

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of The Regular Meeting of March 15, 2024

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Attendance was taken and those present were Janis Bauman, Chairman; Keith Miller, Commissioner; Norm Bednarek, Commissioner; and Rebekka Cary, CVSO & Executive Secretary

It was certified that the agenda was properly posted, and the meeting properly noticed. Motion for approval of the agenda by Bednarek, second by Miller. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting were reviewed. Motion for approval by Bauman, second by Miller. Motion carried.

There were no expenditures to report.

There were no Veterans Service Commission Fund Applications to review.

Motion by Miller to approve spending \$250.00 to purchase 10 \$25 Kwik Trip gift cards to be given veterans in need. Second by Bednarek. Motion carried.

Motion by Bednarek to approve spending \$250.00 to purchase 10 \$25 Aldi gift cards to be given veterans in need. Second by Bauman. Motion carried.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun accepting applications for enrollment in VA Healthcare for veterans who participated in a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA). Simply put, any veteran who was exposed to a toxin while in service is now eligible for VA Healthcare. A list of those toxins can be found at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures>. Cary is still waiting to hear from VA how what if any type of proof the VA is going to require showing exposure.

AB 102 Relating to: reducing the eligibility threshold to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit was not passed. It was not on the agenda of the last session of the Senate. This bill would have reduced the threshold for eligibility from 100% service-connected to 70%.

Cary reviewed the Veterans Service Office Annual Report with the commission.

Bednarek gave an update on the Columbia County Cabin at Camp American Legion. He met with the Board of Directors for the camp and let them know funding is immediately available. The Columbia County Council of the American Legion reinstated the Cabin Committee, and they will be meeting with the camp director on April 4th. There is a possibility that the old cabin could be demolished as early as this year and the new one built by next year which is the 100th anniversary of the camp.

Fall River Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will hold a Flag retirement ceremony with the local 5th graders on May 3. They will also host their brat fry on April 18, May 16, and June 20.

Sometime during the week of June 12, Portage American Legion will hold a flag retirement ceremony at American Legion Headquarters.

Assistant CVSO Tamra Bourne will be speaking on Memorial Day in Fall River. Cary will speak in Rio.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024 at 9:00 am.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Bednarek motioned to adjourn. Second by Miller. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebekka Cary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Rebekka L Cary, Columbia County Veterans' Service Officer
and Executive Secretary, Columbia County Veterans' Service Commission