

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Carl Soderberg, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Ken Corry, Tracy Rosinski, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Lynn Geiser  
**EXCUSED:** Rosemary Desisles

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1684**

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve or Modify Minutes of February 17, 2015.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Possible discussion/review regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair in preparation for 2015.**

Jim Haskins reported that he had attended the last Fair Board meeting and the Fair Board is working on finding a covered stage to rent. Erickson asked how the covered stage would be paid for and Haskins responded that this Subcommittee would have to bear the cost. Haskins indicated that Steve Corrigan, also of the Fair Board, would be providing names of places a stage could be rented from.

Tracy Rosinski indicated that Krolls Restaurant on Ridge Road has a covered stage in their parking lot on Packer game days and suggested that someone reach out to them to see if it could be borrowed for the Fair event. Erickson also felt it would be worth a shot to ask Jerry Watson of Stadium View if he had a covered stage that could be borrowed.

Jerry Polus indicated that he has not heard from the Air Force band yet as to their availability for the Fair. Erickson felt that if there was no response from the Air Force band by the next meeting, we should probably start to look for an alternative. Ed Koslowski offered to check the availability of the band that performed last year.

Koslowski asked if the Fair was guaranteeing the same size tent that was used at last year's event and Haskins responded that his understanding was that they are. Haskins also indicated that he had advised the Fair Board that the tent size and location were good last year.

**6. Report from Louise Dahlke of the Fair Board.**

*Louise Dahlke was not in attendance at the meeting; no report.*

**7. Discussion re: Covered stage.**

*See discussion on this item at Item 5 above.*

8. **Discussion re: Recognition item for female veterans.**

A discussion was held regarding recognition items for the female veterans who attend the Fair event. A manicure set was discussed and Tracy Rosinski indicated that if this was the chosen item, Heartland would be able to order them. Haskins recalled that at one time there was also discussion regarding handing out roses and he thought this was a nice idea. Erickson was concerned with ordering too many roses or manicure sets or not having enough and suggested a certificate instead, similar to what was done last year. Rosinski also suggested distributing ribbons. A decision will be made as to a recognition item at a later date.

Koslowski stated that when the Vietnam vets were honored several years ago, about 230 coins were handed out. A discussion ensued as to the percentage of females in the military and Polus indicated he felt it was around 10% at the most. It was also suggested that the Subcommittee ask one of the local florist if they would consider donating flowers for the event.

Rosinski shared a quote by Maya Angelou that she heard recently, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes & she-roes". A copy of this is attached.

Koslowski also brought up the time line for tickets and posters and indicated that the tickets and posters should be ready by the end of June so the various groups can distribute them at their July meetings. Polus indicated that the posters are printed in-house and can be done very quickly once all of the information is finalized and he should be able to have a draft of the poster available at the June meeting.

9. **Possible discussion regarding honoring female veterans at Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

*This Item was discussed at Item 8 above.*

10. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson did not have anything to report.

-Haskins indicated that he had recently eaten at I-Hop and he reminded the Subcommittee that I-Hop offers a 20% discount to veterans every day.

-Ed Koslowski indicated that he had talked to the second in charge at the VFW where the Veterans Day breakfast is held. He reported that the VFW has some concerns with regard to donations because they are asking for donations at some of the same businesses that this Subcommittee receives donations from. Koslowski indicated that he will talk to Rosemary Desisles about this since she has the list of businesses for the donations. He also suggested that this Subcommittee should strengthen the level of cooperation with the VFW by having a member or two attend the meetings at the VFW, similar to how they attend Fair Board meetings, so that both groups are aware of what the other is doing and everyone is on the same page. Koslowski also felt that providing the VFW with a list of the businesses that donate to this Subcommittee would be helpful so the VFW knows not to contact those businesses.

Erickson suggested that the Subcommittee go through the list of past donors and see if those donors could be utilized for donations for the Fair rather than the Veterans Day event as that would allow the VFW to contact them for the Veterans Day event for prizes to raffle off. Koslowski stated that last year this Subcommittee received 148 items with a value of about \$1,500 for the Veterans Day event by contacting business on the donation list.

