

**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 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Carl Soderburg, Ed Koslowski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Sherry Steenbock, Steve Corrigan, Jerry Polus, Louise Dahlke

EXCUSED: Rosemary Desisles

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1527**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

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

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve the agenda. Vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve or Modify Minutes of February 18, 2014.

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve the minutes. Vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Air Force Band of Mid America performance, Sunday, April 13/Green Bay West High School – Donations.

CVSO Jerry Polus indicated that he will be meeting with Tom Hinz and a representative of the Air Force Band of Mid America soon at West High School to work out the logistics of the band's performance on April 13. The time for the performance has been set for 3:00 p.m. and it should conclude by 5:00 p.m. There is no admission fee for this performance, however, there will be donation jars on tables outside the auditorium for those wishing to donate and proceeds will be used towards Veterans Court. Posters have been made and will be displayed at various local veterans' organizations as well as other locations around town.

Chair Erickson noted that he has received six pairs of tickets to the WWI exhibit currently being shown at the Neville Public Museum and these tickets will be given out in a drawing for those who made a donation. The Neville will also be allowing the use of several banners to be used outside of the school near the entrance door advertising the Museum exhibit.

6. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair including comments from Steve Corrigan.

Steve Corrigan and Louise Dahlke of the Fair Board were in attendance at this meeting and both indicated that they wanted to work as best as they can with the Subcommittee to make a successful Military Appreciation Day event. Corrigan stated that although he appreciated the offer of this Subcommittee to incorporate a band into midway entertainment very much, he did not feel it would work out due to timing issues. Corrigan continued that the Veterans tent will be located in the same

vicinity it was last year and there will again be adjacent designated parking for veterans. He also indicated that they will get a white tent 40 X 60 this year due to the issues last year with the colored tent. Corrigan has been advised that Schneider will also bring their Ride with Pride truck for display again this year. He has not heard if any of the military branches will also be displaying vehicles.

Louise Dahlke indicated that she will attempt to have someone cover the office on the day of the Veterans event so that she can be available for any last minute needs. She stated that this year's tent will be a little larger than last year's tent and wanted to know if more tables would be needed in the tent as last year they really had to scrounge to find enough. She would appreciate knowing how many tables will be needed ahead of time so she can check for availability. Dahlke will also be sure there are plenty of chairs. Ed Koslowski wants to be sure that those organizations that reserve their spots in the tent have tables and he will bring some tables from home just in case. Erickson suggested that the organizations be told to be there at a specific time to set up so that they are ready to go when the event opens at noon. Corrigan indicated that parking will be restricted in the area near the tent for veterans and motorcycles and Dahlke indicated that she will notify the South gate of this.

Dahlke commented that she had seen in the minutes that the Subcommittee was thinking about having a booth in one of the exhibit halls. Corrigan indicated that if the Subcommittee wished to set up a booth, they could do so in either the commercial building or the 4 H building at no cost. Dahlke stated that in the past veterans displays had been set up and roped off and there was no problem with people touching things or walking off with things. Koslowski indicated that he would talk to the Vietnam Vets to see if there would be interest in setting up a photo display and Pierce will also talk to Rolling Thunder to see if there is interest in setting up a table display.

Polus indicated that he is still trying to secure a band to perform at the event. Several suggestions were discussed and he will keep this Subcommittee advised of his progress.

7. Discussion re: Topic of recognition at Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

A discussion was held regarding what group of veterans the Subcommittee wished to honor at this year's Appreciation Day. Pierce suggested that the Korean era veterans be honored. Koslowski stated that he is aware of some Korean Vets in Amvets Post 11 and Pierce indicated that there were also some in his Legion Post. Dahlke added that she is also aware of some Korean vets in the Denmark post.

Erickson indicated he would have County Board staff create a certificate to be passed out to Korean era vets at the Fair. He also indicated he will work on a proclamation that August 16 be designated as Korean Era Veterans Day in Brown County.

8. Discussion re: Providing Information to Museum for World War I Exhibit.

Erickson indicated that he had received an e-mail flyer from the Museum that contained information on the World War I exhibit. He will forward this on to anyone who would like to send it out or post it at their respective organizations. Jim Haskins indicated that he had visited the Museum to see the exhibit and it was well worth seeing.

9. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

CVSO Jerry Polus did not have anything to report.

10. Comments from Carl Soderburg.

Carl Soderburg did not have anything to report.

11. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock & Witkowski).**

-Erickson passed around an article that had been in a Janesville newspaper regarding a veterans' project that is very similar to the veterans' housing project going up in Green Bay.

-Haskins reported that he had recently stopped at a Kwik Trip and they had a donation jar on the counter for Honor Flights and there was a sign that said they were a proud supporter of Honor Flights. He also reported that at the Shawano Boat Show The Hand Foundation was collecting items such as winter coats, sleeping bags and socks and underwear for their Homeless Veterans program. Anyone bringing items for the Vets was entered into a drawing for a trailer. More information about this program can be found at www.handsfoundation.com.

Haskins continued that 24 Medals of Honor will be presented in Washington DC. He read a list depicting the total number of Medals of Honor that have been distributed to date. Pierce added that 19 people have received the honor twice.

-Koslowski reported that the die used to cut the reflective 32nd red arrows that are seen on vehicles has been purchased from the widow of the creator of the die and donated to Amvets Post 57. The die for the arrows dates back to the late 1970s and was created by Jim Deering. Koslowski indicated that if any veterans' organizations want the red arrows, they will cut them at no charge as long as the red reflective tape is provided.

Koslowski continued that currently the Amvets is the keeper of the memorial wall at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The Wall is in need of repairs as it is deteriorating due to natural exposure to the weather, salt water spray and foot traffic as well as the fact that the USS Arizona continues to sink. A total of \$325,000 is needed for the repairs and to date they have raised approximately \$200,000 to be used for the repairs.

Koslowski concluded his report by saying that the State Convention will be held at the Radisson from June 19 – 21, 2014.

-Duane Pierce reported that on Monday, March 24 the quarterly LZ get together will take place at 5:00 pm at the Pearly Gates. There will be food specials as well as several raffle items. Pierce also indicated that on April 12 Legion Post 11 will be hosting a brat fry at Festival Food East and he encouraged everyone to come out and support the Legion. Finally, Pierce thanked Reid Ribble for the work he is involved with in clearing up Veterans claims.

-Sherry Steenbock indicated that 14 new certificates have been mailed out.

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

Erickson indicated that he had received an e-mail from Rosemary Desisles that stated that planning for the walk is continuing and she is still trying to set a date. She will update this group further at the next meeting.

With regard to the Fair, Steve Corrigan indicated that they sometimes have issues finding groups to perform the color guard at the rodeo. He asked if anyone in this group could make suggestions or help put together a color guard consisting of one person from each branch of service. Pierce indicated that he was going to a Vietnam Vets meeting after this meeting and he will talk to them about it.

Carl Soderburg mentioned that Sturgeon Bay has been declared a Coast Guard City which is quite a distinction as there are only 17 in the country. A ceremony will be held on May 10.

Duane Pierce noted that March 25 is recognized as Medal of Honor day and Vietnam Veterans Day is March 29.

13. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Sherry Steenbock to adjourn at 5:58 pm Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary