

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of The Regular Meeting of April 9, 2021

Meeting called to order at 8:34 am.

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

It was certified that the agenda was properly posted and the meeting properly noticed. There were no changes to the agenda. The agenda was approved on motion by Miller, seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on motion by Bednarek, seconded by Bauman. Motion carried.

There were no expenses since the last meeting.

Administrative Assistant Jessica Ethington is researching our records to look for surviving spouses of Vietnam Veterans who may now qualify for benefits based on the fact that Agent Orange has now been linked to Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism.

The office received the \$11,500 grant from WDVA.

Bednarek mentioned that the proposed state budget has some increased benefits for WDVA. A slight increase to the CVSO grant is included in that.

Suicide was a topic that came up often this week in the office. Cary would like to participate more the County's Suicide Prevention group. She feels more awareness needs to be brought to this issue.

Ethington will be adding photos of veterans to our files.

Ethington will be starting a CVSO newsletter. The service organizations are welcome to submit items to Jessica.Ethington@co.columbia.wi.us if they would like them included in the letter. These can include upcoming events, informational articles, or items of note. A hard-copy will be mailed to the service organizations and all others will be distributed via email.

Miller put on an MRE feed with the 4th graders at Fall River School. A good time was had by all.

Tammi Brueggeman brought in some medals that had been turned into the office. They include a Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, and others. These medals belong to Robert Conrad had been left behind in an apartment by the son Jerry Conrad. The office was able to locate the name of the granddaughter of Robert Conrad – Melissa Brandsma – but has no contact information for her.

Brueggeman would like to return the medals to the family so if anyone has any information about any other members of the family, please let her know.

The Columbia County American Legion meeting will be held May 19, 2021 at the American Legion Headquarters.

Cary will be speaking at the Randolph Memorial Day Program.

The American Legion Spring Meetings will be May 14-15 at Ho-Chunk Casino in Wisconsin Dells.

The American Legion Celebration is being planned for 2 days during the 2nd weekend in September. The decision has not been made to hold it at American Legion Headquarters or Columbia County Fairgrounds. The travelling 9/11 Memorial will be there.

The American Legion Post 47 will host it's first in-person meeting in more than a year. It will be Monday April 12, 2021 at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The remodel of the Columbia County cabin at Camp American Legion is hold due to personnel changes at that camp. The camp will be open this year but limited to half occupancy.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 8:30 am.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Miller motioned to adjourn. Second by Bauman. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 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.

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