

Council on Veterans Programs

Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2024 | 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
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
Don Korte, Jr.	Military Officers Assoc. of America
Scott Griffith	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Nellie De Baker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
Jackie Leon	Tech Colleges
Michael Ayers	The Retired Enlisted Association
Matthew Schroeder	UW Systems
Michael Furgal	VFW Department of Wisconsin
Michael Panaro	WAICU
George Banda	Wisconsin American GI Forum
William Hustad	Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans
David Zien	WI Assoc. of Concerned Veteran Org.

Absent:

William Lobeck	Military Order of the Purple Heart
<i>Vacant</i>	Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Inactive:

Nat'l Association for Black Veterans, Inc.
United Women Veterans

Others Present (not inclusive):

Jason Maloney – BOVA
Pat Beggs – BOVA
Laura Colbert – BOVA
Christopher Hanson – BOVA
Comm Dennis Burdick – AMVETS
Jordan Tilleson – VFW

WDVA Staff Present:

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant
Mindy Allen, OLC
Kevin Hampton, Museum Curator

Chair Larry Hill called the meeting to Order at 10:30am. Roll call was taken, 18 members in attendance; a quorum was present.

- New members introduced: Jackie Leon, Michael Panaro and Matthew Schroeder

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Minutes from June 20, 2024 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Kim Queen made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Colin Moten; minutes were unanimously approved

A moment of silence was given in honor of former COVP Secretary Vern Larson

Executive Staff Assistant Dawn LaFond provided an Administrative Update

- All COVP Members should have received an email informing them of the required Ethics for Public Officials and Wisconsin Public Records Law which is due by mid-November. A hard copy of the procedure on how to log in and complete the training was provided.
 - ACTION: Contact Dawn with any issues logging into the training program
- The VSO booklet with all contact information is progressing but there are a few outstanding pieces of contact information needed

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey provided updates to the Council covering the following topics:

- WDVA Department
 - Museum purchase is still in progress
 - Budget
 - WDVA's 2025-2027 biennial budget request was submitted to the Department of Administration on September 16, 2024
 - Requests for GPR dollars was submitted for the Homes and for VHRP
 - Request for Legislature to make the expanded positions for VORP permanent (from 11 positions to 16 positions)
 - ACTION: ADS Hoey to send a link to the budget description to the Council
 - WDVA Website
 - Testing is ongoing and Communications Director Colleen Flaherty is in the process of reaching out to Council Members
 - VBATS
 - Recently launched VBATS 2.0 which will enable the claims process to be more efficient and faster
 - ACTION: Contact Joey with comments and/or suggestions
- Soldier's Home history and Master Plan Study progress
- Introduction of new BOVA Member at Large, Laura Colbert

Member reports from American Legion, American Red Cross, AMVETS, County Veteran Service Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Technical Colleges, The Retired Enlisted Association, UW Systems, WAICU, Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veteran Organization, Wisconsin American GI Forum, and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans were provided.

- ACTION: Kim Queen to send information to Dawn for Allied Veterans Trip to Israel which is open to all veterans and scheduled for February 19-28, 2025, who will distribute to Council
- ACTION: Larry Hill to send information to Dawn regarding DAV Legislative Report titled "Visions for Veterans for the 119th Congress," along with information on Toxic-Exposed Veterans to distribute to the Council

Election of Officers:

- Chair
 - MOTION: Larry Hill made a motion to nominate Paul Fisk, seconded by Mike Furgal; motion passed unanimously
- Vice Chair
 - MOTION: Larry Hill made a motion to nominate Mike Furgal, seconded by Kim Queen; motion passed unanimously
- Secretary
 - MOTION: Larry Hill made a motion to re-nominate Nellie DeBaker, seconded by Kim Queen; motion passed unanimously

Public Comments:

- Jason Maloney (BOVA) serves on the Military Retiree Council who provides information at the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Ft. McCoy annually in September
 - ACTION: Contact Jason if you wish to become a member of the Council as they are currently recruiting

Future Agenda Items:

- ACTION: Submit agenda items to Dawn/Joey for coordination with Paul for next meeting

Next Meetings:

- December 19, 2024: Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- 2025 dates: TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Nellie DeBaker, second by Don Korte and carried on a vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:56am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Fisk, Chair