

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
January 8, 2019**

The following are the open minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Green Lake County Veterans Service Commission held in the Veterans Service Office at the Government Center, Green Lake, WI, at 10:30 A.M. on January 8, 2019

Members present: Victor Shrock, Robert Burdick, and Jon Vandeyacht, Secretary.

Certification of Open Meeting Law: The requirements of the Open Meeting Law have been met.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Shrock.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Approval of Agenda: After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Action on Minutes: After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appearances & Correspondence: Keith Hess (Guest, County Board Supervisor)
Robert Moslof (prospective Service Commissioner)

Old Business: Vandeyacht reported that John.... Will be appointed as the 3rd Service Commissioner at the next county board meeting. He will replace John Gende.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2019 County Veteran Services budget has been approved as requested. There were minor changes in amounts in each budget line but the total requested was the same as the past 4 years. The 2018 Budget had the highest use % than the past few years. This is good.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2019 WDVA CVSO Grant is open for application and will be submitted before the end of the month. It is the same in years past at \$8,500 for the county. Before the incoming Governor replaced Secretary Zimmerman, he was working on increasing the grant values and if passed with the next biannual budget would increase ours to \$13,000 (est). Will have to wait and see if the new WDVA Secretary continues to push the increase.

Vandeyacht reported that the county Corp Counsel has been working with VetPro to come to an agreeable contract for services. It looks like there will be an acceptable solution soon. VetPro plans to be online and in operation around March 2019. When that happens, it is our intent to switch to their services from VetraSpec.

New Business: Vandeyacht reported that the 2019 Student Government Day will take place 16 April which is the week following the next service commission meeting.

Planning was in the early stages and it was asked if any of the service commissioners had suggestions or ideas on this year's speaker.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2019 CVSO conferences will be out of the area this year, so there will not be a savings on costs with the ability to commute from home each day. The spring conference will be in Kenosha with the fall conference-taking place in Dane County.

Vandeyacht reported the 2018's Outreach plan of visiting in county nursing homes was successful but limited. 2019 will be more on countywide advertising and trying to attend different public events in the county with advertising materials about Veteran benefits as well as working on several articles in the local papers.

Vandeyacht reported that the Service Commission Emergency Aid Grant was fully used for 2018. This is the first year in which there wasn't 'every year' users abusing the program. There have been several counties in the state that have updated their Aid Grant policies. This office plans to do the same and will provide an updated policy packet to the commission in April for review with intent on a vote in July to present to the board for final approval. The primary intent is to update the rules and better explain the who/how/why's.

Service Office Report: Vandeyacht reported that for the year of 2018: contacts were steady for the whole year with December having the least, U.S. mail was down considerably since fax and direct uploads are now the primary submissions and E-mail has drastically increased. VA hospital trips are down again this year even though new users of the program started to use it. The final numbers will be calculated for the End of year report and presented at the next meeting.

Vandeyacht reported that he will attend the WICVSOA Spring conference in April in Kenosha. The training is required for him to maintain accreditation. The fall 2019 WICVSOA Conference will be in Dane County and will be attended by both the Deputy CVSO (Robin) and himself.

Vandeyacht reported that for 2018's Outreach plan; visiting in county nursing homes and talking about Veteran Pension and Survivors Pension benefits did initiate several new claims but the cost of time and materials versus rewards was high. That's not saying it was pointless but there is better use of Outreach. Will plan on revisiting the Nursing homes again in 2021. For 2019, the office will work more on countywide advertising and trying to attend different public events in the county with advertising materials about Veteran benefits as well as working on several articles in the local papers.

Vandeyacht reported that due to the increased price in fuel and groceries (CPI Index) that the COLA for 2019 is 2.8%, which is the largest since 2012. It will average about \$40 per person on the median Disability and Social Security of \$1,500/month. The county's 2019 reimbursement rate for mileage is now \$0.545.

Vandeyacht reported that Veteran deaths in Green Lake County during 2018 have been lower than years past. The new primary group of Veterans passing away are those that served between Korea (mid 1950's) and Vietnam Era Veterans. (late 60's-mid 70's)

Financial Report: After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the Financial Report as submitted. Second by Soda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Date: The date for the next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, 2019 at 10:30

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M. on a motion by Burdick. Second by Shrock. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Vandeyacht', written in a cursive style.

Jon D. Vandeyacht
Secretary, Veterans Service Commission