

Council on Veterans Programs

Meeting minutes – March 16, 2023, 10:00am

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
Dave Schmidt	AMVETS
Colin Moten	County Veteran Service Officers Assoc.
Larry D. Hill	Disabled American Veterans
Roger Fetterly	Military Officers Assoc. of America
William Simms	National Association of Black Veterans
Nellie P. De Baker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
Carolyn Mogan	United Women Veterans, Inc.
Michael L. Furgal	VFW of WI
Vern Larson	Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
George Banda	Wisconsin American GI Forum
David Zien	WI Assoc of Concerned Veteran Org.
William Hustad	Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Absent:

Kim Queen	Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
Phillip Landgraf	Marine Corps League
William Lobeck	Military Order of the Purple Heart
Scott Griffith	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Lester Bischoff	Retired Enlisted Association

Inactive Council Organizations:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
Army and Navy Union of the United State 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
Jordan Tilleson - VFW
Ralph Palmer - DAV, VVA
Jeffrey Lemieux - DAV, VFW
Dale Wiegard - AMVETS (virtual)
Nathan Bond - VFW (virtual)
Adam Wallace - VFW (virtual)

WDVA Staff Present:

Jame Bond, Secretary-designee
Christopher McElgunn, Deputy Secretary
Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Scott Sussman, OLC
Diane Lynch, Homes Administrator
Brian Jones, Veterans Benefits
Colleen Flaherty, Public Affairs
Shannon Miller, Public Affairs
Mindy Allen, OLC (virtual)

Chair Larry Hill called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Roll call was taken a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Certification of Notice of Meeting was confirmed; the meeting was certified as being properly noticed.

Minutes from December 15, 2022 were reviewed; Paul Fisk made a motion to approved the minutes, second by Vern Larson; minutes were unanimously approved.

WDVA leadership team introductions of Sec. Bond, Deputy McElgunn, Asst. Deputy Hoey, Division Administrator Jones, Communications Director Colleen Flaherty, and Homes Administrator Diane Lynch

Secretary-designee Bond provided agency update to the council and outlined department goals.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Hoey provided a Legislative update to the council.

Guest Al Labelle, DAV, informed the Council about the Veterans Day at the Capitol on Apr. 26.

Councilperson motioned for Council organizations to voice their support for Veteran Property Credit bill, second by Vern Larson; motion was unanimously approved.

Member reports were shared with the Council.

Public Input: Ralph Palmer - requesting information on PACT Act and predatory lawyers
 Jeff Lemieux - spoke of recent experience with WDVA's Claims Office
 Adam Wallace - spoke of VFW's support of the Veterans Day at the Capitol

Future agenda items: Bylaw review, meeting the new chairs of the Senate and Assembly Veterans Committees, update on from Sen. Hesselbein, June reappointments, June elections, update from Sen. Ballweg.

Motion to adjourn: Nellie DeBaker made a motion to adjourn; Paul Fisk 2nd the motion. Motion passed on a

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Hill, Chair