

## Council on Veterans Programs

Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2023, 10:30am

In-Person at Wisconsin Veterans Museum with a Virtual Option

### **Council Members present:**

Paul F. Fisk	American Legion Dept. of WI
Michelle Matuszak	American Red Cross
Dale Wiegand	AMVETS
Kim Queen	Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
Phillip Landgraf	Marine Corps League
Roger Fetterly	Military Officers Assoc. of America
William Lobeck	Military Order of the Purple Heart
Scott Griffith	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Nellie De Baker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
Carolyn Morgan	United Women Veterans
Michael Furgal	VFW Department of Wisconsin
David Zien	WI Assoc. of Concerned Veteran Org.

### **Absent:**

Colin Moten	County Veteran Service Officers Assn
Larry Hill	Disabled American Veterans
William Sims	Nat'l Association for Black Veterans, Inc.
Vern Larson	Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
George Banda	Wisconsin American GI Forum
William Hustad	Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
VACANT	Retired Enlisted Association

### **Inactive Council Organizations:**

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Army and Navy Union of the United States of America  
Blinded Veterans Association of Wisconsin  
Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A.  
Navy Club of the U.S.A.  
US Submarine Veterans of World War II  
Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Inc.

### **Others Present: (not inclusive):**

Al Labelle – DAV  
Jason Maloney – BOVA  
Mark Mathwig – BOVA  
Pat Beggs – BOVA  
Jordan Tilleson – VFW  
Fernando Rodriguez – AGIF WI

### **WDVA Staff Present:**

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary  
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant  
Shannon Miller, Public Affairs  
Cal Stammer, VORP Supervisor  
Mindy Allen, OLC  
Kevin Hampton, Museum  
Amy Millard, Deputy Administrator

Secretary Nellie De Baker called the meeting to Order at 10:31am on behalf of Larry Hill who was absent due to illness. Roll call was taken, 12 members in attendance, a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introduction of other in-person attendees was given:

- BOVA Board Members: Jason Maloney, Mark Mathwig and Pat Beggs
- WDVA Staff: Joey Hoey, Dawn LaFond, Shannon Miller, Amy Millard and Cal Stammer
- Other attendees: Al Labelle and Fernando Rodriguez

Minutes from June 15, 2023 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Kim Queen made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Dale Wiegand; minutes were unanimously approved.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey provided an agency update to the Council:

- Passed along Secretary-designee Bond's thanks and appreciation for their flexibility in relation to change of meeting date and location from September 21, 2023 (King Veterans Home) to October 12, 2023 (Wisconsin Veterans Museum).
- Tour of King Veterans Home Moses Hall will be rescheduled to Spring 2024

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey provided a legislative update to the Council:

- Bills currently moving through Legislature which will change the law eliminating the need for those applying for CVSO positions to take the Civil Service Exam and allowing spouses of veterans to be admitted to one of three nursing homes if their spouse is not already a member or resident.
- 2023 Senate Bill 251/Assembly Bill 231, removing inactive groups from statutes establishing membership of COVP and adding three reps from student organizations.
  - MOTION: Paul Fisk made a motion to support the Bill, second by Michael Furgal; COVP support of Bill unanimously approved.

Administrative Update provided by Dawn LaFond:

- Records training and ethics training are due by November 17, 2023
  - There is an online records training that will satisfy requirements and is available October 25 at 9am and October 26 at noon.
- There is a free screening of Dear Sirs at the Sun Prairie Marcu Palace Cinema located at 2830 Hopeker Road at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Cal Stammer, Supervisor for the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program provided updates on Program:

- VORP regions have been expanded from 11 to 16 coordinators which was funded by ARPA dollars through December 2024, allowing for better quality case management.
  - If no additional funding is received, then regions will revert to 11 regions/coordinators.

- Paul Fisk informed the Council that he is working with Representative Riemer and will provide an update to Council at next meeting.

#### Master Plan Study Update:

- ACTION: Each organization to provide recommendations to ADS Hoey with respect to what should be included in the RFP study as it relates to long-term care needs of veterans in all three Wisconsin State Veterans Homes.

#### Election of Officers:

- Chair
  - MOTION: Paul Fisk made a motion to re-nominate Larry Hill; motion passed on a unanimous vote.
- Vice Chair
  - MOTION: Roger Fetterly made a motion to nominate Paul Fisk; motion passed on a unanimous vote.
- Secretary
  - MOTION: Paul Fisk made a motion to re-nominate Nellie De Baker; motion passed on a unanimous vote.
- MOTION: Kim Queen makes a motion to close nominations for Council, second by Paul Fisk; unanimous approval to close elections.
- MOTION: Kim Queen makes slate of officers to be accepted in universal vote, second by Phil Landgraff; unanimous approval of officers.

Member reports from PLAV, WICAV, and Jewish War Veterans provided.

#### Public Comments:

- Al Labelle (DAV)
- Fernando Rodriguez (on behalf of George Banda (AGIF))

#### Next Meetings:

- December 14: Tentatively at WDVA Central Office or the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison
- March 14, 2024: TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie DeBaker, Secretary