Koslowski also shared a picture that was in the *Green Bay Press Gazette* from the Hoops For Troops event held recently at Bay Port High School.

-Pierce reported that he had recently attended a fundraising luncheon put on by Legion Post 539 for Denise Rohan who is running for National American Legion Commander. Rohan would be the first female to hold this position. Pierce said the fundraiser was well attended and he let the people at the fundraiser know that this year's Fair event will be honoring female veterans.

Pierce concluded by presenting Joe Witkowski with a certificate of appreciation for his help at the recent Hope 4 Vets event.

-Rosinski reported that Heartland will be bringing author Debra Grassman to the area during the first week of June. She will keep this Subcommittee updated with regard to details as they develop.

-Witkowski talked about the Hope 4 Vets event that was recently held. He told about a man he met who was sitting alone that he struck up conversation with. He also commented that he enjoyed the music at the event.

Witkowski also reported that he had read an article in the paper recently that said the Army Band will be performing at the Weidner Center on March 21. Advance tickets are necessary, but there is no cost for tickets.

#### 11. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that he recently had a meeting with Amber Nikolai, a veteran who is also the Public Relations Director for the Veterans Home in King. Nikolai brought in a poster that Polus shared with the Subcommittee regarding the 2015 open house at the home in King. The event will be held on May 17, 2015 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. The event will include entertainment by the Charlie Justmann Band, free rides on the “Chief Waupaca”, gift and craft shop, bake sale, food stands, coffee shop and bar, old car show, vintage military and vehicle display, mini golf, face painting along with tours and information provided by veterans service organizations and other agencies, health screenings and a meet and greet with executive directors. See attached poster for greater details.

Polus also stated that he needs to order more tee shirts for the company store. He would like to order 24 white tees with the logo at a cost of \$200 - \$250. He noted that as shirts are sold, the proceeds of the sales go right back into the Subcommittee's account.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to order 24 white tee shirts with logo at a cost not to exceed \$250. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Polus also stated that in reviewing the Vietnam Vets newsletter, he found a number of different events going on in the next several months including a Lee Greenwood concert at Voyager Park. Duane Pierce confirmed this and also indicated that there will be a B25 flyover along with the Greenwood concert.

Polus concluded that Bonnie will be returning back to the office from medical leave soon but she is retiring in September. He is looking forward to having his office fully staffed again.

Witkowski commented on the event Polus spoke about at the Veterans Home in King, and indicated that 50 years ago he used to drive a jeep, and the same jeep is now on display at the event in King and is classified as an antique which he finds disheartening!

#### 12. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

Carl Soderberg reported that Don Kempfer of Chilton was selected as Chilton's Volunteer of the Year for all of his work on the Veterans Memorial.

Soderberg also indicated that congressional hearings with regard to the Tomah VA facility are scheduled to begin on March 30. He is aware of at least a half dozen people who wish to testify, however, he does not know how likely that is since the Congressman is not on the Military Affairs Committee.

Erickson asked Soderberg if he had any information as to increased staffing at the local VA Clinic. Soderberg responded that he was not aware of any changes proposed for staffing. He continued that he has been asked several times if there is any chance of regionalizing or localizing VA medical facility controls. One of the biggest problems is that they are all under a nationwide system where the rules apply to every VA facility whether they are appropriate or not and it is a “one size fits all” type of approach but he urged anyone who has any ideas or thoughts to let him know.

Soderburg continued that one of the problems with attracting doctors is the VA's pay scale which has resulted in a shortage of physicians and psychiatric professionals in the area. Witkowski asked if the pay scale was the same nationwide and Soderberg responded that the VA's wages border on non-competitive in this area and that is the biggest obstacle.

13. **Discussion and possible action re: Adding Lynn Geiser to the subcommittee.**

Duane Pierce stated that he has worked with Lynn Geiser for a few months and he felt that she would be an asset to this Subcommittee.

**Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Jim Haskins to add Lynn Geiser to the Veterans Recognition Subcommittee. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Geiser thanked the Subcommittee for adding her to the group. She reported that the Cpl. Justin Ross Memorial Trail moonlight walk will be held this Saturday from 7:30 – 9:00 pm at the Mill Center Park, Spencers Road, Howard, Wisconsin.

At this time Polus introduced Ken Corry to the Subcommittee. Corry is currently serving as an intern in the Veterans Services Office on a work-study program. Corry stated that he is working on creating a community calendar as well as updating the website and fixing broken links. He has also added a number of photos to the website and he will continue working on the site to make it a centralized location where vets can go to stay updated on area events.

Corry thanked Polus for bringing him on board and Polus indicated that Corry has done a great job so far. Corry stated that he will be working on his master's degree this summer and he hopes to stay on as long as possible. He also indicated that the calendar is a work in progress and he will leave standard operating procedures on how to maintain the calendar when he leaves so veterans can stay connected. Corry mentioned some of the other things he has done for veterans such as creating a veterans lounge on the UWGB campus as well as at NWTC.

Erickson suggested that Corry contact him when the website is where Corry wants it to have some news media coverage to make vets aware. Corry also indicated that he may have a media contact. Corry concluded by indicating there will be a veteran's breakfast on March 28 at Nicolet Restaurant in De Pere at 9:00 am. This is simply a social breakfast to get together to visit and hang out and share stories and make new connections.

Polus reported that the CVSO in Kewaunee County, Joe Aulik, has recently accepted a position as CVSO in Winnebago County to replace CVSO Bob Stone who will be retiring in April. The vacancy in Kewaunee County will be announced in the next few weeks and Polus indicated Kewaunee would be a good small county to work in if anyone is interested or knows anyone who may be interested.

14. **Presentation by Joe Witkowski – Singing of Fifth Verse of Star Spangled Banner.**

Witkowski passed out snacks and then sang the Fifth Verse of the Star Spangled Banner which was followed by a round of applause.

15. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

*None.*

16. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary

Heroes

"HOW  
IMPORTANT  
IT IS FOR US TO  
**RECOGNIZE &  
CELEBRATE OUR  
HEROES &  
SHE-ROES!**"

- Maya Angelou



# 2015 OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 17, 2015 | 10am - 3pm

N2665 County Road QQ | King, WI

715.258.5586 | 888.458.5586



## WISCONSIN *Veterans* HOME KING

**Open House will feature our magnificent location, facilities, physical resources and numerous activities to entertain all ages!**

**ENTERTAINMENT** by the Charlie Justmann Band - 10am - 3pm  
King Singers - 12pm

### FREE RIDES

On Clear Water Harbor's "Chief Waupaca"  
10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm

### GIFT & CRAFT SHOP

Beautiful handmade items by members of the Veterans Home.

**BAKE SALE, FOOD STANDS, COFFEE SHOP, ALLEY 5 BAR**

**OLD CAR SHOW**

**VINTAGE MILITARY & VEHICLE DISPLAY**

**MINI GOLF, FACE PAINTING, CHILDREN'S INFLATABLE, DIZZY D. CLOWN, 4H.** Lots of games for kids.

### TOURS

Bus, Admissions, Dementia Unit in Ainsworth Hall and Medical Bureau.

**VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, WAUPACA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ALZHEIMER'S ASSN. WDVA OUTREACH, AND MANY MORE ORGANIZATIONS.** Learn about burial benefits.

**NEW**

**ON-GROUNDS ENCAMPMENT, WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS AND SONS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION.** The main chapel will be open and will feature a historical overview of King and its founding organizations.

**NEW**

**HEALTH CARE SCREENINGS AND NUMEROUS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH ADCR, MOBILE VET, THEDA CARE, CVSO AND MORE IN THE MARDEN CENTER.** Advanced Care Directives, Guardianship, "Consider the Conversation" viewing, PTSD discussions, palliative care services, medicare briefing, healthy lifestyles and much more.

**NEW**

**MEET AND GREET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS IN THE MAIN HALLS**

**NEW**

**TICKET BOOTH.** For food and boat rides.

