

**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, January 17, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski, Becca Smalls  
**EXCUSED:** Delores Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Louise Dahlke

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1798**

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

**2. Invocation.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Joe Witkowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve/Modify Minutes of December 21, 2016.**

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

**5. Budget Status Financial Report for November 30, 2016.**

Chair Erickson explained that this budget document has been reviewed by the Human Services Committee which is the oversight committee for this group and is included here for informational purposes.

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

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

Polus reported that there are currently 81 businesses signed up for the Honor Rewards program and 216 veterans have signed up for cards. The program continues to go well but Polus would like to see more businesses sign up. He mailed out information to many businesses but only received a few responses. Erickson said he has talked to various businesses about this program and he got the feeling that there may be some hesitation because the markups by many businesses are pretty slim. Polus will contact some of the business leaders again in the spring to see if there is any additional interest from businesses. He noted that Brown County has far exceeded the other counties that participate in the program so overall it is going well.

*Although shown in the proper format here, Item 8 was taken at this time.*

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

Polus indicated he will send in the request for the Navy band in spring. He would also like to make a decision as to what group to recognize at the event and recalled that we talked about recognizing Purple Heart recipients and disabled veterans. Those in attendance felt this was a good idea, but Erickson indicated he would rather wait until the next meeting to vote on this because there were several members who were not in attendance tonight.

A discussion took place regarding changing the event from Saturday to Sunday. There was some concern that if the event is moved to Sunday, it would be very unlikely to have it changed back to Saturday in the future. In addition, it was felt that the event would be better attended on Saturday. This is something we can vote on at the next meeting when all members of the subcommittee are present.

**8. Volunteer Center Presentation re: Veterans Helping Veterans.**

Polus introduced Becca Smalls, Veteran Outreach Advocate for The Volunteer Center. Smalls provided information, a copy of which is attached, and talked about a new program, Veterans Helping Veterans, that the Volunteer Center is starting. The goal is to have veterans or family members of veterans volunteer to help a senior veteran 60 or older, a disabled veteran or a widow of a veteran with various jobs. People who are interested in volunteering for the program would contact Smalls at the Volunteer Center and then she would forward an application which sets forth when the veteran would be available to help and what types of things they are able to help with. Tasks include things such as having ramps built for disabled veterans, providing transportation, yard work, etc. Volunteer applicants would have to pass a background check before they can do any of the work.

There is also an application that can be filled out by veterans who are in need of help that outlines what their needs are. Smalls matches the needs with the volunteers who say they can provide that specific need. She said that the person doing the volunteering would typically sign a waiver holding the Volunteer Center harmless for damage and injuries. Smalls would like to build long term relationships between the veteran who needs help and the volunteer providing the help since there is already the bond there because they are both veterans. She is working hard to get the word out about the program so that people who need help know how to ask for it. She has been e-mailing and texting a number of connections at various organizations and she will be making a TV appearance to talk about the program soon. There are also other programs available through the Volunteer Center for veterans including a Date Night program and a women's support group.

Erickson suggested that Smalls contact the local high schools to see if there are students that would like to volunteer to help veterans out. He mentioned that Bay Port has a very active military organization that also may be willing to help veterans out. Smalls said that at this time she is trying to get the word out, but so far, nobody has come forward saying they need help with something. Erickson also suggested Smalls provide information on the program to area churches with a request that they publish the information in their weekly bulletins to get the word out. Witkowski also suggested that she contact all of the area military organizations to make them aware of the program.

Polus thanked Smalls for attending the meeting and explaining the program and said she should consider joining this subcommittee.

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

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

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

-Erickson informed that he talked to the Internal Auditor who arranged to have the left over funds in our account carried over to 2017. He also said that subcommittee will be receiving the usual \$1,000 from the County Board so we should be going into 2017 with a balance of about \$1,450.

-Haskins reported that Starbucks hired over 8,000 veterans in 2016.

-Pierce said that AMVETS will be hosting a meat raffle on February 11 at 2:00 pm at the VFW in Howard. He also said that he and Ed Koslowski went to a screening of the movie *Never Forgotten*. It was a great moving and very touching. The event was sponsored by Bellin Health and Festival Foods and held at the Meyer Theater.

Pierce also said he recently attended a Desert Vets meeting and during the meeting the membership person passed around a list for people to update their contact information. Pierce joined the group and said that he is now in 10 different veteran groups.

-Witkowski did not have anything to report.

