

BOARD MINUTES  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of November 13, 2014  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Board Members**

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

**Others Present**

Roger Fetterly, COVP/MOAA  
Mike Furgal, VFW  
Dan Connery, Dane Co. Veterans Service Office  
Clayton Ruegsegger, Green CVSO  
Tim Baranzyk, Marine Corps league  
Donald Loudner, Nat'l American Indian Cmdr.  
Janine Sijan Rozina

**WDVA Present**

John A. Scocos, Secretary  
Kathy Marschman, Assistant Dep. Sec.  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Chad Koplien, Chief Legal Council  
James Bond, Division Administrator  
Jim Parker, CFO  
Randy Nitschke, Division Administrator  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant

1. Call to order and roll call

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

2. Certification of notice of meeting

Proper notification of the meeting occurred.

3. Draft minutes

a. Board action on minutes of the Board's April 14, 2014 meeting in Chippewa Falls

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke, seconded by Mr. Bohlin and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the Board's April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Chippewa Falls.

b. Board action on minutes of the Board's July 15, 2014 teleconference

It was moved by Mr. Bohlin, seconded by Mr. Kutschma and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the Board's July 15<sup>th</sup> teleconference.

4. Non-profit grant award selection process

Larry Kutschma was selected as chair of the non-profit grant award selection committee. Committee members serving with him are John Townsend and Dan Bohlin. They have 42 applications to review individually and will reconvene on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Department headquarters in Madison.

It was moved by Mr. Kutschma and seconded by Mr. Bohlin that the results of the non-profit grant committee be submitted to Secretary Scocos. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Board Rules

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke and seconded by Mr. Bohlin to approve the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Veterans Affairs. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Camp Randall Civil War Memorial

Museum Director Telzrow explained that this summer marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War and the Department is proposing to erect a monument on the site of Camp Randall. Funding will come from the UW and a private entity who are members of a Union Officer lineage. Secretary Scocos said the Board is required to approve changes to this portion of land at Camp Randall owned by the Department.

It was moved by Mr. Kutschma, seconded by Mr. Richards and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the placement of the monument at Camp Randall.

7. Secretary's matters

Secretary Scocos spoke on the following topics:

- The Department's participation in Veterans Day events
- The Veterans Stakeholder Conference held in Lake Geneva
- The Veterans Court Summit held in Lake Geneva
- The recently concluded Veteran Survey
- Working with Governor Walker to not only continue but strengthen veterans benefits such as property tax credit and the Wisconsin GI Bill
- The solvency of our Wisconsin Veterans Homes and the need for more beds in the future
- The success of the Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC)

8. Public comments

A question was asked whether or not a study has ever been done regarding the discrepancy in career earnings of the civilian population versus the veteran population.

Mr. Baranzyk asked for future surveys to be available in paper copies to the County Veterans Services offices for individuals who cannot access it online.

Mr. Kutschma introduced Donald Loudner, National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans. Mr. Loudner spoke and presented Secretary Scocos and Board Chair Townsend with a plaque and a medallion.

Mr. Kutschma introduced Lance Sijan's sister, Janine Sijan Rozina who spoke about relocating the Lance Sijan aircraft to Layton Avenue in Milwaukee and the needs associated with the plane's renovation and move. She floated the possibility of her property near King being used for veteran occupancy and is open to dialogue about that.

Roger Fetterly, MOAA and former Chair of the Council on Veterans Programs reported that the Council met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and heard a briefing from the Secretary and his staff. Elections were held and the new chair of the Council is Robert Piaro, VVA; the vice chair is Dave Schmidt, AMVETS; and the secretary is Ken Ness, PVA.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke, seconded by Mr. Richards and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting, the time was 2:15 p.m.

John Townsend  
Chair