

COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes of The Regular Meeting of August 13, 2021

Meeting called to order at 8:33 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. Motion for approval by Bednarek, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

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

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

Three conditions have been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs as presumptively related to burn pit exposure. Veterans who served in certain locations in Southwest Asia and develop Asthma, Rhinitis, or Sinusitis within 10 years of that service may be awarded service-connected disability compensation for those conditions.

The increase in the CVSO grant from the WDVA helped to create a large decrease in the overall budget for the office. The office will also be relinquishing the cell phone since the minimal use does not justify the cost.

The office will be working with the Medical Examiner, Health and Human Services and other agencies to form some type of Suicide Awareness program for Columbia County. Part the statewide initiative for Suicide Awareness is the Governor's Challenge which Cary will hear more about at the CVSO fall conference. Part of that initiative is to find safe places to store weapons for veterans who are in crisis without having to involve authorities. Cary will also learn more about that.

There will be a POW/MIA Silent March as part of the American Legion Celebration of Freedom. It will take place on September 25th at 5:00 pm.

The Columbia County American Legion Council will be meeting Wednesday August 18th.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021 at 8:30 am.

There being no other business before the commission at this time, Bednarek motioned to adjourn. Second by Bauman. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 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