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

Polus informed that he has free admission tickets for veterans to the Beja Shrine Circus which will be in early March.

**12. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:10 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary

# VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

New Program by: Volunteer Center Veteran  
outreach Advocate

Becca Smalls

Becca Smalls : Veteran Outreach  
**Advocate – Brown County**



# VETERANS HELPING VETERANS – MISSION

To have veterans and/or families of veterans volunteer within our community assisting senior veterans (60 or older), veterans with disabilities and/or widows of veterans with basic needs.

This needs could include, household chore service, snow shoveling, lawn/yard care, friendly home visits, and ramp building

**Brown County Volunteer Center  
Website**

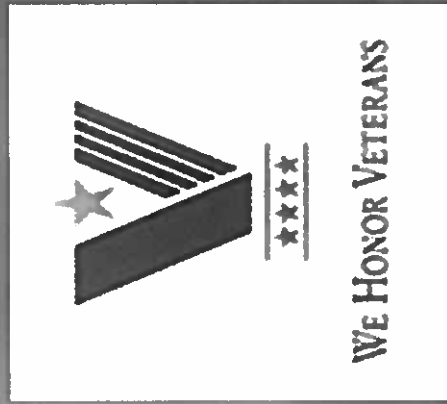
**Veterans Support Services**

**Link:**

**[http://www.volunteergb.org/  
veterans-support-services](http://www.volunteergb.org/veterans-support-services)**

# Forms for veterans looking for help and those wanting to volunteer

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BROWN  
COUNTY  
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS  
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



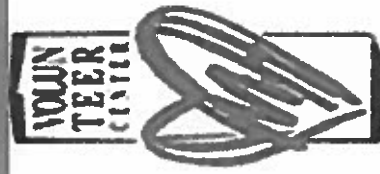
VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BROWN  
COUNTY  
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS  
REQUEST FORM





# Handbook & Guidelines

**All volunteers go through back-ground checks, both veteran in need and volunteer fill out forms to determine needs and best possible matches and success.**

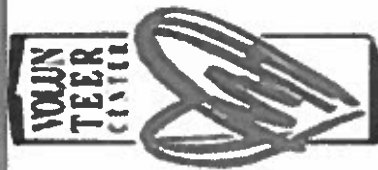


**THE VOLUNTEER CENTER**  
OF BROWN COUNTY

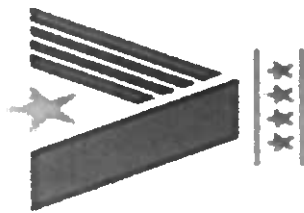


**WE HONOR VETERANS**

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS PROGRAM A SUCCESS !



THE VOLUNTEER CENTER  
of BROWN COUNTY



WE HONOR VETERANS



THE VOLUNTEER CENTER  
of BROWN COUNTY

Volunteer Center of Brown County  
**Veterans Helping Veterans**  
Volunteer Application



WE HONOR VETERANS

Thank you for your interest in the Veterans Helping Veterans volunteer program. The program is designed to help veteran seniors, veterans with disabilities and widows of veterans complete common household tasks. Your willingness to assist with projects will have a positive impact on the Greater Green Bay community. **Complete this application and return it to The Volunteer Center using one of these choices:** 1) Mail to: Volunteer Center, 984 Ninth Street, Green Bay, WI 54304 or 2) Scan and email completed document to: [veteransupport@volunteergb.org](mailto:veteransupport@volunteergb.org)

If you have questions, please call 920-429-9445

**Volunteer Information** (Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact method:  Phone  Email

If you are volunteering as part of a group: Number of people in your group \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader's Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader's Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the services you can provide:**

- Rake lawn/leaves
- Trim hedges/weed landscaping
- Wash windows (exterior first floor only)
- Household chores service
- Friendly visits
- Test smoke detectors
- Mow grass
- Remove snow from sidewalk/walkway
- Wash windows (interior)
- Snow Removal
- Ramp building

**Select which season you can commit to volunteering:**  year round  winter  spring  summer  fall

**Select the tools you can bring:**

- Rake(s) qty: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tarp(s) qty: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladder/step stool
- Glass cleaner/household cleaners
- Hedge

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth are true and complete. I am aware of the policy and procedures of the Volunteer Center and that they are available upon request. I understand that a background check will be required for providing Year Round services through the Neighborhood Volunteer Connection program. I also agree not to release personal information of any other individuals participating in this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for completing this application and for your willingness to help your community!*