BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County

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VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE
Bernie Erickson, Chair
Sherry Steenbock, Vice Chair
Donald Bettine, James Haskins, John Maino,
Troy Ness, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce,
John Walschinski, Joe Witkowski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1154

VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 19, 2011
**** 5:00 p.m. ****
Room 201, Northern Building
305 E. Walnut Street

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME **

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Bernie Erickson.
2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.
3. Approve/Modify Agenda.
4. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 15, 2011.
5. Discussion re: Memorial Day Ceremonies.
6. Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011).
7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.
8. Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Verhaagh, Walschinski & Witkowski).
9. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.
10. Adjourn.

Bernie Erickson, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda. Word97agenda/humsvc/Veteran'Subcmte/April19_2011.doc

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 15, 2011, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT:	Bernie Erickson, Sherry Steenbock, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Delores Pierce, John Walschinski, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Donald Bettine, Ron Van Dyke, Dave Connaher
EXCUSED:	Kristen Verhaagh, John Maino, Troy Ness

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1174

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**
The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WITKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY PIERCE TO TAKE ITEM NUMBER 6 AFTER ITEM NUMBER 8. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of February 8, 2011:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PIERCE AND SECONDED BY HASKINS TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Appointment of New Members:**

MOTION MADE BY PIERCE AND SECONDED BY HASKINS TO APPOINT DELORES PIERCE TO THE VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this time Joe Witkowski introduced Dave Connaher, a guest he brought to observe the subcommittee to see if he was interested in joining. Erickson informed Mr. Connaher that if he was interested in joining, the subcommittee would be happy to have him in the group.

Erickson informed the subcommittee that he had run into Kristen Verhaagh recently who informed him that she was no longer able to attend meetings due to her work schedule and family and other commitments. She indicated that she would like to relinquish her position on the subcommittee to a new member. The subcommittee was in agreement with this and Erickson will get in touch with her to let her know that this is okay.

6. **Discussion on Committee Attendance:**

Although shown in proper format here, Item Number 6 was taken after Item Number 8.

During this discussion Witkowski read a statement he had prepared with regard to the issue of absenteeism of committee members. In essence, his statement was that although he understands that certain circumstances can affect a member's ability to attend meetings, he felt that there should be some accountability or firm standard with regard to attendance rather than a member simply being marked as "excused" if they do not attend a meeting. He went on to state that he felt that all members have something to offer when they attend meetings. He questioned if there was a minimum or maximum number of members the committee could have and felt strongly that there should be a mission statement for the committee. He further stated that he was proud of this committee and has been impressed with the County's recognition of Veterans.

He concluded by stating that what he is looking for is a SOP on this as well as a mission statement and a subcommittee consisting of volunteers who are responsible.

A discussion followed with regard to some of the points brought up by Witkowski. As far as a minimum number of members, the minimum would be 6 members present so that there would be a quorum. There is no limit on the maximum number of members.

It was the general consensus of the members present that this subcommittee was fairly informal given what the committee seeks to accomplish as well as the budget assigned to the committee. The issue of a mission statement was also discussed and this will be addressed further at the next meeting.

7. Discussion re: Memorial Day:

Bettine informed the committee that Fort Howard Memorial Park will be having a program at 11:00 a.m. with a speaker and firing squad from the 432nd as well as a color guard and music performed by the Bayland Chorus. Flags will be placed on the graves the week preceding Memorial Day by the VFW with the help of several Bay Scout Troops. The United Patriotic Society will hold their ceremony at Flatley Park on May 30 at the tentative time of 6:30 p.m.

Pierce stated that the Vietnam Vets Chapter 224 will be doing a ceremony at 8:00 a.m. on Memorial Day behind the Museum and will then take part in the De Pere Parade. He also indicated that the American Legion will be at the tomb of the unknown soldier at Heritage Hill on Memorial Day for a ceremony.

Witkowski also informed the committee that the Twenty Year Military Club in Marinette fires at eight or nine different cemeteries in the Marinette/Menominee area for Memorial Day.

8. Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011) – Ron Van Dyke, Fair Board.

Ron Van Dyke introduced himself to the committee and informed that he will be the subcommittee's liaison from the Fair from now on. He indicated that there have been some changes in the schedule of the Fair for Sunday and indicated that it would be possible for the committee to have their program on Sunday instead of Saturday if they desired. The location of the stage will now be on the other side of the bathrooms to the West.

Jerry Polus indicated that he had spoken with the State Office of Wisconsin National Guard with regard to booking the National Guard Band at no cost.. He indicated that the National Guard indicated they would get back to him within two weeks, after they checked their schedule. He asked for availability on the 20th, however, he would check with them to see if either date were available. Once we hear back from the band, we can move forward with the rest of the plans and preparations.

Haskins asked Van Dyke if the Vets ceremony could be included in their ads either on tv or in the newspaper. Bettine also wished to thank Van Dyke and the rest of the Fair Board for all their considerations and help they have given the Vets over the years.

9. Report form CVSO Jerry Polus:

Polus stated that on March 20 he will be traveling with Tom Hinz, Judge Kelly and Jed Neumann to Tulsa, Oklahoma for the purpose of viewing their Veterans Court. Judge Zuidmulder would like to set up a Veterans Court in Brown County and Tulsa has a very strongly established Veterans Court. The trip will be paid for through grant funds. He will report back after the trip.

Polus also informed the committee that the Duck Creek Amvets Post has created a group called the NEW Veterans Meet and Greet Group. The purpose is to bring veterans organizations in NE

Wisconsin together into some type of forum where they can learn more about the organizations and benefits and services available. They will be having an event on Sunday, May 15 at the VFW Duck Creek Post from noon to 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of raising awareness and garnering membership for veteran's organizations.

The third update Polus gave was on an event being sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. They will be holding a "Supermarket of Benefits" on June 3 – 4, 2011. The location has not yet been determined, but Polus will keep the committee updated as that is set. The purpose of the Supermarket of Benefits is to bring together in one location federal, state and local agencies that provide services to veterans and their families. Information that would be available to Vets at this event includes information regarding VA health care, disability compensation/pension, loans/grants, State veteran's home, burial benefits, employment and job training, education and social security.

Polus also spoke on the Veterans lunches that are held monthly at the ADRC on the first Friday of the month. These meetings include a guest speaker followed by free lunch for veterans and spouses/guests and continue to be very well attended. Typical attendance is 70 – 100 guests. The speaker at the last meeting was Dr. Denarski who spoke on the subject of aging with grace. The guest speaker for the April meeting will be the director of Camp American Legion, Kevin Moshea.

10. Report from Committee Members Present (Haskins, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinksi & Witkowski):

Haskins passed along information he had heard on a news story that Governor Walker wanted to cut spending to the King Veterans Home. Polus indicated that the information on the news was not entirely accurate and said that more information on this subject would be forthcoming as budget issues in Madison are resolved.

Pierce spoke of an event he had recently attended in Chippewa Falls sponsored by Thuy Smith International. This is an organization started by Thuy Smith, the daughter of a Cambodian woman and Vietnam Veteran Soldier. The purpose of the organization is to bring Vietnam Vets and the people of Cambodia together. He found this event to be very worthwhile and very healing. A similar event will be held next year and he will provide more information on this throughout the year.

Pierce also presented information he received at a recent Rolling Thunder meeting. He stated that the American Legion Riders are participating in Flag Lines to honor veterans at events such as the WWII Never Forgotten Honor Flights Welcome Home ceremonies, funerals, Veterans Day ceremonies, dedications and parades. They are looking for veterans groups or others to sponsor flags for these programs at a cost of $33.00 per flag.

Witkowski wished to have it noted in the minutes that the 432nd will be heading to Afghanistan and he felt it important to wish them well on their tour of duty.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HASKINS AND SECONDED BY WALSCHINSKI TO ADJOURN AT 6:11 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary