

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of The Regular Meeting of July 12, 2019

Meeting called to order at 8:27 am.

Attendance was taken and those present were: Norm Bednarek, Chair; Keith Miller, Commissioner; Jon Van Wie, 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 Van Wie, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

The Commission's expense report since the last regular meeting was reviewed. Approval of the report was motioned by Miller and seconded by Bednarek. Motion carried.

There were no submitted Veterans Service Commission Fund Applications to review.

Veterans were discharged as far back as 1991 may be owed refunds for overpayments attributable to disability severance payments. Please spread to the word to all veterans who may qualify. They should file an amended tax return for the year in which they were paid.

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 has officially passed and been signed by the President. Agent Orange Presumptives have been extended to all Navy veterans who were on a ship that sailed within 12 miles of Vietnam. At this time, VA is holding off on deciding any disability claims for these veterans until January 2020, however, the effected veterans should contact the CVSO office to submit a claim.

There was no direct impact of the state budget on the veterans in the county. WDVA's VORP program will be permanently funded.

Cary presented the updated version of the Veterans Relief Fund Application for Assistance. A couple minor additional changes were discussed. She will make the changes and email the final copy to the commissioners.

A review of the Charter and Operating Procedures was conducted. Some suggestions were made to update the procedures. Cary will make the adjustments and email the updated document to the commissioners. Approval of the updated Charter and Operating Procedures will take place at the next scheduled meeting.

Miller asked if the CVSO office could assist in adjusting a veteran's record to show proof of combat zone for tax exclusion purposes. Cary advised that adjusting military records is not something the office can do directly, but and certainly assist in completing paperwork and finding necessary supporting documents.

Bednarek inquired as to whether or not there has been any further information about changing the eligibility of joining the American Legion to eliminate delimitating dates of inclusion. Cary has not heard any update on that as of today. At this time the dates of inclusion are controlled by Congress and the change will have to be pass by law. Miller made a motion to write a letter of endorsement of the change on behalf of the commission. Bednarek seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cary will send a letter to the commissioners for their approval and then will submit the letter the Wisconsin Representative and Senators.

The CVSO has a large number of brochures regarding How to Care For and Display the American Flag. These would be good to hand out to the public on Flag Day and during Flag Retirement Ceremonies. Please feel free to pass them out.

Bednarek discuss Badger Boys State noting that it was a great success with a great turnout for Veterans' Night.

An Open House will take place at the new athletic complex at the Fall River school on August 17th. The Honor Guard will be present and all branches of the service will be represented.

A Silent March in honor of POW/MIAs will take place on September 8 as part of the American Legion Centennial Celebration.

A Veteran Resource Fair will take place on November 19 at the Alliant Energy Center.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2019 at 8:30 am.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Van Wie motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 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