

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION**

### **Approved Meeting Minutes of The Regular Meeting of August 12, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

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

It was certified that the agenda was properly posted and the meeting properly noticed. Motion by Miller to approve the agenda. Second by Bednarek. Motion carried.

The minutes from the last regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Bednarek, second by Miller. Motion carried.

There were no expenditures to approve.

There were no Veteran Service Commission Fund applications.

The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which expands VA benefits for veterans exposed to agent orange and burn pits, was signed by President Biden on August 10. Two very important parts of the legislation is the presumptive diseases related to burn pit exposure and the expansion of the locations with known agent orange exposures. Please spread the word on this and advise any veterans or surviving spouses who may be impacted by this law to contact this office.

Cary received a call from Betsy Grant, a member of the Fay-Robinson chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Raffle tickets for a metallic Battle-worn American flag were sold by their chapter and our emergency fund will receive \$1000 from the proceeds after September 10, 2022.

The county will be supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans and lighting the outside of the courthouse with green bulbs during the week of November 7-13. Chairman Polzer would also like to find a way to light the administration building. Spotlighting the flag poles was discussed. Bednarek also suggested placing a kneeling soldier with the soldier's cross monument outside for that same week. He will check with the American Legion to see if they have one we can use.

Miller shared a postcard he received from the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance. They help to pay rent and utilities for people in need. We will add it to our resource binder.

Bednarek would like to look into having the American Legion take over the Flag Program within the county to be able to keep it going. He is going to discuss this with the UW Extension office and local schools.

The National Association of CVSOs conference will be in Madison next June. As the host state, the CVSO Association of Wisconsin is responsible for paying for the president's reception. It will probably cost \$25,000 to \$35,000. The association will be looking for sponsors to help with that cost. If anyone knows of someone who would like to be a sponsor, please let Cary know.

Bednarek made a motion to approve spending \$250.00 for 10 \$25.00 gift cards from Aldi.

The American Legion Annual Conference was July 13-17 in Green Bay. New officers were elected.

The Columbia County Council of the American Legion meeting is August 17 in Columbus.

A brat fry will be held in Fall River September 15.

The American Legion Celebration of Freedom will be held September 9-11 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. A World War II memorial will be on display.

The Retiree Appreciation Day will be held at Ft. McCoy September 9.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2022 at 9:00 am.

With there being no other business to attend to, Bednarek motioned to adjourn, second by Miller. The meeting adjourned at 9:21.

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