

**Board on Veterans Affairs**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2024 at 1:00pm**  
In-Person at Wisconsin Veterans Museum with a Virtual Option

**Council Members Present:**

Pat Beggs	District 1
Christopher Hanson, <i>Chair</i>	District 3
Mark Mathwig	District 6
Jason Maloney, <i>Vice Chair</i>	District 7
Chris Cornelius	District 8
Laura Colbert	Member at Large

**Absent:**

Robert Hesselbein	District 2
Tonnetta Carter	District 4
<i>Vacant</i>	District 5

**Others Present (not inclusive):**

Paul Fisk – American Legion/COVP Chair  
Dennis Burdick – Comm AMVETS  
Joe Rasmussen – UW  
Danielle DuClos – Capitol Times

**WDVA Staff Present:**

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary  
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant  
Mindy Allen, OLC  
Kevin Hampton, Museum Curator

Chair Chris Hanson called the meeting to Order at 1:00pm. Roll call was taken, 6 members in attendance; a quorum was present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

A moment of silence was given in honor of former BOVA Chairman Vern Larson

Introduction of other in-person attendees was given:

- New Member at Large, Laura Colbert (Waupaca)
  - Assisting heavily with the Commandant Cottage at King
- Robert Hesselbein absent but moved as the Member at Large into the District 2 Board position

Minutes from June 20, 2024 were reviewed:

- Correction to minutes:
  - Update the Board Members officer positions to reflect correct Chair and Vice Chair
- MOTION: Jason Maloney made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Pat Beggs; minutes were unanimously approved

Executive Staff Assistant Dawn LaFond provided an Administrative Update

- All BOVA Members should have received an email informing them of the required Ethics for Public Officials and Wisconsin Public Records Law which is due by mid-November. A hard copy of the procedure on how to log in and complete the training was provided.
  - ACTION: Contact Dawn with any issues logging into the training program

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey provided updates to the Board covering the following topics:

- WDVA Department
  - Museum purchase is moving forward
  - Budget
    - WDVA's 2025-2027 biennial budget request was submitted to the Department of Administration on September 16, 2024
      - Requests for GPR dollars was submitted for the Homes and for VHRP
      - Request for Legislature to make the expanded positions for VORP permanent (from 11 positions to 16 positions)
      - ACTION: ADS Hoey to send a link to the budget description to the Council
  - WDVA Website
    - Testing is ongoing and Communications Director Colleen Flaherty is in the process of reaching out to Council Members
  - VBATS
    - Recently launched VBATS 2.0 which will enable the claims process to be more efficient and faster
    - ACTION: Contact Joey with comments and/or suggestions
- Soldier's Home history and Master Plan Study progress
- Federal HR Resolution 7543 (Guard and Reserve Parity Act)
  - ACTION: All supporting BOVA Members who support this proposed Act are encouraged to talk to Legislature.
  - ACTION: Joey to update BOVA Members if any movement on this proposed Act
- Camp Randall Signage
  - ACTION: Joey to learn more about the signage and what needs to be updated and report back to BOVA

Board Member District Reports provided by:

- Patt Beggs – District 1
- Chris Hanson – District 3
- Mark Mathwig – District 6
- Jason Maloney – District 7
- Chris Cornelius – District 8
  - ACTION: Send information on Liberation of Maashtrecht to Dawn to distribute to BOVA Members – does anyone have any relatives buried in the Netherlands?
- Laura Colbert – Member at Large

## Election of Officer | Secretary

- MOTION: Jason Maloney made a motion to nominate Chris Cornelius, seconded by Mark Mathwig; motion passed unanimously

Paul Fisk provided the COVP Chair Report.

- ACTION: Paul to send information on CVO Report to Dawn for distribution to BOVA Members

## Public Comments:

- Alan Hembel, Commander Ben Hobbins, and John Decker commented on their ancestors and others who trained and passed through Camp Randall throughout the years.
- Al Labelle indicated that the Camp Randall presentation lacked historical context and he offered additional background.

## Future agenda items:

- Discussion of 2025 meeting dates and locations
  - March – TBD
  - June – King Veterans Home?
  - September – TBD
  - December – TBD
- Legislative Update
  - ACTION: Joey Hoey to request Senator Testin or one of his staff members to attend the December 2024 meeting

## Next Meeting:

- December 19, 2024: Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Pat Beggs, second by Mark Mathwig and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hanson, Chair