

Council on Veterans Programs

Meeting Minutes – December 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.
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
Michael Ayers	The Retired Enlisted Association
Jackie Leon	Technical Colleges
Michael Furgal	VFW Department of Wisconsin
George Banda	Wisconsin American GI Forum
Matthew Schroeder	WAICU
William Hustad	Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans
David Zien	WI Assoc. of Concerned Veteran Org.

Absent:

Larry Hill	Disabled American Veterans
William Lobeck	Military Order of the Purple Heart
<i>Vacant</i>	Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Michael Panaro	UW Systems

Inactive:

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

Others Present (not inclusive):

Pat Beggs – BOVA
Jordan Tilleson – VFW
Greg Eriech – American Legion
Jim Johnson – American Legion
Morris Sadicario – American Legion
Al Labelle, DAV
Sheila Sutton

WDVA Staff Present:

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

Chair Paul Fisk called the meeting to Order at 10:30am. Roll call was taken, 16 members in attendance; a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from September 19, 2024 were reviewed:

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

Executive Staff Assistant Dawn LaFond provided an Administrative Update.

- Holiday ornaments that were made by Wisconsin school children and left over from the State Capitol Tree Lighting are available for any member who wishes to take and/or distribute to local organizations.
- There are still a few Members who need to take their Ethics and Public Records training
 - ACTION: Reach out to Dawn if still having difficulty accessing the Cornerstone System

Presentation on Department of Defense’s efforts with state policymakers to support military families

- Shane Preston, who is the liaison between the Department of Defense and the Great Lakes Region, presented information on various DOD initiatives with State Legislatures to improve life for military servicemembers:
 - Access to quality child care
 - Child abuse neglect and reporting
 - Remote driver’s license and vehicle registration renewal
 - Concurrent juvenile jurisdiction
 - Military spouse employment and economic opportunities
 - Discrimination protection for military families
 - Occupational licensure and interstate compacts
 - State response to military interpersonal violence
 - Defining Armed Forces in State Policy
 - Open enrollment flexibility
 - State support of military families with special education needs
 - Military community representation on state boards and councils

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

- Joint Finance Committee (“JFC”) updates
 - Appointments to JFC includes three members who are veterans:
 - Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc)
 - Rep. Karen Hurd (R-Withee)
 - Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay)
- Legislature’s Veterans Committees updates
 - New Assembly Chair – Rep. Penterman (R - Hustisford)
 - Additional Assembly members and Senate Membership TBD
- WDVA Updates
 - Budget
 - WDVA’s 2025-2027 biennial budget request was submitted to the Department of Administration on September 16, 2024
 - Request for GPR dollars was submitted for the Homes, which was the first time this has ever been requested
 - Request for Legislature to make the expanded positions for Veterans Outreach Recovery Program (“VORP”) permanent (from 11 positions to 16 positions)

- Request for additional funding for Veterans Housing Recovery Program (“VHRP”), which is funded primarily with federal government (VA) Per Diem Payments.
- Museum purchase

Member reports from American Legion, American Red Cross, AMVETS, County Veteran Service Officers Association, 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, WAICU, Wisconsin American GI Forum, and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans were provided.

Public Comments:

- Morris Sadicario from American Legion Post 501 advocating for liquid assets and waiting time for GI benefit 5-year residency which needs to be shortened.

Future Agenda Items:

- None

Next Meetings:

- March 13, 2025 – Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- June 19, 2025 – Chippewa Falls Veterans Home
- September 2025 – TBD
- December 2025 – TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Kim Queen, second by Nellie DeBaker and carried on a vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Fisk, Chair