# 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, April 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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| **PRESENT:** | Chair Bernie Erickson, Rosemary Desisles, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, John Walschinski, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski |
| **EXCUSED:** | Sherry Steenbock, Troy Ness, John Maino, Donald Bettine |
| **ALSO PRESENT:** | Pepper |

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**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1248

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.**

   **A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DELORES PIERCE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of March 20, 2012.**

   Duane Pierce made a correction to his report in Number 7 of the minutes. The welcome home celebration at the Charlotte, North Carolina speedway was organized by the USO, not Don Jones as stated in the minutes.

   **A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS MODIFIED. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Discussion regarding Military Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair.**

   Jim Haskins reported that there had been an article in the paper about the Fair which included a brief mention of Armed Forces Appreciation Day. Rosemary Desisles stated she had spoken with someone at the paper and was advised to send in a press release. Desisles will follow up on this closer to the date of the Fair. Haskins also indicated that he will handle contacting the TV stations.

   CVSO Jerry Polus stated that he had received a call from his contact at the Air Force Band of Mid America and they are very excited and committed. They have a media specialist who will be contacting him to develop any media information that should be presented. Chair Bernie Erickson felt any press releases should include information on how veterans can obtain tickets to this event.

   Polus continued that the band will play from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. He would like to include a picture of the band on the posters and he will work with the band's media specialist to accomplish this. He is hoping to have the posters and tickets ready for mailing by mid-June so that veterans organizations can distribute them at their July and August meetings.

   Duane Pierce reported that Rolling Thunder will be doing their table ceremony prior to the band's performance and this ceremony should take about 15 minutes. Haskins and Pierce discussed when to do the prize drawings and felt that it should be done prior to the table ceremony at about 5:30 p.m. Haskins would like to see the time of the prize drawing and "must be present to win" listed on the posters and tickets as well. Chair Erickson felt that speeches by the County

Executive, Jerry Polus and himself could be held after the door prize drawings, prior to the table ceremony.

Desisles stated that if anybody had any CDs with military music, they would like to use them in the tent for background music. She will check to see if John Maino has anything that would work. Desisles will also check into the possibility of having a display of military vehicles.

Pierce stated that the tent should be set up around noon or 1:00 p.m. and the displays will be open all day. He is able to get the flag from the Legion to display in front of the tent along with the other flags of the organizations involved. Pierce thought that they could start handing out door prize tickets about 3:00 p.m. Chair Erickson felt that the rides for the elderly attendants from the parking lot should be a little better organized.

Polus stated that he will ask Ron Van Dyke from the Fair Board to attend the May meeting so that we can go over the plans and get any input he has. He also asked Pierce if he could get a list of all the organizations and agencies who will participate and Pierce stated he will do this.

Chair Erickson stated that he was able to have twelve passes to the Hall of Fame provided at no cost. These passes will be used to take the band members to the Hall of Fame and lunch at Curly's Pub. Erickson also indicated that he will be able to get some door prizes donated and he urged those in attendance to see if they could obtain any donations from places they frequent. Polus stated that they also have some mugs and stickers left, but will need to order two dozen more tee shirts.

**6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus and Discussion Regarding Company Store and Need to Reorder.**

Polus provided an update on Veterans Court and said that the core team continues to meet every Friday to discuss applicants. To date they have had eight applicants and at this time one veteran has been approved and attends court and there will be two more starting soon. Court is held before Judge Kelley every Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Polus also stated that they have received donations of $2,900 from five different veterans organizations. He will be sending out a gentle reminder to organizations asking them to consider donating. Joe Witkowski asked how many other Veterans Courts there are in Wisconsin and Polus answered that they have them in Rock County, La Crosse County and Eau Claire County and Sheboygan will be starting one soon. Polus further explained that they are attempting to set these up in judicial districts that cover several counties to pool resources.

With regard to the company store, as stated above Polus indicated that they will need to order additional tee shirts and he will look to this subcommittee at the next meeting for approval to place an order.

**7. Report from Committee Members Present (Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski).**

-**Rosemary Desisles** stated that she had been asked by the Old Abe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association to be an area coordinator for the 2014 national convention which may be held in Green Bay. The other city being considered for this convention is Grand Rapids, Michigan. She felt that having the convention in Green Bay would be a great thing. In order for this to happen approximately $20,000 would need to be raised. Polus suggested that Desisles contact the Green Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau regarding this as they have information regarding any support they would be able to provide to host conventions in the area. Desisles will gather more information and report again at the next meeting.

Desisles concluded her report by sharing information she had received from Wisconsin Public Television that the Sequoya Branch Library in Madison will present a screening of "Hell and Back".

-**Jim Haskins** reported that he had seen an ad on NBC Nationwide News that 500,000 vets are being hired, sponsored by NBC, Universal and the US Chamber of Commerce. He also stated

that he had seen an ad that Walt Disney Company is also hiring vets and further that Schneider has plans to hire 650 vets. He also reported on a program called "Wounded Wear" which is a program that provides clothing to wounded veterans. This program is about a year and a half old and they just held a fundraiser in Madison. He also received information from Senator Hansen that two bills had been passed recently affecting vets as follows: Bill 357 which will help veterans readjust to civilian life by requiring state examining boards and agencies to give greater consideration to military experience or qualifications for professional licensure and certification and Bill 369 which supports disabled veterans by giving tax credits to employers who hire them with an emphasis on fulltime and long term employment. Act 48 was also passed which will name the US Highway 141 Bridge in Marinette County the "Veterans Memorial Bridge" as a living memorial to all Wisconsin veterans.

-Duane Pierce reported that on May 4 there will be a tribute to World War II vets at the Railroad Museum. Admission to this will be free. He also reported that the Legion Post 11 on North Irwin will be having a booyah sale on April 21. The other group that meets at the Legion will be having a brat fry at Festival East on April 21.

-John Walschinski stated that he had received information that the American Legion will be distributing the memorial poppies on May 11 and 12 in Green Bay. He also stated that a patriotic rally will be held on June 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. James Park in Green Bay. The evening will feature patriotic music, veterans memorial trailer, awards presentation, and refreshments.

-Joe Witkowski reported on an ad regarding purchasing US and Wisconsin State flags that have been flown over the State Capitol. He also had an article from the Press Gazette regarding veterans eagerly awaiting the opening of the new Veterans Clinic.

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

Duane Pierce added that on June 2 there will be an annual motorcycle show and swap meet and this year they will also have a ride with former Senator Dave Zein throughout the area.

Chair Erickson stated that the County Board had approved the request to hire the Clerk Typist for the vets office. Polus stated that this will bring them back to full staff and it is his intent to bring back an employee who had been bumped out of her position over a year ago.

Duane Pierce's guest, Pepper, stated that he was honored to have attended this meeting and he also reported on the Thuy Smith International event he had attended for Vietnam Vets recognition. He strongly urged any Veteran to attend this event in the future. He said it was an awesome event to get people together and do some healing.

**9. Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 5:57 p.m. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary