

BOARD MINUTES  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of February 14, 2019  
Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
30 W Mifflin St  
Madison, WI 53703

**Board Members**

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

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Representative Ken Skowronski  
Rock Larson, CVSO Association of WI  
Dan Connery, CVSO, President of CVSOA  
Michael Owensby, Citizen  
Jayne Simon, Citizen

**WDVA Present**

Mary Kolar, Secretary  
James Bond, Deputy Secretary  
Kathy Still, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Chad Koplien, Chief legal council  
Randy Nitschke, Commandant Union Grove  
Brett Coomber, Bureau director Budget, Policy and Facilities  
Kelly Behling, Executive Staff Assistant  
Josh Heine, 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 November 15, 2018 meeting

Mr. Larson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 15, 2018. Mr. Krueger seconded and the Motion was carried on a voice vote.

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

Union Grove Commandant Randy Nitschke provided an update on the Wisconsin Veterans Homes to the Board.

6. Veterans Trust Fund

Secretary Kolar provided a summary of the Veterans Trust fund to the Board Secretary Kolar informed the Board the WDVA had sold its loan portfolio to WHEDA.

7. Veterans Homes Private Pay Rates

Secretary Kolar provided a Summary of the Veterans Homes Private Pay Rates to the Board.

8. Legislator Comments

Representative Skowronski thanked the Board for having him at the meeting and he looks forward to working with the Board and Secretary Kolar.

9. Secretary's Comments

Secretary Kolar expressed her appreciation of the Boards commitment to serving the Veterans of Wisconsin and it is a commitment Secretary Kolar and the Board shares.

10. Election of Officers

Board Chairman Mr. Kutschma recommended the Board hold the Election of Officers during the next Board meeting because three Board members were absent. Motion was made to postpone the Elections of Officers by Carl Krueger, Motion seconded by Vern Larson and carried by a voice vote.

11. Board Members Report by District

District one: Board Chair Mr. Kutschma provided a signed letter of support for the POW and MIA chair being placed in the Capitol.

District Two: Vice Chair Mr. Gaedke supports the Red White and Blue Whisky Release.

District Three: Ms. Neville-Neil not present.

District Four: Mr. Krueger reports the Milwaukee CVSO office has hired Rick Flowers to be the new Milwaukee County Veterans Service Officer.

District Five: Mr. Larson reports he would like to look at alternative income sources at King to help supplement losses.

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.

13. Public Comments

COVP Chairman Larry Hill reported to the Board on the highlights of the COVP Meeting.

14. Future Meeting

Mr. Krueger Motioned to have the next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Mr. Krueger's Motion was not seconded and was dismissed. Mr. Gaedke motioned to have the next meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at WDVA Central Office in Madison. Motion was seconded by Steve Best and carried by a voice vote. Mr. Krueger voted no.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Gaedke motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Larson seconded the motion and it was carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

Larry Kutschma  
Chair