

# Council on Veterans Programs

Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2024 | 10:30am

In-Person at Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs with a Virtual Option

## Council Members Present:

Paul F. Fisk	American Legion Dept. of WI
Michelle Matuszak	American Red Cross
Colin Moten	County Veteran Service Officers Assn.
Larry Hill	Disabled American Veterans
Kim Queen	Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
Phillip Landgraf	Marine Corps League
Roger Fetterly	Military Officers Assoc. of America
Scott Griffith	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Nellie De Baker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
Michael Ayers	The Retired Enlisted Association
Michael Furgal	VFW Department of Wisconsin
George Banda	Wisconsin American GI Forum
William Hustad	Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans

## Absent:

Dale Wiegand	AMVETS
William Lobeck	Military Order of the Purple Heart
William Sims	Nat'l Association for Black Veterans, Inc.
Carolyn Morgan	United Women Veterans
Vern Larson	Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
David Zien	WI Assoc. of Concerned Veteran Org.

## Others Present (not inclusive):

Jason Maloney – BOVA  
Pat Beggs – BOVA  
Al Labelle – DAV  
Michael Panaro – New COVP Member  
Don Korte, Jr. – New COVP Member  
Mike Olson

## WDVA Staff Present:

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary  
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant  
Colleen Flaherty, Director Public Affairs  
Mindy Allen, OLC  
Kevin Hampton, Museum Curator  
Larry Graves, WDVA Staff

Chair Larry Hill called the meeting to Order at 10:29am. Roll call was taken, 13 members in attendance; a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from March 14, 2024 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Roger Fetterly made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Paul Fisk; minutes were unanimously approved.

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

- Master Plan Study, which is scheduled to be completed January 1, 2025

- ACTION: Contractor will be contacting VSOs – requirement included as part of the Request for Proposal process
- Preliminary budget proposal
- Museum building proposal

#### WDVA Website Update

- Colleen Flaherty, Communications Director, provided an update on the status of the WDVA website redesign which will be more engaging and consumer friendly for both desktop and mobile users.
  - ACTION: Teams call will be scheduled for COVP and BOVA members to conduct feedback around the fundamentals and infrastructure of the site to best serve veterans and their advocates who will be using the website.

Member reports from American Legion, American Red Cross, County Veteran Service Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, The Retired Enlisted Association, VFW, Wisconsin American GI Forum, and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans were provided.

#### Public Comments:

- Al Labelle (DAV) discussed the tax credit and its significance.
  - ACTION: Members and supporters should ensure that they are requesting the positions from candidates who are running for office on their position for expanding the eligibility on property tax credits.

#### Future Agenda Items:

- September will hold motions for Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary
- Update on Soldier's Home

#### Next Meetings:

- September 19, 2024: TBD
- December 19, 2024: TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Nellie DeBaker, second by Colin Moten and carried on a vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Hill, Vice Chair