

**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, May 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Rosemary Desisles, Lynn Geiser, Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce, Tracy Rosinski, Joe Witkowski
EXCUSED: Delores Pierce, Carl Soderberg

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1685

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

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

2. **Invocation.**

Jim Haskins asked the group to observe a moment of silence in honor of Dick Koltz who recently passed at the age of 74. Koltz was responsible for making the Brown County Fair what it is today.

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Jerry Polus modified the agenda to have Joe Witkowski read a poem following Item 4.

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

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of April 21, 2015.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this time Joe Witkowski read a poem from Jerry Polus.

5. **Budget Status Financial Report as of March 31, 2015.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Jim Haskins to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Erickson indicated that he and Jerry Polus put together a preliminary draft of the agenda based on what was done last year. Polus stated they are looking at having the tent with organizations and representatives open from noon to 4:00 pm and the band performing from 4:00 – 5:00 pm followed by the ceremony starting at 5:00 pm. Koslowski pointed out that the banners that were used last year all say the ceremony begins at 6:00 pm. This was discussed and Koslowski will bring a banner to the next meeting to see if they can be modified somehow. Polus stated that the ceremony will consist of the welcoming by the emcee which he hopes will be John Maino, posting of colors by Legion Post 539, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, a chaplain prayer, and then the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Laura Nehlsen. This will be followed by the welcome by the County Executive and then a special recognition of female veterans. Polus stated that he estimates 100 women veterans will attend and they can come up by the period of service to introduce themselves and receive a certificate and a carnation. Erickson stated that if they try to bring the veterans up by era, someone could slip through the cracks so it may be better to have them recognized by branch of service instead. Different options were discussed and a decision will be made in the next few months. Polus continued that following the recognition of the female veterans the colors will be retired and then the drawings for the door prizes will be held. Polus felt it was important to have a guest speaker and Erickson noted that he has contacted John Maino and he may be able to be the speaker. It was suggested, however, that since the event is honoring women veterans it may be best to have a woman speaker. Erickson suggested that the

Subcommittee wait to hear if Maino can do it and then if he is not able to do it, they will look for an alternative. The event will conclude with another performance of the band following the door prizes. Koslowski stated that last year they posted a wreath and also had echo taps. Polus indicated that they could do the echo taps following the welcome by the County Executive and the wreath can be posted immediately before taps.

A proclamation declaring August 22, 2015 Women's Veterans Appreciation Day will have to be approved by the Human Services Committee and the full County Board prior to the event at the Fair. This should be placed on either the July or August County Board agenda.

7. **Discussion re: Covered stage.**

This was briefly discussed and no action was taken.

8. **Discussion re: Honoring female veterans at the Fair including carnations and review of certificate.**

Tracy Rosinski stated that she had spoken with Bouchard Floral and although they are not able to donate carnations, there is a possibility that they could provide a discounted price. She will keep the Subcommittee advised. Erickson stated that he had spoken with Schroeders who will provide the carnations at cost. They would be available in red, white and blue however, there would be an extra cost. Erickson suggested that we use all red or all white and then decorate the container they are in with blue. Duane Pierce noted that he had formerly worked with Schroeders and "cost" was much less than what the retail price is. After discussing the colors, most felt that they should all be one color and the suggestion was that they be red. Erickson will keep in touch with Schroeders to get 150 carnations to be picked up the morning of the Fair.

With regard to the certificates, Erickson shared with the Subcommittee the certificate that had been designed by the County Board Office. The Subcommittee liked the certificate but felt that the date should be added to the certificate. The word "female" will also be replaced with the word "woman".

9. **Discussion re: Veterans Day donation list.**

Rosemary Desisles stated that she had spoken with Sherry Steenbock and Steenbock will provide Desisles with the list of contacts from the past along with a breakdown of the businesses contacted by each member. Steenbock advised Desisles that several of the businesses need a 60 day notice in order to donate and Desisles will keep the Subcommittee advised.

Polus noted that the June meeting of this Subcommittee will be held on June 16 in the sixth floor Veterans Conference Room and will include a presentation on a program called "Honor Rewards" which ties in very much with what this Subcommittee does on Veterans Day, but is more of a year-round program. The program will be explained and a discussion will be held with regard to what role this group would like to take in the program.

The timetable of the Fair event was discussed further at this time.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to accept the proposed letter presented by Jerry Polus to be sent to the veterans' organizations. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

-Jerry Polus reported on an upcoming event that will be held at the Leach Amphitheater in Oshkosh on June 20, 2015. This event is the 50th Anniversary Celebration of The Doors with the world famous tribute band, Soft Parade. Soft Parade will also be performing on Sunday, June 21 at the Meyer Theater. Polus has been in communication with them and for every ticket sold they will be donating a ticket. Tickets are normally \$25 but they have committed 16 pairs of tickets and possibly more to Polus. Pierce noted that this information was also included in the newsletter of the Vietnam Vets. Polus noted that if anyone in the group wanted a ticket, they would need a special code and Polus can provide this.

-Bernie Erickson stated that if anyone is interested in getting items for the door prize drawings for the Fair that they do not double dip and ask the same businesses that are being asked for donations for Veterans Day. Last year Erickson received donations from Stadium View, Ad Ideas, Sanimax, Russ's Barber Shop, Team Apparel, National Guard, and Pancake Place. Erickson will contact these places again as well as several others that are located in his district.

-Rosemary Desisles did not have anything to report.

-Jim Haskins stated that he drives by the DAV frequently and sees a person outside the building carrying a sign that says "Stop Sinning or Go To Hell". Haskins feels that most disabled vets have already gone through hell and he does not think that this person should be picketing. Haskins also noted that Nascar's Coca Cola 600 will be held soon and they will be placing names of fallen soldiers on the windshields of the cars. Haskins also noted that he had seen a sign for "Carry the Fallen" which is an organization dedicated to reducing veteran suicides. The posters he had seen stated that on average 22 veterans commit suicide each day. Haskins noted that Gandrud has made a contribution to this organization of over \$900.

-Lynn Geiser reported that she is working with the Volunteer Center and is currently working on flyers and setting up a women's' veteran caregiver group for the purpose of connecting and collaborating.

-Duane Pierce stated that the Vietnam Vets will be holding their Memorial Day Ceremony at 8:00 a.m. behind the Museum. From there they will be in the parade in De Pere which starts at 10:00 am. This will be followed by a veterans' ceremony about 12:15 at Celebrate De Pere. There will be a concert by Lee Greenwood and a B25 flyover following the ceremony. Later in the day, at 5:00 p.m. the UPS will hold their annual Memorial Day Ceremony on the river.

Pierce continued that at 8:00 am on May 20 Legion Post 11 will be placing flags on graves at the Allouez Cemetery, Riverside Drive side. The rain date for this is the following day. Pierce also noted that the first Meet and Greet meeting for the Fair will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday. He also stated that Legion Post 11 will be doing a flag burn on June 9 at 5:00 pm at the post. Also, the Flag Day Parade in Appleton will be held on June 13 at 2:00 pm. Desisles noted that this is the biggest Flag Day Parade in the country. Pierce concluded that he had received a notification via Facebook that there will be a yellow ribbon Honor Flight for Vietnam Vets on July 24 from the EAA. Applications are being taken through June 12.

-Tracy Rosinski stated that Heartland has a hospice chaplain, Steven Morefield, who came about six months ago. He had finished his duty with the Navy and also served in the Marines and he has now been called back. There will be a nice sendoff at their office on Thursday at 12:30 and she would like anyone available to attend. The address is 1145 West Main Avenue in De Pere. There will be a prayer and a ceremony to give a positive sendoff to Steven.

-Joe Witkowski reported that he and Jim Haskins attended the luncheon at the Masonic Temple on April 25 and it was a nice time. He also attended a performance on April 25 of the Barbershop Harmony Society of about 50 men who came on the stage and sang as a fundraiser for the Old Glory Honor Flight. Witkowski said it was a tremendous performance and he had a copy of the booklet from the event that he shared with the group.

11. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus gave his report earlier in the meeting.

12. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg was not in attendance.

13. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.** None.

14. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Tracy Rosinski to adjourn at 6:14 pm. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Loehlein
Recording Secretary

Therese Giannunzio
Transcriptionist