

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

Council Members Present:

Pat Beggs	District 1
Robert Hesselbein	District 2
Christopher Hanson, <i>Chair</i>	District 3
Mark Mathwig	District 6
Jason Maloney, <i>Vice Chair</i>	District 7
Chris Cornelius, <i>Secretary</i>	District 8
Laura Colbert	Member at Large

Absent:

Tonnetta Carter	District 4
<i>Vacant</i>	District 5

Others Present (not inclusive):

Paul Fisk – American Legion/COVP Chair
Don Korte, Jr. – MOAA
Kim Queen – Jewish War Veterans
Bill Hustad – WI Vietnam Veterans
George Banda – MOAA
Jim Johnson – American Legion

WDVA Staff Present:

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant
Kevin Hampton, Museum Curator
Chris Kolakowski, Museum Director

Vice Chair Jason Maloney called the meeting to Order at 1:00pm on behalf of Chris Hanson. Roll call was taken, seven (7) members in attendance; a quorum was present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introduction of other in-person attendees was given.

Minutes from September 19, 2024 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Bob Hesselbein made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Pat Beggs; minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Staff Assistant Dawn LaFond provided an Administrative Update.

- Holiday ornaments that were made by Wisconsin school children and left over from the State Capitol Tree Lighting are available for any member who wishes to take and/or distribute to local organizations.

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

- Joint Finance Committee (“JFC”) updates
 - Appointments to JFC includes three members who are veterans:

- Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc)
 - Rep. Karen Hurd (R-Withee)
 - Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay)
- Legislature’s Veterans Committees updates
 - New Assembly Chair – Rep. Penterman (R - Hustisford)
 - Additional Assembly members and Senate Membership TBD
- WDVA Updates
 - Budget
 - WDVA’s 2025-2027 biennial budget request was submitted to the Department of Administration on September 16, 2024
 - Request for GPR dollars was submitted for the Homes, which was the first time this has ever been requested
 - Request for Legislature to make the expanded positions for VORP permanent (from 11 positions to 16 positions)
 - Request for additional funding for VHRP, which is funded primarily with federal government (VA) Per Diem Payments.

COVP Chair Report was provided by Paul Fisk.

DOD Presentation by Shane Preston, Great Lakes Regional Liaison, Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

- DOD’s Efforts with State Policymakers to Support Military Families

BOVA Chair Report was provided by Chair Chris Hanson.

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
- Laura Colbert – Member at Large

Public Comments: None

Future agenda items:

- Request from Bob Hesselbein for a briefing from WDVA on 250th Anniversary for armed forces

Next Meetings:

- March 13, 2025 – Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- June 19, 2025 – Chippewa Falls Veterans Home
- September 2025 – TBD
- December 2025 - TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Chris Cornelius, second by Pat Beggs and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Maloney, Vice Chair