

BOARD MINUTES
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Meeting of March 9, 2017
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
201 West Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53707

Board Members

John Gaedke, Chair
Larry Kutschma, Vice Chair
Dan Bohlin, Secretary (excused)
John Townsend
Al Richards
Cathy Gorst
Kevin Nicholson
Carl Krueger

Others Present (not all inclusive)

Elizabeth Benn, COVP Chair
Rock Larson, Wood County CVSO

WDVA Present

Dan Zimmerman, Secretary
Tom Rhatican, Deputy Secretary
Kathy Marschman, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Carla Vigue, Communications Director
Randy Nitschke, Homes Administrator
Ken Grant, Division of Veterans Services Administrator
James Bond, Division of Veterans Benefits Administrator
Chad Kopljen, Chief Legal Counsel
Mike Telzrow, Veterans Museum Director
Chris Apfelbeck, I.T. Director
Steve Errthum, Bureau of Fiscal Services Director
Mike Ayers, Bureau of Programs and Services Director
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 October 20, 2016 meeting

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 20, 2016.

5. Welcome New WDVA Leadership Team

WDVA Leadership made introductions to the Board.

6. Secretary's Comments

WDVA Secretary Zimmerman addressed the Board.

7. Election of Officers

- Motion to nominate Larry Kutschma as the new Chair was seconded and carried by a voice vote.
- Motion to nominate Kevin Nicholson as the new Vice Chair was seconded and carried by a voice vote.
- Motion to nominate Dan Bohlin as the Secretary was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

8. Open Records Training

Chad Koplien, Chief Legal Counsel addressed the counsel and provided an Open Records Training Power Point.

9. King Updates

- Secretary Zimmerman addressed the board and provided an update on the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.
- Randy Nitschke addressed the Board and provided an update on the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.
- Kevin Nicholson requested a report on the decreased Star Rating at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.

10. Board Members Report by District.

Mr. Kutschma reports District one VFW post 121 Milwaukee Medal of Honor bussing 15 disabled veterans every first Friday from the Zablocki VA Hospital to a Fish Fry. He thanks James Bond and Chair Gaedke for the privilege of serving on the two committees for the grants for nonprofits that serve Veterans and their families and the Entrepreneurship Grants.

Mr. Krueger Reports District four Milwaukee County provides \$40,000 to assist veterans in emergency situations.

Mr. Townsend Reports District six has a organization called salute the troops who is a nonprofit who started a project called Warrior House which is a home that is leased for Homeless Veterans. Mr. Townsend brought up the declining membership in Veterans Service Organizations which is causing a financial hardship for the organizations.

12. Future Meetings

Chair relays that the next Board meeting will tentatively take place on June 7, 2017 at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls.

13. Public Comment

Union Grove member shared that the care he receives at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove is excellent. He praised the Commandant and all of her team members for the work they do.

14. Adjournment

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

John Gaedke
Chair

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program Fact Sheet
2. Open Records Training Power Point (PDF Format)
3. Legislation: Assembly Bill 62- *Wisconsin Retirement System – Credit for Military Service*
4. 2017-2019 Capital Budget *Agency Requests and Governor's Recommendations*
5. Governor's Budget Recommendations
6. Veterans Homes Rate Structure
7. DAV Transportation Handout
8. State Programs for Veterans Handout