

BOARD MINUTES
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Meeting of September 13, 2013
Union Grove, Wisconsin

Board Members

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

Others Present (not all-inclusive)

Roger Fetterly, MOAA
Mike Rohan, American Legion
Al Labelle, DAV
Mike Gourlie, WACVO
Owen Williams, USSVWWII
Russ Collins, USSVWWII
Paul Fine, ANU
Howard Cole, ANU Commander
Ali Nelson, Racine CVSO
Randy Bjerke, MCL & Jackson CVSO
Jeff Lawrence, DOA Budget Office

WDVA Present

John A. Scocos, Secretary
Chad Koplien, Chief Legal Counsel
Carla Vigue, Communications Director
Ken Grant, Division Administrator
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director
James Parker, OPPB Director
Kathy Marschman, Division Administrator
Reid Aaron, Union Grove Commandant
Jim Knight, King Commandant
Mark Wilson, Chippewa Falls Commandant
Randy Nitschke, Division Administrator
Kim Michalowski, Claims Bureau Director
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant

1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Certification of notice of meeting

It was certified proper notification of the meeting had occurred.

3. Board action on minutes of the Board's April 25, 2013 teleconference

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke, seconded by Mr. Richards and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the Board's April 24, 2013 teleconference meeting.

4. Secretary's comments on 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 (budget act)

Secretary Scocos welcomed the newest Board members and gave a status update about the agency. He spoke about the biennial budget Governor Walker signed into law this summer which is a major victory for veterans. James Parker, WDVA Budget Director, went over the details of the WDVA budget items. Following these reports each Division

Administrator gave an overview of their Divisions within the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

5. Board Discussion on 2013 Wisconsin Act 20

Board members asked several questions on the Governor's budget.

6. Discussion on Board By-Laws

Board members were asked to read through the current Board By-Laws/Rules of Procedure, which are not in conformance with the current law, and forward their suggested revisions to the Department's Legal Counsel. The Board will conduct a teleconference meeting in the near future regarding the proposed final draft. In the meantime the Board will operate under Roberts Rules of Order.

7. Discussion of advisory role of the Board

Secretary Scocos said there is a new definition of the Board as it stands under law. Legal Counsel said the Board is independent of the Department and is neither superior nor subordinate. It has a policy role with some residual duties pertaining to the Mortgage Home Loan, the Home admission priorities relating to spouses and dependents, and work therapy services. Secretary Scocos said there is pending legislation to rename the Board of Veterans Affairs to The Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Issues.

8. Discussion on establishing new Board standing committees

The Board discussed creating three standing committees of the Board: Legislative, Employment and Outreach. Mr. Townsend said each Board member should take the initiative to work with employers in their districts regarding the employment of veterans.

9. Action on establishing new Board standing committees

No action was taken to formally establish the three standing committees noted above.

10. Public comment

Mr. Fetterly, as Council on Veterans Programs chair, reported on what transpired at the Council's public meeting of September 13, 2013. They had no recommendations to bring to the Board.

11. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Gaedke and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting, the time was 3:20 p.m.

12. Tour of the Veterans Home

A tour was offered for those wishing to see the facility.

John Townsend
Chair