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, November 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Rosemary Desisles, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Ed Koslowski, Sherry Steenbock
EXCUSED: Tracy Rosinski, Delores Pierce

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1676

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Chair Erickson amended the agenda to add an Item following Item 4.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve as amended. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve or Modify Minutes of October 21, 2014.**

Duane Pierce noted that the name of the band referenced in his report is Bent Grass, not Bentwood.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve as modified. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4a. Chair Erickson read a resignation letter from Sherry Steenbock. Steenbock has decided to leave the Subcommittee for family reasons but offered her assistance in helping somebody take over her roles on the Subcommittee. Her resignation was accepted and Steenbock was presented with a commendation plaque thanking her for the work she has done for the Subcommittee.

5. **Possible discussion/review regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair in preparation for 2015.**

CVSO Jerry Polus indicated that he had made contact with the Air Force Band. He was advised that there has been a change in the operations manager and he is waiting to hear back from the new operations manager. Polus noted that there was an outside possibility that the Air Force Band may be available to perform at the Fair event in 2015. The Subcommittee agreed that Polus should ask for a commitment by the band and Polus will keep the Subcommittee advised in this regard.

Rosemary Desisles asked if anyone had contacted the City of Green regarding use or rental of their show mobile stage for the Fair. Erickson indicated that he will follow up with the City on this.

6. **Discussion re: Veterans Day.**

Jim Haskins stated that this year there were 148 prizes to give away which was more than last year. He noted that they had a very orderly system due to the addition of some signs

made by Ed Koslowski and this worked out very well. Haskins continued that Bear from Y100 did the ceremony and Channel 2 was also there. Haskins thought the event was very well run. He also noted that he had lunch at Texas Roadhouse on Veterans Day and he spoke with the manager who indicated that if the Subcommittee ever needed prizes for anything, to give him a call as he is a supporter of Veterans. Haskins also went to the Pearly Gates on Veterans Day and commented on a beer he tried, Veterans Beer, which is made at a brewery that employs only veterans. Haskins also got a free car wash and signed a banner for veterans at PDQ. He also noted that Golden Coral has served over 4.1 million meals to veterans as well as making very large donations to veterans' organizations. Haskins continued that he was disappointed to see that the newspapers did not print the list of companies and businesses that had donated prizes for Veterans Day. He also commented on an article he had seen with regard to the Veterans Day activities at the Yacht Club.

Joe Witkowski reported that he and his wife went to Chili's on Veterans Day and he enjoyed a free meal which was very good. He also noted that he works as a driver for the Lutheran nursing home on Pilgrim Way and the day before Veterans Day he walked into the Chapel at the nursing home and they were having a veterans ceremony that morning. There were 60 veterans, many in uniform, taking part in the ceremony which was followed by lunch which was put on by Tracy Rosinski and Heartland Hospice. Polus indicated that he was a speaker at that event and it was very nice.

Sherry Steenbock indicated that 25 new certificates are being sent out this month, most of which are as a result of veterans signing up at the Veterans Day event at the VFW. Steenbock thanked the Subcommittee members who were on hand at the event to help out and she also thanked Joe Witkowski and Ed Koslowski for taking some of the work off her hands by volunteering to call some of the contacts on her list for donations and offers. She noted that this year they had 56 offers made by businesses as compared to 45 last year. She noted that there were several more that responded too late to be included. The total value of gift cards that were given out was $1,500, plus they gave out the 148 prizes as Haskins stated earlier. There were five prizes left over that can be given out at the Fair in 2015. Steenbock reported that the traffic flow of the event seemed to be better, mainly due to the additional signage. She said it was heartwarming as to how many thank yous she received from veterans.

Koslowski reported that he saw John Maino at the VFW following the ceremony and Maino was apologizing to people for not being able to do the ceremony and indicated that he will not miss it again in the future. Steenbock stated that according to Dave Berndt, Maino had been approached to do this year's event but Maino stated that for contractual reasons he was not able to do the event.

7. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Steenbock, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson did not have anything to report.

-Desisles reported on the fundraiser that will be held on December 13 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm for the Army v. Navy game sponsored by the Navy League. The proceeds of the event will be given to a veterans group as well as to the STEM program in schools. The Navy League is looking for donations for raffle items and there will also be a 50 – 50 raffle. There will be a cash bar and free pizza at halftime.

Desisles also stated that she would be happy to take on some of Sherry Steenbock's responsibilities. Steenbock thanked Desisles and strongly suggested that she recruit some help to assist her as the Veterans Day phone calls are a big job because of all of the details and documentation involved. Haskins proposed to spread Steenbock's responsibilities out evenly over the Subcommittee.

-Haskins stated that he had recently seen former Subcommittee member John Walschinski on TV promoting the veterans memorial in Howard. Haskins continued by reading a poem

he had written to the Subcommittee. The poem is entitled, "All Gave Some, Some Gave All". It was suggested that a copy of the poem be framed and hung in the meeting room as well as copies made for the Subcommittee members.

-Koslowski presented Jerry Polus with a $100 check on behalf of Post 57 to be used towards the convention. Koslowski also indicated that he had been approached by Ken Corry who is a desert vet and very active with regard to veterans issues about becoming a member of this Subcommittee. Koslowski felt that Corry would be a good addition to this group. Erickson suggested that Koslowski invite Corry to attend the next meeting to see if he has an in interest in joining.

-Duane Pierce wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all. He continued that Pearly Gates will hold their annual LZ Christmas get together on December 15 beginning at 5:00 p.m. but Pierce recommended that people get there early. The event will include raffles and good deals on food and everyone is welcome. Pierce concluded by saying that he took a final ride of the season in October and he ended up in Chilton at the Veterans Memorial. He indicated that the memorial is very, very nice and it would be worth the trip to go see it.

-Witkowski reported that today was his birthday and he was 84 years old.

8. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported on the Purple Heart Pass program. He indicated that a news conference had been held recently to kick the program off and several Purple Heart recipients were given their passes. Polus has had about 20 veterans contact him so far to get a pass and he has also been contacted by the Railroad Museum and Heritage Hill, both of whom indicated that they would like to be included in the program. Polus expected the program to continue to expand and he explained the application process to the Subcommittee and indicated that he has been made aware that other counties are looking for venues to offer as well. Erickson suggested that information be included on the passes indicating where vets can go for information as to the most-recently added venues. Polus thought that was a good suggestion and indicated that he would pass it along to Milwaukee County.

Koslowski asked if there will be a link on the Veterans' website to get to the Purple Pass program and Polus indicated that there would be.

9. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

Carl Soderburg was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

10. **Such Other Matters as Authorized By Law.** None.

11. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Sherry Steenbock to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary