

**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 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Rosemary Desisles, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Supervisor Rick Schadewald, Sherry Steenbock, Carl Soderburg, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Tracy Rosinski

EXCUSED: Delores Pierce

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1651

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.**

Chair Bernie Erickson introduced Brown County Supervisor Rick Schadewald to the Subcommittee. Erickson wished to modify the agenda to allow Supervisor Schadewald to talk as Item 3a.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Ed Kozlowski to approve as amended. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3a. Supervisor Schadewald reported to the Subcommittee that he was a teacher at Bay Port High School and they have a Military Support Club within the school dedicated to honoring and supporting veterans. He provided information with regard to an event that will be held on November 14, 2014 honoring and remembering Bay Port Alumni Army Pfc. Isaiah R. Hunt, a member of the 782nd Main Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country 10 years ago. The event will be held at St. Edward & Isidore Parish in Suamico with a Mass at 8:30 am. followed by a military honors ceremony at 9:15 a.m. Schadewald invited Subcommittee members as well as anyone else who wished to honor and remember veterans to attend.

4. **Approve or Modify Minutes of September 16, 2014.**

Motion made by Sherry Steenbock, seconded by Duane 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.**

Erickson noted that this will remain as a standing item on the agenda in case anyone has anything to report throughout the year.

CVSO Jerry Polus indicated that he has contacted the Air Force Band to see if they would be available to play at next year's Fair event as well as doing another concert at West High School. He has not heard back from the band yet, but will advise this Subcommittee of their availability when he does.

Joe Witkowski passed around a manicure kit he had received in a goody bag at another veterans' event. He thought it may be a good handout to be given to the women veterans when they are honored at the Fair next year. Tracy Rosinski stated that Heartland had provided the manicure kits in the goody bags and she reported that each one cost \$1.64.

Polus noted that he heard that people wished to have specific names on the recognition certificates given out at the Fair with the idea that it would be a little bit more personal recognition. Erickson stated that this can be addressed further at a later meeting.

Erickson commented that there were several group photos taken at the Fair this year and they were sent to the *Green Bay Press Gazette* for publication, but they never appeared in the paper. Witkowski stated that he will contact the newspaper about this. Koslowski stated that his opinion is that the paper does not like to print photos of specific and separate groups.

6. Discussion re: Veterans Day.

Sherry Steenbock indicated that she has received responses from about half of the businesses she has contacted. She will be on the phone as much as possible over the next several weeks to contact those that have not responded yet. She stated that she has only been turned down by one business this year. She also noted that she did get some pucks and tickets to give away from the Gamblers, but the game is scheduled for November 1 so she distributed them to those at the meeting who were interested. Remaining tickets were given to Polus to be distributed through his office. Steenbock also had appreciation certificates with her to be given to new businesses who donate.

Steenbock indicated that she had to have the information provided to the newspapers by October 31 and she asked everyone to get back to her as soon as possible. Witkowski offered to make more calls and Steenbock gave him a list of contacts to make.

Steenbock continued that there is one issue with the program for the Veterans Day Ceremony. She was advised by Dave Berndt that he would like them to participate in the radio show program, but because John Maino is no longer with WIXX Steenbock was not sure if there would be a radio show. She had contacted Maino but has not heard back from him. Berndt contacted her and said that they were not planning on having the radio show and they would come up with another plan, but no definitive answer was given to Steenbock as to what the alternate plan would be. She did not wish to step on anyone's toes by finding someone and setting something up although one suggestion she heard was to see if Jerry Bader was available. At this time, she does not have an answer as to what the program will be, but she was assured that there will be entertainment of some type. Steenbock still planned to give the door prizes out as they have done in the past. Subcommittee members had several suggestions, but Steenbock felt it was not her place to set something up as she did not want to interfere with what Berndt's committee was planning.

A discussion was also held with regard to passing out the door prize tickets and distribution of the prizes. There were several members who volunteered to handle this at the event.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Steenbock, Rosinski & Witkowski).

-Erickson recalled at the last meeting that the Subcommittee wished to have some business cards made up to pass out when soliciting items. This was discussed and it was noted that the business cards will be made up using the phone number of Polus's office. Anybody who wished to provide their own personal information when handing out the cards could handwrite their name and number of the reverse side of the card.

Erickson continued that he had contacted the NEW Zoo and Neville Public Museum and was advised that they will provide free admission to veterans and active duty military members and their families on Veterans Day.

-Desisles reported that the Navy League will be having an event at The Ravine on December 13 for the Army/Navy game and all are invited to attend. The event will run from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm. and will include a 50-50 raffle and free pizza with a cash bar. Donations raised at the event will be given to the STEM program in schools and a veterans organization. This

event is still in the planning stages and she will keep the Subcommittee advised of any further details.

-Haskins indicated that his church had recently hosted a "Men of Iron" conference. The goal of the conference is to make men better and they had an Army SFC speak at the event which was very good. Haskins also shared an article he had seen in the paper that license plates featuring the words "In God We Trust" will be available in 2015.

Haskins also shared that Peace Lutheran Church off Highway 29 will be holding a free breakfast for veterans on November 8 at the church. He also reminded the Subcommittee of the event at the Yacht Club as well as free lunch for veterans at the Pearly Gates.

-Koslowski reported that he had attended the Warrior Summit held at the Radisson recently. It was an all-day event and included many vendors as well as a lot of breakout presentations. He indicated that it was a very informative event and he learned a lot. They had great speakers on PTSD sharing their personal stories and there were people from all over the state in attendance.

Koslowski also reported that with regard to having shirts embroidered as was discussed at the last meeting, there are shirts available for sale in the Veterans Office with the Subcommittee logo on them so he will not be pursuing the embroidery option.

Koslowski concluded his report by stating that his AMVETS post will be hosting a meat raffle on November 2 at Gilligan's Bar and Grill beginning at 2:00 p.m.

-Duane Pierce added to what Haskins reported about the Veterans Day event at the Yacht Club. He noted that registration begins at 10:00 a.m. and the ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m. It is a nice event and he urged Subcommittee members to attend. Pierce continued that from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm on November 8 Pearly Gates will be providing free lunch to veterans. At the Legion Post on Irwin Avenue on November 11 flag burning will begin at 5:00 p.m. Pierce continued that on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. the Meyer Theater will be hosting a concert by the bluegrass group "Bent Grass". The concert is free, but donations will be collected and donated to Old Honor Glory Flights. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Pierce also advised the Subcommittee that the Elks Club will be holding a tailgate party starting at 5:00 p.m. and all veterans are invited for a free meal. Pierce concluded that the UPS will be holding their annual veterans ceremony at Shopko Hall on Veterans Day at 10:30 a.m. and the Vietnam Veterans 224 will be doing an all day vigil at the memorial behind the Museum on Veterans Day.

-Steenbock did not have anything to report other than what she had discussed earlier with regard to Veterans Day.

-Rosinski reported that Heartland had hosted author Debra Grassman for an event in September. The goal of the event was to raise awareness on how to better meet the needs of veterans. Haskins indicated that he had attended the event and he found it very moving. Rosinski stated that they will bring Grassman back in the future for more events.

Rosinski also reported on the Roselles luncheon and thanked Witkowski and his wife for attending.

Rosinski also reported that for Veterans Day they will be working in conjunction with Woodside Senior Communities and they will be honoring veterans with a ceremony at 11:00 a.m., including guest speaker, Jerry Polus, and this will be followed by a special ceremony honoring two Purple Heart recipients, one of whom is a double recipient.

Rosinski also stated that plans for the United We Stand basketball game between Green Bay East and Preble are continuing and she will continue to keep this Subcommittee advised. She indicated that she may ask for help from some of the members.

-Witkowski reported that he was able to get several door prizes for the Veterans Day event. He also read an article in the paper regarding frustrated veterans from the war in Iraq with regard to mental health issues resulting from their work in Middle East.

Pierce also reported that the Military Veterans Museum is open in Oshkosh and he urged everyone to go check it out. It is run by volunteers and it is currently open on Friday, Saturday and Sundays. Admission is free but they gladly accept donations. He stated that there is a back room that had a number of military vehicles, the pride of which is a T34 Soviet Tank which is still operational. The Museum is located next to the EAA grounds.

Schadewald talked a little more about his military group at Bay Port High School. Koslowski said that Bay Port's club is the only one of its kind in the area. Schadewald stated that their mission is to promote the military and he noted that Bay Port has had more Navy SEALs than any other high school in the nation. They club hosts a Hoops for Troops basketball game each year, they put wreaths on veterans' graves and do a number of other things to support veterans.

8. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus reported on the Purple Heart Pass program that they have been working on in conjunction with Milwaukee County. This program will be officially kicked off on November 10. The Purple Heart Pass will allow free admission to various venues in Brown County as well as Milwaukee County. The venues in Brown County include the Neville Public Museum, Botanical Gardens, NEW Zoo, Brown County Golf Course, Green Bay Gamblers, Green Bay Blizzard and Packers Hall of Fame. County Executive Troy Streckenbach will provide the cards to several Purple Heart recipients during the kickoff event at 10:30 a.m. on November 10. Anyone wishing to receive a pass can fill out an application in the Veterans Office in the Northern Building.

9. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

Soderburg stated that besides individual claims, they have received calls about the VA's disability priority rating which is a 1 to 8 scale system and he noted that Appleton is full and Green Bay is not hiring doctors as quickly as they would like to and veterans with the lowest ratings are being placed on an indefinite wait lists.

Soderburg also noted that there was a story on the news last night about a vet from Suamico who had received a very long overdue Bronze Star. Soderburg noted that he had the pleasure of helping the process along and noted that Congressman Ribble attended the ceremony.

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

None.

11. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary