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 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Sherry Steenbock, Rosemary Desisles, Ed Koslowski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Joe Witkowski

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**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1472

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.**

   Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve the agenda. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve or Modify Minutes of September 17, 2013.**

   Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Sherry Steenbock to approve the minutes. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Follow up discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair on August 17, 2013.**

   Chair Erickson asked of anyone had any comments regarding this. Jim Haskins stated that he and Duane Pierce attended the last Fair Board meeting and expressed their displeasure with some of the things that happened at the Fair. The Fair Board President took notes and stated that they will work on the complaints for next year. Haskins indicated that he and Pierce will also attend the next meeting of the Fair Board.

   Pierce stated that he had discussed with Haskins and Koslowski at the follow up meeting for the Meet and Greet the possibility of purchasing a lit sign to be used at the Fair. His Legion Post currently has one for sale that they are asking $300.00 for and it comes with a few extra sets of letters. Pierce and Koslowski thought it may be a good idea to purchase this and then loan it out to other organizations. Erickson commented that they would have to look at zoning issues if lights are flashing, etc. Pierce stated that it is a steady light. Haskins stated that they will ask the Fair Board if they can use it and Erickson pointed out that the Fairgrounds is owned by Brown County, but you would have to see what the ordinance is with regard to lighted signs in the City of De Pere.

   Witkowski stated that he missed the last meeting but he attended the Fair event and felt it was an absolute success and he stated that people seemed enthusiastic with the tables. He also asked if the group of Vietnam Veterans had previously gotten together at any events and

Erickson stated that it was not an organized group of Veterans but rather was veterans who chose to attend the event on their own. Witkowski felt the attendance by the Vietnam vets was impressive. He noted that many comments were made in the minutes from the last meeting but he wondered if anyone had sent any correspondence to the Fair Board for the help they did do for the Subcommittee. Haskins and Pierce stated that they thanked the Fair Board in person. Erickson stated that he would give a written thank you note to the Fair Board President, Steve Corrigan. Witkowski also wanted to know if there was a follow up in the paper as to how the event went. He stated that in another club he is in they let the paper know how the event turned out and he felt that that would be a good idea.

Ed Koslowski asked if there were any plans to honor a group next year such as we did with the Vietnam vets this year. Another idea he thought of with regard to the Meet and Greet is the possibility of getting in touch with the Fair Board to have a display inside one of the buildings that would run for the length of the Fair.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus was not in attendance and therefore there was no report.

7. Comments from Bill Kloiber and/or Carl Soderburg.

Bill Kloiber and Carl Soderberg were not in attendance and therefore there were no reports.

8. **Discussion Regarding Veterans Day.**

Steenbock reported that 38 certificates were sent out last month following the Fair and this month there were three additional certificates sent out.

With regard to Veterans Day, all four newspapers will be putting an article in the paper and two of the four will need the information by November 1 so she asked people to get their information to her as soon as possible. The other newspapers need the information by November 4. Steenbock said that Sam's Club and Walmart asked her to include the following language with their information, "Veterans who are honorably discharged from the US military within the last twelve months will be placed in direct placement of employment for positions with emphasis on high volume cashiering, stocker, inventory, associates service cashier member service." Some of the Subcommittee felt that it may not be appropriate to have this included in the offer and Steenbock agreed and felt this was an unusual request and one that the Subcommittee was not interested in including. Erickson stated that the Museum and Zoo are on board with free admissions for Veterans and their families and he also had several others offers. Haskins also wanted to make sure that it was noted that American Antiques will be giving a free watch battery to veterans from November 11 – 16, not just on Veterans Day.

9. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock & Witkowski.**

-Erickson had a few more comments on the Fair. He confirmed that he will send a thank you note to Steve Corrigan of the Fair Board. He also stated that he had been reviewing the County Budget Book in anticipation of the County budget meeting which will be held on November 6, 2013. As he was going through the Parks budget he noted that there was $20,000 in the budget for the Fair and he stated that the prior year there was $30,000 allocated for the Fair. He noted that the budget is very, very tight and he urged this Subcommittee to be thankful for what they get and to be mindful of what they ask for from the Fair. Erickson stated that the budget for

the Subcommittee is $1,000 and there was the $595 donation from Schwab for their jeans day promotion and Erickson thought he could put something out to larger employers in the area to do the jeans day promotion again.

-Desisles stated that the USS Wisconsin Commemoration Ceremony will be held on October 22 at Wisconsin Veterans Museum at 11:00 a.m. She also reported that the Department of Workforce Development will be holding a job fair at Shopko Hall on October 17 and admission is by ticket only and the hours are from 10:00 am– 3:00 pm.

Desisles also brought up the idea of organizing a walk or some other similar event to call awareness to Veterans' suicides. She asked the subcommittee to think about it and come up with some ideas because she felt it was important to honor these people because their life was worth something even if they did not think so.

-Haskins saw the end of a news story recently about quilts that were donated to Veterans. He also stated that he is still working with Steenbock on the Veterans Day Off With Pay Bill.

-Koslowski passed around an invitation he received in the mail for the veterans ceremony at the Green Bay Yacht Club. Koslowski also indicated that he had seen an article in the Howard Suamico newspaper regarding a homeless veteran and they were looking for donations for him. If anyone has donations, contact Sue at Thornberry Cottage.

-Pierce reported that the Pearly Gates on Finger Road will be providing free lunch to Vets and their significant others on November 9 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Pierce also stated that there will be free dinner at the Golden Coral on November 11, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. for Veterans.

-Witkowski stated that he would like this Subcommittee to send a letter of thanks to the two members who recently resigned, John Walschinski and Don Bettine. It was indicated that that had already been done and Witkowski was grateful for it. Witkowski entertained the Committee with a poem about Christopher Columbus.

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

None.

11. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Loehlein	Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary	Transcriptionist