

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

The following are the open minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Green Lake County Veterans Service Commission held in the Veterans Service Office at the Government Center, Green Lake, WI, at 10:30 A.M. on October 11, 2013.

Members present: Victor Shrock, Tony Soda, and Jon Vandeyacht, Secretary.

Certification of Open Meeting Law: The requirements of the Open Meeting Law have been met.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Shrock.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Approval of Agenda: After discussion, Soda made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Action on Minutes: After discussion, Soda made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 meeting. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appearances & Correspondence: Ron Chier was in attendance and spoke about the Veterans Travel the CVSO provides; expressed his appreciation of the program and hopes that bills proposed by WDVA will not affect the program.

Old Business: Shrock reported that Soda, Burdick, Vandeyacht and himself; attended the Service Commissioners meeting at King on September 13 and they thought it was an informative meeting and more organized than previous meetings. There was more discussion on programs this year than in the past. Next meeting will be September 2017.

Vandeyacht reported that attendance at the booth at the County Fair was very good and that he expects to attain the goal of at-least 5 new veteran contacts this year.

Vandeyacht reported that the Budget was submitted for 2017 and will have the same for Service Commission funds as this year; the budgeted amount has been nearly fully used for the past 3 years and decided to leave the total the same again. Final budget will be approved at the November County Board meeting.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2016 Fall CVSO conference was held in Green Lake from 3-7 October. There were many CVSO's and Staff in attendance. There were many important items that were trained on as well as Vandeyacht was appointed at the Wisconsin CVSO Association Secretary for 2017.

New Business: It was noted that the term of appointment of Burdick to the Service Commission expires in December. Burdick expressed his interest in being reappointed.

Vandeyacht will write a memo to the County Board Chairman recommending that Burdick be reappointed.

Vandeyacht reported that the WDVA Transportation Grant was submitted on October 18. The amount to be awarded will be determined and distributed after the first of the year.

Previously discussed in Old Business under the Budget; The Service Commission aid fund has been submitted at the same value as in the past 2 years. It was pointed out by Waupaca County at the Service Commission meeting, that by state statute, the funds allocated for Emergency Aid are supposed to carry over to the next year once they are allocated, not roll into the GPF. Traditionally, all funds are expended by year end so that hasn't been an issue.

Service Office Report: Vandeyacht reported that for 2016 as compared to 2015; contacts were down 22% mail was down 11% and VA hospital trips are down 6%. The contacts and mail are assumed to be down due to the fact that in 2015, the CVSO, was new and many Veterans wanted to talk to the new CVSO. Trips are down due to the passing of 3 Veterans who used the travel program heavily. When compared to the average of the past 3 years; Contacts were -27%; Mail +19% and trips -3%

Vandeyacht reported that Robin and Himself, attended the WICVSOA fall conference at the Heidel House here in Green Lake from October 3 Thru 7. The training was mostly on Federal VA programs and benefits as well as ADA, Service Dogs, State GI Bill and Free Voice to Text Phones & service for the clinically diagnosed – Hard of Hearing. This is required for both of them to maintain accreditation.

Vandeyacht reported that during the Conference, there was discussion about the bill that was proposed earlier in the year and how Secretary Scocos of WDVA stated he will attempt to get it passed after the State Congress reconvenes. The Association will present position papers about any future CVSO position changes (ie Consolidation or Filling by Non-Veterans in a part time basis only) as well as a request to change the Old Grant (now restricted Reimbursement) back to a Block grant, even if there are restrictions as to what it can be spent on.

Vandeyacht reported that the VAF, with the County CVSO's office, successfully prevented a Veteran resident from becoming homeless. He was worried that if the Veteran became homeless that the Veteran would be one of the 22 Vets a day statistic. The Veterans problems with his landlord have been resolved thanks to the VAF, and the Veteran is now employed and starting to enjoy life again. The Veteran is exceptionally grateful to Vandeyacht (as the first contact), The Green Lake CVSO staff, G-L Food Pantry and VAF for all of the assistance.

Vandeyacht reported that he will be leaving the transportation fees the same for 2017 as they have been for the last couple of years. He will revisit the fees again in late 2017.

Vandeyacht reported that there were 7 Veteran deaths since the last commission meeting. 40 veteran's deaths in the county for 2016 (as of 1 Oct). This is a decrease when compared to the average of 68 per year for the last 4 years.

Financial Report: After discussion, Soda made a motion to approve the Financial Report as submitted. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Date: The date for the next meeting will be Monday, January 10, 2017, at 10:30 A.M.

Closed Session per Wis Stats 19.85(1)(c): Not required.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:42 A.M. on a motion by Soda. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Jon D. Vandeyacht
Secretary, Veterans Service Commission

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