

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 21, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Supervisor Brusky, Ed Koslowski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jerry Polus
EXCUSED: Joe Witkowski, Louise Dahlke

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1841**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

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

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 17, 2017.

On page three of the minutes under Ed Koslowski's report, Duane Pierce pointed out it was the LZ Committee that runs the quarterly meetings that was looking for coffee donations. Pierce also noted under his report that the meat raffles held at Shoots and Pearly Gates were put on by Amvets Post 57.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve as amended. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Jerry Polus said there have been 10 additional veterans added to the program in the last month. The number of veterans now participating in the program is at 278 and the number of participating businesses remains at 83. Erickson noted many veterans already use their military ID cards at various businesses to receive discounts so not all of the eligible veterans will request an Honor Rewards card. Pierce felt it would be interesting to see how many veterans take advantage of the discounts offered by Honor Rewards that use some form of military ID other than the Honor Rewards card and he noted that most places that offer a military discount will accept various forms of military ID.

Supervisor Brusky said she had someone ask her how to receive a military ID and Polus said people can come into his office at any time to receive assistance in enrolling in the program. Koslowski added that someone who qualifies for a military ID can receive one at the Naval Reserve Center.

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

Erickson said we do not have to address this until after the first of the year. Brusky asked about the thank you notes for businesses who donated prizes to the Veterans Appreciation Day event at the Fair. Erickson said he will get the thank you notes to the County Board office

It was indicated that next year's event will be held on Sunday instead of Saturday. One of the advantages of having the event on Sunday is that it is more economical if a veteran wants to bring his family to the Fair as the admission price on Sunday is reduced. Joe Witkowski noted this group had talked about moving the event to Sunday several times in the past and decided not to do that, but Joan Brusky said the Fair Board is the party that requested the event be moved.

A discussion was also held with regard to sending thank you notes to businesses who donated prizes for the Fair. Erickson said he has something on his computer he can print out and get to Brusky and Brusky said she will add a handwritten note to the letters before they are mailed.

Brusky shared a story about a veteran who won a prize at the Fair. The prize was for tickets to Green Bay Community Theater and when the veteran's wife called the theater to make arrangements for the tickets, she let the theater know how grateful and thankful her husband was for the acknowledgement and thanks he received at the Fair because when he came back from Vietnam, he was not acknowledged at all. The veteran said the acknowledgement at the Fair meant a great deal to him and he was also happy to have won the prize. Brusky said this committee should feel good about being part of the healing for these veterans.

6. Discussion re: Veterans Day Activities.

Erickson said he had heard comments that the event at the Arena was very good and he also said the event at the VFW in Howard went quite well, although the weather may have impacted the attendance a little bit. Pierce stated the event at the Yacht Club also went real well and the lunch at Pearly Gates was well attended.

Koslowski mentioned that he had heard through the grapevine that someone who attended the Yacht Club event was bashing the article that was in the newspaper. Erickson said he checked with Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt on this who informed Erickson that he was not aware of the situation. Flynt volunteered to help in the future with getting information to the Press Gazette. Koslowski said he posted the information on veterans' discounts on the Press Gazette FB page, but he does not get the paper so he did not see what was actually printed in the newspaper. The newspaper article included a very, very small number of the offers that were submitted to them. Erickson noted that the Press Gazette office is no longer open on a daily basis and, further, if you call the Press Gazette, the phone call is answered out of state. Brusky noted that she was on a website of one of the local newspapers that listed many, many more offers than were included in the Press Gazette. Koslowski said he sent the full, complete list of discounts and offers to all of the local newspapers and the complete list was published in the Ashwaubenon Press.

Erickson suggested that in the future we work with the person at the Press Gazette who typically does reporting of county matters. Erickson has a direct number and e mail for this person and he can provide that. Koslowski would like the list distributed by Brown County next year so that County staff can make the contacts and forward the information where it needs to be. Erickson agreed with this but noted that just because the Press Gazette receives the complete list does not mean they will print the entire list. The amount of work Koslowski does with regard to the Veterans Day offers was acknowledged and he was thanked for all he does. Koslowski noted that Brusky and Jim Haskins also did a lot of work on this and he thanked those individuals as well. Erickson said his opinion is that the Press Gazette is not very willing to do anything that they do not get any money for.

Erickson suggested we discuss Veterans Day next year and see how we wish to proceed in the future, especially because this group seems to be getting smaller. Erickson feels we should consider adding a member to this group and Polus shared that he was thinking of adding someone from Oneida. Erickson also had a suggestion for a new member from Hobart. Koslowski suggested we ask someone from the Desert Vets group to join the Subcommittee to get some younger people involved. Several other possibilities were discussed and Polus said he will make some calls on this and keep the group advised.

The chain of command of this Subcommittee was also discussed and Erickson wished to make it clear that all communications should come through either himself as Chairman, Koslowski as Vice Chair or the CVSO.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus did not have anything to report this month.

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

-Erickson brought up the idea of skipping the December meeting as there did not seem to be much to discuss. The group agreed to not meet in December and resume in January 2018.

-Brusky said she was thankful for the information provided earlier on how to direct veterans to get veteran IDs.

-Koslowski said he does a lot on social media and the Brown County Veterans Recognition Subcommittee has a page, however, it was only created to reserve the name. He has also created a FB page for NEW Veterans which currently has 500 members. He receives information from all over the state on veteran activities that he posts on that page.

Koslowski also indicated that he has recently retired, but he is still working several days a week to help his employer out on a temporary basis. He said he will remain active in the Subcommittee through the Fair in 2018, but he is not certain of what his involvement will be after that.

-Pierce reported on December 2 at Duck Creek Pub/VFW, Amvets Post 57 will be holding a meat raffle at 2:00 pm. On December 16 at various places around the area there will be events for Wreaths Across America. The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember, honor and teach and this mission is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at locations in all 50 US States as well as at sea and abroad. Pierce said Rolling Thunder will be involved in events at the memorial at the Arena as well as one in Freedom and he encouraged people to attend if they can.

Pierce also noted that the LZ Committee and Vietnam Vets 224 will be holding their annual Christmas get together and raffle at Pearly Gates on December 11 at 5:00 pm, but he urged people to come earlier to get a seat because it is typically a pretty good raffle and very well attended. Everyone is welcome and invited.

Pierce also said that Amvets Post 11 is having a get together at Stadium View on December 9 for the Army/Navy game.

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

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Delores Pierce to adjourn at 5:22 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary