss and approve 2011 Budget Summary report, travel pay, and payment of the bills.

The bills, the 2011 budget summary, and the travel pay reports were reviewed by the Committee. Motion by Richard Hurlbert to approve the 2011 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 Oatman reported he submitted the paperwork for Veteran's Travel Grant for the County. Dale reported many county veterans use the travel pay and are not in favor of getting the DAV van in the county.

Dale reported his office is having some issues with veterans who call the office asking for help in getting rides to a VA hospital or clinic. Dale has a list of people who are willing to take veterans to their appointments if it fits into their schedule. There are various reasons that people are unable to call a veteran back. Some recent ones include a phone being disconnected or no answering machine for people to leave messages. Dale continues to work with Menominee Transit to get a route designed to include Wausau and Rhinelander VA clinics.

Dale attended the north east CVSO meeting where Senator Kohl's representative advised that the ground breaking for the new Green Bay clinic should take place in October. Senator Kohl is submitting a bill about hiring veterans.

Dale reported the new director at King reported that if a couple goes there, the spouse no longer has to qualify for nursing home care. It is just the veteran who requires the nursing home care and a spouse can go without needing that level of care. If the veteran passes away and the spouse is still healthy, the spouse can remain at that home. They also plan to hire a Veterans Benefit Specialist in the near future. This position will be more administrative than helping with claims or converting a veteran's service connected disability.

Dale reported the Wisconsin GI Bill will be changing to fall in line with the new 911 changes to eliminate duplication. When the new 911 Bill was passed it stated that all options need to be used before using the Federal 911 Bill. So Wisconsin Veterans can save the Wisconsin GI for a master's degree or additional training in the future. There is also a vocational grant or a retraining grant for veterans. The Veterans Service Office can help ensure that veterans apply for the correct grant to help with their schooling.

Dale reported the LZ Lambeau is looking to have a reunion which may be held in conjunction with a large job fair for veterans that the WDVA will try to establish in Green Bay. They are trying to work out that both will be held at Lambeau Field and a tentative date was set for October 8, 2011.

Last week, Mary, Tommie and Jack attended the annual Commissioner's meetings at King. Jack was re-elected as an executive director for 3 more years. Both Jack and Tommie will remain on their same committees: Jack serves on the Constitution and Legislative Committees and Tommie serves on the Resolution Committee. Dale resigned as Secretary/Treasurer and has some duties to complete before retiring that position.

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

The date for next month's meeting will be Monday, October 17, 2011 at 9:00 am. November's meeting was tentatively set for Monday, November 7, 2011 at 9:00 am.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Richard Hurlbert to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Mike Klimoski. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Submitted by,
Liane Blahnik
Administrative Assistant