

**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, October 20, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Bernie Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Louise Dahlke, Jerry Polus, Rosemary Desisles, Joe Witkowski, Tracy Rosinski

**EXCUSED:** Lynn Geiser, Carl Soderberg

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\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1725

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

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

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of September 15, 2015.**

Duane Pierce wished to make a correction under his report in Item 10 with regard to the flag burning ceremony. He indicated that this should be reflected as a flag retirement ceremony and explained that a flag retirement ceremony is done with honors and respect while a flag burning is done by protestors. This clarification will be made in the minutes, however, it should be noted that the original report of this event referred to it as a flag burning ceremony as reflected on the recording.

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joe Witkowski to approve as amended. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Budget Status Financial Report through September 30, 2015.**

Erickson explained how to read this financial graph and noted that \$1,000 for this Subcommittee was approved at the most-recent Executive Committee meeting. Tracy Rosinski also noted that Heartland will be forwarding a check to be deposited prior to the end of the year for the band at the Fair.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Tracy Rosinski to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Discussion re: Veterans Day Donation List.**

Rosemary Desisles asked for an update on the calls for donations that Subcommittee members have been making. Updates were given and Desisles asked everyone to finish up their calls so the list of offers could be put together for publication. She also indicated that she had spoken with Dave at the VFW and they discussed the newspaper article. It seems that the problem last year was that the VFW was not mentioned in the article and Dave indicated that this year the VFW will be submitting their own article for publication. Desisles read the article that will appear in the newspaper to the group and indicated that the newspaper will need the final article by the end of next week. Erickson

noted that he has received confirmation from the Neville Public Museum and NEW Zoo that they will extend the same offers they did last year to Veterans. Desisles reiterated that she needs the results of all donation calls as soon as possible to keep things moving on the appropriate timeline.

Witkowski shared that he did not think it was appropriate to list specific donation amounts or items for businesses who donated so as not to make other businesses feel that their donations were not enough.

Desisles reported that Oneida Casino has decided not to give any items for the raffle this year, but instead will be offering \$10 free play coupons. She was thanked by the Subcommittee for her work on the Veterans Day project and this was followed by a round of applause.

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

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that he received a gift card from Mills Fleet Farm in his office addressed to the VFW Post. He will be sure that this gift card is given to the Post. Additionally, Polus received from US Venture, which used to be Express Convenience Centers, a donation of \$150.00 made out to the Subcommittee. This donation will be used to purchase several gift cards from Express to use as door prizes at the veterans' breakfast.

Polus also reported on the following events going on for Veterans Day.

-Saturday, November 7, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm - Event at the Green Bay Yacht Club for veterans, family members and general public. A ceremony will be held at 11:00 am followed by lunch.

-Sunday, November 8, 10:00 am - Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI will be holding a special dedication of the St. Michael statue at the grotto; dedication will be held at 10:00 am, followed by the rosary at 10:30 am and Mass honoring veterans at 11:00 am.

-November 11, 10:30 am –Veterans ceremony at Shopko Hall.

-November 14 - Green Bay Gamblers, free admissions for veterans.

Polus concluded his report by saying that Bonnie from his office has retired and has been replaced by Thomas Murphy, an Air Force veteran who is doing well in his new position.

#### **8. Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Carl Soderberg was not able to attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

#### **9. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

Duane Pierce introduced his guest from Merrill, Pepper, to the Subcommittee. Pepper is a Vietnam Vet.

-Erickson noted that there will be \$1,000 in the budget for 2016 for this Subcommittee and he will also be working with Internal Auditor Dan Process to get a separate donation account set up.

-Desisles did not have anything to add other than what had been discussed earlier with regard to Veterans Day.

-Haskins wished to observe a moment of silence in observance of the death of former Subcommittee member, Don Bettine's wife. Haskins did not have anything else to report.

-Koslowski reported that Operation at Ease recently sponsored a bus trip to Illinois for desert area veterans to see the memorial. There were about seven or eight desert vets from Green Bay that

participated. Koslowski also noted that the AMVETS Post recently held a food drive for residents of the Green Bay Veterans Manor and 22 bags of food were collected. He indicated that food is an ongoing need for some of the residents at the Manor. Koslowski continued that a national executive committee meeting for AMVETS will be held at the Radisson on November 7 and he was glad to see that national representatives are holding state meetings in Wisconsin.

-Pierce expanded on the ceremony at the Green Bay Yacht Club that Polus spoke of earlier and said that vets who have not attended the ceremony in the past are asked to arrive by 10:00 am to register. Once a veteran is registered, they will receive an invitation to the following year's event. Pierce stated that it is a good event with good food and good people. After the Yacht Club Event, the Pearly Gates will be hosting free lunch for veterans from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Additionally, Vietnam Vets 224 will be holding an all-day vigil at the Veterans Memorial behind the Neville Public Museum and he encouraged people to visit. Finally, on November 7 a Carry the Fallen Ruck March will be held from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. This event will start and end at the Replay Bar across from the Fairgrounds. Following the march there will be a band as well as door prizes.

-Rosinski had an update on the Fallen Comrades Ceremony that was presented by Debra Grassman on September 11. Grassman has been approached by PBS to do a documentary on Fallen Comrade ceremonies and they have asked for footage from the event in Green Bay. Rosinski also noted that she will be available to help at the Veterans Day event on November 11 and she will also be able to bring additional volunteers. Further, Rosinski indicated that Heartland will be doing various pinning events of veterans throughout the community and said that anyone who may be interested in helping at those events can let her know.

-Witkowski noted that the flag at Ryan Funeral Home is being flown in October in honor of Veteran John Cass of the US Navy. The flag at the funeral home is flown in honor of a different veteran each month. Witkowski also shared a story of a veteran he had met recently who appeared to be homeless.

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

Louise Dahlke said that from reviewing the minutes of the last meeting she noted that a motion was made to hold next year's ceremony at the Fair at the same time as it was held this year. She indicated, however, that the Fair Association had discussed moving the Veterans Ceremony to Sunday and she let the Association know that this Subcommittee was probably not willing to do that. The Fair Association then brought up the idea of moving the Veterans Ceremony up on Saturday to earlier in the day, starting around 10:00 am so that the ceremony would be done by 3:00 which would alleviate the parking problems that exist when the rodeo people start coming in. Dahlke said she will keep this group updated with developments in this regard and it can be discussed in more detail after the first of the year. After discussing this a little further, the Subcommittee felt that moving the ceremony up in the day may be preferable.

11. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:24 pm. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary