GREEN LAKE COUNTY

**VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

# OCTOBER 19, 2018

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 October 9, 2018.

Members present: Victor Shrock, Robert Burdick, John Gende, 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, Gende made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Burdick. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Action on Minutes:** After discussion, Burdick made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting. Second by Gende. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Appearances & Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:**

1. Vandeyacht reported that the Budget was submitted for 2019 and will have the same Service Commission funds as this year; the budgeted amount has been fully used this year and almost fully used for the past 4 years and decided to leave the total the same again, as in years past. Final budget will be approved at the November 2018 County Board meeting.
2. 2019 WDVA/CVSO Grant application will be released soon. As in years past, it will remain at $8,500 but with the next state biennial budget, there is a chance that it could increase. The application for the grant will be submitted by years end.
3. Vandeyacht reported that the 2018 Fall CVSO conference was held in Minocqua. As usual, this years fall conference had many CVSO’s and Staff in attendance. There were many important items that were trained on which is quite important, not just for maintaining accreditation but to keep up on all of the recent changes within the federal VA.
4. Shrock reported that Robert Burdick, Vandeyacht and himself; attended the Service Commissioners meeting at King on September 11. The Veterans home commandant and the WDVA Secretary talked about all of the planned changes that will be taking place at King over the next 5 years.

**New Business:**

 a. It was noted that the term of appointment of Gende to the Service Commission expires in December. Gende expressed regret in that he won’t seek reappointment as he plans on moving out of the county.

b. Vandeyacht reported that the WDVA Transportation Grant was submitted.

c. Vandeyacht reported that the Service Commission Aid/Grant funds were in high demand this year and were fully used up for 2018. The plan is if 2019 sees the same demand, then the budget line will have a proposed increase for the 2020 budget cycle.

**Service Office Report:**

Vandeyacht reported that for 2018 as compared to the past 3 years; contacts were mostly even or slightly up. U.S. mail was down 10% and VA hospital trips are down ~7%. The contacts and email were quite busy so far all year long.. This is because Veterans assumption of instability of Federal government leaders. Mail and Faxes continue a down trend in usage; The VA is going mostly paperless for claims and pensions, claims are almost never sent thru the mail anymore unless there are more than 70 pages. Trips are down due to the passing of Veterans who used the travel program heavily. New Veteran program users were introduced over 2017 and we have seen a few new riders in 2018 as well. Final percentages will be calculated with the end of year report.

Vandeyacht reported that Robin and himself attended the WICVSOA fall 2018 conference at in minocqua. The training was mostly on Federal VA programs and benefits as well as many of the state programs with discussion on proposed or effective changes in policies. Though required for accreditation and a good conference, they both felt there could have been a little more effective use to time. This will be proposed at the next exec meeting.

Vandeyacht reported that he is still looking at a new vendor for the Veterans Benefits Database system. Currently Vetraspec is used. It has been a great transition from the old systems that were in place during the legacy days and the change to the new paperless system the VA was trying to implement. VetraSpec has been unable to update the new forms from the VA in a timely manner and are less than professional when requesting any sort of action from VetraSpec. There has been discussions with VetPro and the county legal dept. to work out the contract. It is expected that sometime around March or April 2019, VetPro will be operational and a new contract with the vendor will be started.

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

**Future Meeting Date:** The date for the next meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2019, at 10:30 A.M.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:31 A.M. on a motion by Gende. Second by Burdick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:



Jon D. Vandeyacht

Secretary, Veterans Service Commission