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, July 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in the Veterans Conference Room, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Joe Witkowski, Tracy Rosinski, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus, Louise Dahlke, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Carl Soderberg, Lynn Geiser, Rosemary Desisles

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**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1687

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

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

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

   Erickson modified the agenda by moving Item 8 to follow Item 4.

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

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of June 16, 2015.**

   Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joe Witkowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discussion re: Honor Rewards Program.**

   CVSO Jerry Polus suggested that this item be held until after the Fair as it will require a good amount of discussion and there is no urgency. It will be put back on the agenda for next month's meeting.

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

   Jim Haskins stated that he attended the last Fair Board meeting and showed the Board the poster which they all liked. Haskins also said that he talked to Steve Corrigan about moving the tent a little closer to the road to ensure that the emergency road was kept clear. Corrigan advised Haskins that there would not be a problem moving the tent over, however moving it may cut into the handicapped parking spaces. The military display vehicles would then be located on the other side of the stage. Louise Dahlke thought this would be a good idea because the stage would not be under the trees and, additionally, both emergency areas would be left open. Dahlke also indicated that she would probably be able to get enough space for handicap parking spots. Further, she indicated that she will do what she can to keep the horse people and 4-H people from parking in the area.

   Ed Koslowski indicated that the meet and greet group has purchased 10 additional tables so he will have a total of 26 tables available. He has also had the time of the event changed on all of the banners. Koslowski indicated that he will need passes to get into the fair to set up the display in the building and drop off the lighted sign as well as passes to return to the Fair on Sunday for tear down and to load up the tables. Koslowski also confirmed with Dahlke that

there will be plenty of chairs available and Dahlke indicated that there would be no problem with chairs and she may even be able to get extra tables if needed.

Polus provided the Subcommittee with a copy of the proposed agenda, a copy of which is attached, and went over the same with the group. He noted that he has added Kathy Marschman to the agenda. Marschman is the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the WDVA and she will be talking for a few minutes. Polus will ask her to wear her uniform. Polus also noted that he is having additional posters and tickets printed and they will be available in his office towards the end of the week.

Polus continued that the following groups will have tables in the tent: Federal VA Regional Office, Green Bay Veterans Clinic, Vets Center, Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Schneider Ride with Pride, WDVA Madison, Center for Veterans Issues, Job Center, ADRC, NWTC and UWGB.

Koslowski stated that the following groups will also have tables: Vietnam Vets, Desert Vets, American Legion 11 and Auxiliary, Post 539, Post 1881, Amvets 11 and 57, DAV, Marine Corps League, Heartland Hospice and the Oneida Veterans.

Rosinski asked if Outfitters for Patriots were participating and Koslowski responded that he has not heard from them. He noted that Ken Corry has done a great job in updating the master list of organizations and he will contact those that have not responded to check to see if they wish to participate in the Fair.

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

Erickson advised that the certificates will be ready in plenty of time and he has also ordered carnations which he will pick up the morning of the event.

8. **Possible Discussion re: Veterans Day donation list.**

Rosemary Desisles reported that she has the list of organizations that need request letters sent at least 60 days in advance to donate. Letters will be sent out in September. Desisles also has the list of who was called last year and she will make copies of the list to provide to Subcommittee members at the next meeting. She will continue to be in touch with Sherry Steenbock to be sure that everything is done on the appropriate timeline. Koslowski stated that he will attend one of the VFW's business meetings to let them know what businesses this group intends to contact for donations so that the VFW does not duplicate efforts.

Witkowski asked if this group can only contact businesses on Desisles' list and it was indicated that that was correct as we do not want to overlap what the VFW does. Koslowski indicated that last year there were a number of companies that were contacted several times to donate for Veterans Day. Witkowski did not feel that there is any problem anywhere along the line because if you go into a company that has already donated, you could gracefully back out. He felt that there would be a right to contact new businesses and Erickson told him to use his discretion. Koslowski stated that after last year's event, he was talking to VFW members and it was brought up that they got a late start in asking for donations and when they did contact the businesses they were told by a number of them that donations had already been made.

9. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything else to report other than what was discussed above.

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

-Erickson reported that he has received commitments for door prizes from most of the businesses who donated last year.

-Haskins shared an article he had seen in the *Press Gazette* regarding the Schneider Ride with Pride truck driver who is from Green Bay and spent 24 years in the United States Army driving trucks. Haskins also reported on the Cruise of Honor at the Iola Car Show. The Cruise of Honor is a partnership between the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and the Iola Old Car Show. The Iola Old Car Show wishes to honor the veterans who reside at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King with an opportunity for a guided cruise of the car show and Teamed to Learn exhibit. Haskins also talked about a veterans special at Hilly Haven golf course on Tuesdays which is available with a military ID. Haskins continued that he had read an article that George W. Bush charged a wounded veterans group $100,000 to speak along with $50,000 for Laura Bush and $20,000 for his private jet. A retired sergeant who lost parts of both arms said that he followed President Bush's orders and fought in the Iraq war and does not think the President should be charging to speak to veteran groups. Haskins concluded by stating that he had seen an article that indicated there have been 128,480 veteran suicides since 1999.

-Geiser stated that her woman's program at the Volunteer Center, The Mission Continues, is starting on Thursday. A brochure is attached which provides more information. Currently the group meets every two weeks and they have Miss Wisconsin scheduled to speak on August 13 and Debra Grassman on September 10. If anyone knows any other speakers who may be interested in speaking, they can let Geiser know. She also reported that the Veterans Manor is looking for donations of toiletries and other items. American Legion 1881 donated a number of items which were delivered last Friday. Geiser concluded by reading two poems about women veterans to the Subcommittee.

-Koslowski reported on the Brown County Veterans Manor and indicated that 27 of the 50 units are currently occupied and there will be several more vets moving in next week. He noted that they are no longer taking donations of large items; however, the residents are being advised of what they currently have so that their needs can be met. A Facebook page has been created, but nothing has been posted yet. Geiser indicated that they are continuing to take smaller items such as toiletries. They will also be looking to find an organization who may be able donate new beds. Additionally, the Veterans Manor does take cash donations. Koslowski would also like to find a source for donations of bikes as he noted that the Vets Manor is on the bus line and the busses have bike racks.

-Pierce reported that POWs are an issue that is close to his heart and always on his mind. He noted that today would have been Commander Leahy's 92nd birthday. Commander Leahy has been missing since May 8, 1965. Pierce asked the Subcommittee to say a prayer for Commander Leahy and his family as well as the families of all other soldiers still missing.

-Rosinski reported that author Debra Grassman will be in Green Bay from September 10 – 12. On September 10 she will do a presentation at UWGB as well as the presentation Geiser spoke of earlier. On September 11 Debra Grassman will be providing an educational event in the morning and a soul injury ceremony in the afternoon, both at Green Bay Distillery. In the evening Grassman will be doing a candlelight fallen comrade ceremony at the Brown County Veterans Memorial site. More details will be provided at the next meeting. Rosinski noted that having Grassman here is very expensive and any groups that would be willing to sponsor an event can let Rosinski know.

-Witkowski read a small article from the newspaper regarding D-Day and the start of the invasion of Normandy which occurred on June 6, 1944. He also shared an ad from Ryan Funeral Home that indicated the flag at the funeral home is being flown in July in honor of Soldier Richard Vander Missen. Witkowski also reported on the Project Semi Colon project. Finally he noted that veterans will be given free root beer floats at A & W on August 6.

11. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg was excused from the meeting early and had no comments.

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

13. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:57 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

BROWN CO. VETERANS/MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015

AGENDA

12NOON - 5:00PM –INFORMATION TENT WITH VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND VA REPRESENTATIVES

4:00PM-5:00PM – MUSIC BY MONTEREY TRAIL

5:00PM-6:00PM –CEREMONY

*WELCOME BY MC

*POSTING OF COLORS –MADELYN LACANNE

*PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE-CHRIS CORNELIUS

*CHAPLAIN PRAYER –LORI BELOW

*STAR SPANGLE BANNER-LAURA NEHLSON

*WELCOME-CO. EXECUTIVE, TROY STRECKENBACH

*LAYING OF WREATH-LYNN GEISER

*ECHO TAPS

*SPEAKER-WDVA ASST DEPUTY-KATHY MARSCHMAN

*SPECIAL RECOGNITIONOF WOMEN VETERANS (CERTIFICATE AND CARNATION)

*RETIREMENT OF COLORS-MADELYN LACANNE

*DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

6:00PM-7:00PM –MUSIC BY MONTEREY TRAIL

The Volunteer Center

"The Volunteer Center of Brown County builds stronger community through volunteerism. We believe the strength of a community is directly related to its volunteers. Each year we strategically match thousands of volunteers with hundreds of local community partners who best utilize their time and talents."

Helping our veterans and their families

THE MISSION CONTINUES

VOLUNTEER CENTER

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER of BROWN COUNTY

The Volunteer Center/ The Mission Continues

984 9th Ave
Green Bay WI 54301
Phone: 920-429-9445

Website:
www.volunteergb.org

Opportunities For Veterans and Military Families

The Volunteer Center
The Mission Continues

The Mission Continues

Tel: 920-471-2119

Lynn Geiser/ Jim Radey

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Empowerment Women

1. Motivational women
2. Art and Music
3. Recovery writing and stories
4. Movies
5. Team Activities
6. Confidence/ Strength based training
7. Mental health training
8. Individual sessions
9. Employment needs
10. Volunteer opportunities
11. Family connection
12. Resources and referrals

Empowering Women provides the education , experience and peer to peer connections from other women. Empowerment women's goals are to provide resources, confidence and the training needed to fill the passion and honor of being a women veteran, women caregiver and other women connected to veterans. Starting classes end of July 2015 from 5:30-7:00pm Thursday at The Volunteer Center.

Volunteering

Bullfrogs- July 9th 2015

Packer 5k Run- July 31st/ August 1

Packer Family Day- August 8th

Make A Difference Day- October 2015

Bringing the community, veterans and their families to come together to make a difference . Empowering veterans with the unique skills and values to others by peer to peer connections and giving back. Using volunteering to come together

There are many volunteer opportunities. To find out about more go to the Website: www.volunteergb.org.

Email: Veteransupport@volunteergb.org.

Job Coaching

The Volunteer Center, The Mission Continues, and the Veterans Outreach Program at the Job Center collaborate to help veterans with employment needs. You can receive assistance with:

1. Transitioning
2. Job interview preparation
3. Assessment of employment goals and job search guidance
4. Networking

A Veteran may have never looked for, applied for, or interviewed for a civilian job, especially if he or she had a career in the military. These are new skills he or she will have to learn and master. In applying for a job, a veteran will have to determine how to translate his or her military skills and duties into civilian terms and create a resume.