

Board on Veterans Affairs
Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025 at 1:00pm
In-Person at Wisconsin Veterans Museum with a Virtual Option

Council Members Present:

Pat Beggs	District 1
Robert Hesselbein	District 2
Christopher Hanson, <i>Chair</i>	District 3
Yolanda Medina	District 5
Mark Mathwig	District 6
Jason Maloney, <i>Vice Chair</i>	District 7
Chris Cornelius, <i>Secretary</i>	District 8
Laura Colbert	Member at Large

Absent:

Tonnetta Carter	District 4
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Others Present (not inclusive):

Paul Fisk – American Legion/COVP Chair
Andrew Bahl – Cap Times

WDVA Staff Present:

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant
Mindy Allen, Admin Rules Coordinator

Chair Chris Hanson called the meeting to Order at 1:02pm. Roll call was taken, seven (7) members in attendance; a quorum was present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Introduction of other in-person attendees was given

- New BOVA Member Yolanda Medina representing District 5 introduced herself

Minutes from December 19, 2024 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Bob Hesselbein made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Pat Beggs; minutes were unanimously approved

Executive Staff Assistant Dawn LaFond provided an Administrative Update

- No updates to provide

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

- VA 2 VAG Perm Rule
 - Mindy Allen provided details on the specificity of the Rule and its process

- ACTION: Board will review the Rule and send comments and/or suggestions to ADS Joseph Hoey, Chair Hanson and Mindy Allen by 03.19.2025
 - MOTION: Chris Cornelius made a motion to approve Chris Hanson providing the final approval and WDVA sending the final letter to the Committee; motion was approved unanimously.
- Highlights of Governor Ever's FY2025-FY2027 Budget [2025-27 Capital Budget Agency Requests and Governor's Recommendations](#), including:
 - Increased funding for CVSOs/TVSOs
 - Additional GPR dollars for the Veterans Outreach Program (VORP) to remain at the expanded 16 region level versus 11 regions
 - Increased funding for the Operation of the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP)
 - Funding for new VHRP Facilities in Chippewa Falls (\$14.3M) and Green Bay (\$10.0M)
 - New kitchen and laundry facility at King Veterans Home (\$101.4M)
 - \$6.2M for the preliminary planning and design of the new Wisconsin Veterans Museum
 - Expansion of the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit
 - Overview of credit can be found at [Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit \(Informational Paper 14\)](#)
 - \$1M for the University of Wisconsin MIA Project
 - ACTION: ADS Hoey to provide dates, times and locations of public hearings to COVP members and ask that they encourage more veterans to attend the hearings (email sent to COVP members on 03.18.2025 with the dates, times and locations indicated below).
 - 04.02.25 from 10am-5pm at Kaukauna High School located at 1701 County Rd CE in Kaukauna
 - 04.04.2025 from 10am-5pm at the Wisconsin State Fair Park located at 8200 West Greenfield Avenue in West Allis
 - 04.28.2025 from 10am-5pm at Hayward High School located at 10320 North Greenwood Lane in Hayward
 - 04.29.2025 from 10am-5pm at Northcentral Technical College located at 1000 West Campus Drive, Wausau
- Veteran related legislation
 - Sen Jacque spoke to the COVP Members this morning and discussed bills that he is working on that affect veterans
 - ACTION: Joey to send co-sponsorship information related to no fees on construction or improvements to accommodate a veteran disability to BOVA Members
 - ACTION: For any veteran-related issues, talk to your legislators directly

COVP Chair Report was provided by Paul Fisk

BOVA Chair Report was provided by Chair Chris Hanson

- Mark Mathwig confirmed his term is ending 05.01.2025 and this is his last meeting

Follow-up on DOD Presentation by Shane Preston, Great Lakes Regional Liaison, Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

- DOD's Efforts with State Policymakers to Support Military Families which Sen Jacque is working on some of these items:
 - Access to quality childcare
 - 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

Board Member District Reports provided by:

- Patt Beggs – District 1
- Bob Hesselbein – District 2
 - ACTION: Paul Fisk to send the historical paper on the history of recruiting to Dawn LaFond to share with BOVA
- Chris Hanson – District 3
- Mark Mathwig – District 6
- Jason Maloney – District 7
- Chris Cornelius – District 8
- Laura Colbert – Member at Large

Upcoming events and requests to support:

- Veterans Day at the Capitol
 - 04.22.2025 at 9am-3pm at Monona Terrace, Madison
 - ACTION: Registration is open at <https://wilegion.org/its-happening>
- Armed Forces Day Open House
 - 05.17.2025 at 9am-3pm at Fort McCoy Commemorative Area
- Valor & Support Appreciation Day
 - 06.13.2025 at 9am-6pm at Legendary Waters Resort & Casino, Red Cliff
 - Organized by Red Cliff Superior Chippewa Indians and Bayfield CVSO
 - ACTION: Encourage all to support this event. Information at [OPERATION WE GOT YOUR SIX.](#)
- Oneida Monthly Luncheons
 - Next lunch on 03.14.2025
 - Contact Chris Cornelius for more information

- Brown County CVSO Lunch
 - 04.11.2025 at the Neville Public Museum
- Military Birthdays
 - Cake cutting celebrations at the State Capitol in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the three branches of the Military formed in 1775:
 - 06.13.2025 at 12pm-1pm | Army
 - 10.13.2025 at 12pm-1pm | Navy
 - 11.10.2025 at 12pm-1pm | Marines
- Am250 Commission is also planning a big, combined celebration on 06.14.2025 at the Veterans Museum.
- UW MIA Project Fundraising
 - Bourbon bottle release fundraiser for UW-MIA Recovery and Identification Project
 - 09.19.2025 from 6pm-8pm at the VFW Post 7592, located at 301 Cottage Grove Road in Madison1 in Cottage
- ACTION: WDVA Office of the Secretary attends events throughout the state. For consideration, direct the organizer to contact Dawn LaFond at Dawn.LaFond1@dva.wisconsin.gov or submit a appearance request on the website at [Wisconsin Department Of Veterans Affairs - Speaking Request Form](#).

Public Comments: None

Future agenda items:

- Update on UW Camp Randall
 - ACTION: ADS Joseph Hoey to reach out to UW

Next Meetings:

- June 19, 2025 – Chippewa Falls Veterans Home
- September 18, 2025 – Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison
- December 2025 – Union Grove Veterans Home

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Laura Colbert, second by Pat Beggs and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hanson, Chair