

BOARD MINUTES
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Meeting of February 22, 2018
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
201 West Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

Board Members

Larry Kutschma, Chair
John Gaedke, Vice Chair
John Townsend (Excused)
Al Richards (Absent)
Carl Krueger (Excused)
Leigh Neville-Neil (Absent)
Steven Best
Vern Larson, Secretary
Paul Chamberlain

Others Present (not all inclusive)

Michael Frugal COVP Member

WDVA Present

Dan Zimmerman, Secretary
Tom Rhatican, Deputy Secretary
Kathy Still, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Chad Koplien, Chief Legal Counsel
Randy Nitschke, Commandant Union Grove
Mark Wilson, Commandant Chippewa Falls
Ken Grant, Administrator
Josh Heine, Executive Staff Assistant
Kelly Behling, Executive Staff Assistant

1. Call to order and roll call

A moment of silence was observed for POWs, fallen comrades, and all others whose job is to serve and protect. The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by the Chair. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Certification of notice of meeting

Proper notification of the meeting occurred.

4. Board action on minutes from June 29, 2017 meeting

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 16, 2017.

5. Election of Board Officers

- A Motion was made to nominate Larry Kutschma as Chair. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.
- A Motion was made to nominate John Gaedke as Vice Chair. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.
- A motion was made to nominate Vern Larson as Secretary. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

6. Discussion: Legislation of Veterans Affairs review of Chapter 45

Board Chair Larry Kutschma stated that the Legislation has no lead and will have to see what happens with it during the next legislative session. Board Chair Larry Kutschma also encouraged the Board members to get a copy of LRB.1244 and familiarize themselves with it.

7. County Veterans Field Representative update

Secretary Zimmerman provided a update on the activities and success of the County Veterans Field Representative.

8. Evaluation Committee Members Non-Profit Grant update

Board Chair Larry Kutschma thanked Board Members John Townsend, John Gaedke and WDVA Administrator James Bond for their efforts in the two Non-Profit Grant programs.

9. Wisconsin Veterans Home Update (Chippewa Falls, King, Union Grove)

Commandant Mark Wilson provided a power point presentation providing an overview of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls, King and Union Grove.

10. Veterans Trust Fund Update

Secretary Zimmerman provided a update on the Veterans Trust Fund.

11. Veterans Courts Information Briefing

Chief Legal Counsel Chad Koplien Provided a Briefing on Veterans Courts information.

12. Review and action on VA 6 Rate Setting

Motion was made, seconded and carried on a voice vote to Approve Rule VA 6.

13. Secretary's Comments

Secretary Zimmerman Addressed the Board.

14. Review of Legislative Fiscal Bureau 2017 Information Paper 90, State Programs for Veterans.

Secretary Zimmerman requested input on the programs in the Paper 90. Board Chair Larry Kutschma requested the Board Members to familiarize themselves with the Paper 90 and provide feedback at the next Board Meeting.

15. Board Members Report by District

District one: Board Chair Mr. Kutschma reports he is keeping an eye on the status of the Federal VA Secretary's Chief of staff falsifying travel documents.

District Two: Vice Chair Mr. Gaedke has nothing to report.

District Three: Ms. Neville-Neil (Not Present)

District Four: Mr. Krueger (Not Present)

District Five: Mr. Larson has nothing to report.

District six: Mr. Townsend (Not Present)

District Seven: Mr. Best has nothing to report.

District Eight: Mr. Chamberlain has nothing to report.

At Large: Mr. Richards (Not Present)

16. Public Comments

No Public Comments

17. Future Meeting

May 24th, 2018 at King Veterans Home.

18. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

Larry Kutschma
Chair

