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, March 20, 2018 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Louise Dahlke, Joan Brusky, Jerry Polus
EXCUSED: Kerry Metoxen

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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 Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Approve/Modify Minutes of February 20, 2018.**

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

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

   CVSO Jerry Polus reported the membership in the Honor Rewards Program remains at 285 and there are 83 participating businesses. He said he or the representative from the Register of Deeds Office can go to various veteran events around the area to sign people up for the program on site. Erickson suggested inviting the representative of the Register of Deeds to an upcoming meeting to provide an update on the program. Polus added that he would like to contact businesses that are currently not participating in the program sometime this spring to see if there is any interest. Erickson also suggested contacting the neighborhood associations throughout the City to see if they can put articles in their neighborhood newsletters about the program. He has a list of the contacts for the neighborhood associations that he will provide to Polus.

5. **Discussion re: 2018 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair, including what group to honor (AR/NG).**

   Erickson noted that at the last meeting we decided that the honorees at this year's event will be Reservists and members of the National Guard, past and present. He also reminded that this year's event will be held on Sunday, August 19 which he feels will be quite successful because of the reduced admission on Sundays for those who wish to bring their families. Wording on the tickets was discussed and language will be added indicating that additional guests over age 3 will get in for a reduced fee.

   Dahlke recalled the printing of the banners that we talked about at the last meeting. She said she brought this up at the last Fair Board meeting but did not get much response. However, following the meeting, she was provided with information from a printing company that would likely print the banners for free. Dahlke provided the information to Ed Koslowski and he will follow up on this. Dahlke also noted that Jim Haskins has not attended a Fair Board meeting recently, but it is not imperative for a member of this Committee to attend those meetings.

Polus informed he intends to draft a letter to be sent to the Reserve Centers and National Guard giving them early notice of the event at the Fair. He will then follow up later with a personal visit to see if he can get one of the Commanders to speak at the event. Erickson suggested that he include with his letter that each ticket admits the veteran and a guest and then include information about the reduced admission price. Dahlke added that the Fair will run until 6:00 pm on Sunday and everything stays there and open until 6:00 pm.

Koslowski indicated he will contact Monterey Trail to see if they are available to play for the event and let this group know at the next meeting.

6. **Report of CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus reported that the last month has been tough from a staff perspective. The senior benefits specialist who has been in the office for 11 years left to take a higher level position in Marinette County for more money, free parking, better benefits and less stress because Marinette County serves less veterans than Brown County does. Polus promoted benefit specialist Matt Franklin to the vacated position so he is now the senior benefits specialist and he is hoping to upgrade that to deputy veteran services. The benefits specialist position has been posted and Polus hopes to start interviewing soon to fill the position. He also noted that Franklin will be at a conference for a week which will make things even more difficult, but so far they are able to keep their heads above water and are doing the best they can.

7. **Reports from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce).**

-Erickson did not have anything to report.

-Brusky informed that Wisconsin is expected to be the first state to set up a Green Alert system for locating missing at risk veterans. This would be similar to the Amber Alert system for missing children and the Silver Alert system for missing older adults. The legislation regarding the Green Alert system was passed unanimously by the Senate in January and by the Assembly in February is and currently awaiting Governor Walker's signature.

The Green Alert system proposal came in response to a 45 year old veteran who was living at home but then disappeared. His body was found 18 days later. The police were unable to help in this situation because the missing person was an adult and did not meet certain criteria. The Green Alert system is to help veterans who are at risk, especially from a mental health standpoint.

Polus noted that there is already a state program designed to reach out to homeless and at risk veterans and especially assist in mental health issues. Brusky said the Green Alert system is geared more towards veterans who go missing.

-Dahlke did not have anything to report.

-Koslowski informed he picked up the sign from the Extension that was discussed at the last meeting. The sign was donated for use by veterans' organizations and Koslowski said he has received a line of credit from his Amvets post to do some necessary repairs. He is in the process of having these repairs made and has a lot of time into the project, but not a lot of cash has been spent. He shared pictures of some of the work in progress on the sign. Dahlke added that the Homemakers originally wanted to sell the sign for $25 - $50, but when the condition of the sign was discovered and the cost of repairs was factored in, they decide to donate the sign. Koslowski said the sign will primarily be used for the Veterans Meet and Greet group, but he will also let other veterans groups know that it will be available to rent for a nominal fee for other events.

Koslowski also informed the Amvets will be holding a meat raffle on April 7 beginning at 2:00 pm at Shoots Bar in Suamico. There will be 16 rounds and every third round will be for a four pound beef tenderloin.

-Pierce said he went to the Connect to Courage event earlier in the day in Appleton. The event was well attended and quite interesting. He also said March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day. This is something that is currently statewide, but they are trying to make it nationwide. Korean Veterans Appreciation Day is July 27.

Pierce also said the LZ spring event will be held on April 2 at 5:00 pm at Pearly Gates but he advised coming early to get a seat. The event will include various raffles and Pierce also just found out they will be raffling off tickets for their large raffle, which used to be for a Harley, but this year will be for cash prizes. Seven hundred tickets will be sold and the first prize is $15,000 cash and there are a number of other prizes of cash as well.

Pierce continued that April 9 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Polus said the last remaining Wisconsin POW that he knew well passed away several months ago at the age of 94. There is still one commander missing from Brown County who was shot down off the coast of Vietnam and as far as anyone knows, he is still in the cockpit of the plane at the bottom of the sea.

Pierce concluded by saying that Armed Forces weekend will be observed May 18 – 20 and the Annual Veterans Pow Wow will be held in Keshena that weekend. Rolling Thunder will be performing a table ceremony on Saturday around 12:30 pm prior to the grand entrance.

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

The application cards for the veterans certificates were discussed because the address for them to be returned to is that of a former member of this Subcommittee. The current stock of cards will be modified to change the return address to the Board of Supervisors and then when new cards are ordered they will be printed using that address.

9. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:20 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist