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, December 21, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. at Austin Straubel International Airport, 2077 Airport Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Joe Witkowski
EXCUSED: Ed Koslowski, Louise Dahlke, Tracy Rosinski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1778

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

   The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:40 pm after the subcommittee viewed the Austin Straubel memorial exhibit.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

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

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of November 15, 2016.**

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

5. **Budget Status Financial Reports for September and October, 2016.**

   Chair Erickson explained that some of the remaining funds will be carried over to next year.

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

6. **Update re: Honor Rewards Program.**

   CVSO Jerry Polus reported there are currently 80 businesses enrolled in the program and over 100 cards have been sent out to veterans. He said people who are not residents of Brown County can still take advantage of discounts and offers by participating businesses by using one of the approved identification cards. He would like businesses who have not signed up yet to be contacted again in early spring to see if there is interest.

7. **Update re: 2017 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

   The date of the event was discussed and it was indicated that Sunday would be $5 admission day so if veterans were to bring additional family, it would be more cost-effective for them. Erickson said this will be discussed again at next month's meeting so a decision can be made as to whether to hold the event on Saturday or Sunday. Polus also said a decision should be made at the next meeting as to who we want to recognize at the Fair. His recommendation would be to recognize Purple Heart recipients and disabled veterans and the subcommittee thought this was a good idea. Erickson said he can order dog tags similar to what was passed out at this year's event and Polus said he could try to get a count of DAV members and Purple Heart members to get an idea of how many to order. Witkowski felt it should be more specific as to one group rather than multiple groups. This is something that can be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

Polus also informed that he has contacted the Navy Band and has an application to apply for them to come, but he was advised that the application should not be submitted until after the first of the year. He said the band does not charge a fee, but Polus thought it would be beneficial if we could offer them something.

8. **Possible update re: Veterans Day events.**

Erickson said he, Haskins and Witkowski attended the event at the VFW in Howard and they were running a raffle while they were there and it was very busy. He explained to them that this group does not have the manpower anymore to go out and get all of the prizes. Haskins felt the event went well, and everyone seemed to appreciate the copies of the newspaper article that were available. Witkowski said the event was very busy and somewhat cramped. Polus said he was on Channel 2 that morning and they were very good about listing the events and businesses that had specials for Veterans Day.

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

Polus informed that he, Supervisor Schadewald and County Executive Troy Streckenbach attended a tailgate party event at the Veterans Manor recently and it was a very nice event.

Polus also reported that he had met recently with the wife of a veteran who works at the Volunteer Center and he would like to invite her to a future meeting as she is developing a program called Veterans Helping Veterans. She is looking for volunteer veterans who would be willing to help other veterans with things like yard work or snow removal, or just visiting with them. Polus feels this group may be able to help with this and we can hear more about this at a future meeting.

10. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Erickson said that unless Soderberg is hired by Mike Gallagher, we probably will not be seeing him anymore. Polus said he would like to make contact with Mike Gallaher to make him aware of the programs that are offered in Brown County as well as what the role of this subcommittee is.

11. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson read a note to the group from Tracy Rosinski. Rosinski has resigned from the subcommittee at this time but said the group could still reach out to her if there is support that she may be able to provide. The group was sad to see her leave and indicated that they would welcome her back in the future.

-Haskins read an article about the Food For Thought Lunch Series and indicated that John Maino will be sharing stories from his books at the next meeting. This is being sponsored by Ryan Funeral Home.

-Pierce reported that Shoots in Suamico will be holding a meat raffle on January 7 at 2:00 pm.

-Witkowski read an ad that says the flag at Ryan Funeral Home will be flown in honor of Victor De Cleene in the month of December. He also commented that reporter Jeff Flynt will be the new Deputy Executive for Brown County and he felt there may be a possibility to utilize him for things like news releases. Witkowski also wished the group a Merry Christmas. Erickson also wished the group a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year and thanked the Subcommittee for their work throughout the year.

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

13. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:15 pm. Vote taken. <u>MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary