

WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WDVA Briefing of October 14, 2010  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

**Board Members**

Dan Naylor  
Pete Moran  
David Boetcher

**Legislative & Program Review Present**

Dave Boetcher  
Mark Baldwin  
Yvonne Dueterhoeft  
Bruce Markert  
Roger Mathison—Madison teleconference  
Ken Rock  
Rick Scollon  
Victor Vela

**Long Term Care Committee Present**

Scott Berger  
David Green  
Ed Healey—Madison teleconference  
John Hofer  
Joseph Maehl  
Richard Paradowski  
Al Richards  
Vera Roddy  
Clif Sorenson

**Finance Committee Members Present**

Pete Moran  
Mike Gourlie  
Duane Miskulin  
Jerry Polus  
Chuck Roloff  
James Romlein  
William Schalk  
Robert Stone  
Alan Walker—Madison teleconference

**CVSO Advisory Council Present**

Scott Berger, Marathon CVSO  
Yvonne Dueterhoeft, Jefferson CVSO  
Rick Gates, Polk CVSO  
Tony Tyczynski, Sauk CVSO  
Dale Oatman, Langlade CVSO  
Robert Stone, Winnebago CVSO  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO

**Council on Veterans Programs Members Present**

Russ Alsteen, NCUSA  
Scott Berger for Mike Haley, CVSOA  
Ben Berlin, JWV  
Vera Roddy for Linda Dancker, UWV  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Paul Fine, ANU  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mark Grams, MCL  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Michael Jackson, VVA  
Chuck Roloff, Am. Legion  
Walter Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Gary Traynor, BVA  
Ken Wendt, PLAV

**WDVA Staff Members Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
José León, Executive Assistant  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Office Director  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Michael Telzrow, Veterans Museum Director  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant-King  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant-Union Grove  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS-Union Grove  
Steve D'Amanda, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant

**Others Present**

Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
Mrs. Joseph Maehl  
Kevin Moshea, Camp American Legion Director  
Colin Moten, VAF  
Wilbur Petrowski, Veterans Service Commission Chair  
Tammy Walters, Oneida CVSO

The briefing session to Board, Council and Committee members was called to order at 11 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The meetings were being teleconferenced at the King, Union Grove, Madison and DAV Convention sites.

1. **Roll Call and Introductions**

Roll call of Board members: 3 members present: quorum not met.

Roll call of CVSO Advisory Council members: 7 members present for a quorum.

Roll call of Legislative & Program Review Committee members: 8 members present for a quorum.

Roll call of Long Term Care Committee members: 9 members present for a quorum.

Roll call of Finance Committee members: 9 members present for a quorum.

Roll call of Council on Veterans Programs members: 17 members present for a quorum.

Introductions included: Tammy Walters, Oneida County Veterans Service Officer; Kevin Moshea, Camp American Legion Director; Duane Miskulin, Past National Commander for AMVETS; Walter Stenavich, past Board Member, Ken Wendt, past Board Member; and Wilbur Petrowski, Chairman of the Oneida County Veterans Service Commission.

2. Certification of Notice of Meeting

It was certified that the meeting was properly noticed.

3. Approval of Briefing Minutes of August 19, 2010

Board Chair Naylor announced that four Board members are needed for a quorum; therefore, no formal business may be transacted. The meeting is deemed a conference of the Board and deliberations are considered an expression of opinion by individual Board members. Approval of the briefing minutes was carried over to the December meeting.

4. Legislative Report

José León, Executive Assistant, reported on the following:

- Regarding Veterans Courts, the Office of Public Defender has applied for a grant and Secretary Black has written a letter in support of the grant. Dan Naylor said Clif Sorenson attended a week-long workshop in Buffalo, New York on the Veterans Court program there. He noted Milwaukee County is also developing its Veterans Court. Mr. Naylor asked for this to be an agenda item in December, as well as inviting speakers from the Public Defender's Office.
- Monitoring H.R. 3554, the National Guard Education Equity Act, which extends post 9/11 GI benefits to Title 32 service members. It is still working its way through the legislative process.
- There is a new e-benefits outreach program. When service members exit service, they fill out a form on-line and choose from which state they want information. Forms routed to Wisconsin are taken care of by our Outreach workers.
- The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) introduced a resolution to support S. 3583, which is an amendment to Title 38, U.S. Code to increase flexibility in payments for veterans' homes, specifically for the 70% service-connected disabled veteran. Senator Pat Murray of Washington introduced the resolution on behalf of NASDVA.
- NASDVA will also request the federal VA to update Form 10-5588 so it reflects the word cost. The President of the Association will be meeting with the federal VA.
- All residents at Wisconsin's Veterans Homes are receiving the correct pension payments. Any back pay due was paid the first of October. Anyone who might have been overpaid will not have to repay that money.

Pete Moran said Douglas County will move forward with a Veterans Court initiative. There is an active initiative going on in Duluth.

5. Division of Veterans Benefits Report

Chris Schuldes, Director of the Bureau of Veterans Benefits, reported the following:

- Three CVSO Bulletins were issued between September 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The delinquency rate for the Primary Mortgage Loan Program was 1.89%.

- As of September 30<sup>th</sup> the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant Program had spent \$105,624 with outstanding commitments of \$680,349.
- Strong demand for the Retraining Grant Program continues in similar fashion from last year. It is projected the program has spent or committed 25% of its Fiscal Year 2011 budget in the first quarter.
- During the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 (July, August, September), 187 VetEd applications were received and of those 103 were approved, 20 denied and 64 are pending. The Department has dispensed \$240,000 or 17% of the total budget of \$1.4 million. Michael Jackson asked how many of the 20 denials were due to applying after the 60-day time limit. Chris Schuldes will have to check on that number.
- The Retraining Grant Program is on track to expend its full budget.
- Through the end of September 15 Campus Open Houses have been completed. Typically 30-50 veterans and dependents are served at each of these events.
- The Division augmented the Outreach unit with the addition of two employees transferred from within the agency: Joe Bertalan and John Adams. Secretary Black said the overall plan that addresses the reorganization of the Department will be briefed to the Board in December.
- The annual WDVA Women Veterans Conference will be held October 22-24 at Ft. McCoy.
- A total of 203 military funeral honors were provided at Union Grove, Spooner and King during the period of August-September 2010.
- All of the VAP sites are at full capacity except for Ft. McCoy, which should be full by the end of October.
- Mr. Schuldes provided a news release from the Federal VA regarding paperless claims. This is only a test phase not slated to begin until November 2010 and last through May 2011 at the Rhode Island Regional Office. Future updates will be provided as we become aware of them.
- The WDVA Claims Office is looking for a replacement for Veterans Information Management System (VIMS) which is the software used to help manage claims. Vetra Spec is new software offering many advantages to include the ability to scan documents directly into the veteran's file. Vetra Spec can also be purchased in a state version allowing CVSOs and WDVA to share the same electronic file on represented veterans.
- On July 21<sup>st</sup> the Bureau of Claims began manually tracking new and reopened PTSD claims.

Chair Naylor shared with the Secretary the notice of federal VA grant money that came to Wisconsin for homeless veterans. A program in Rock County received funding and CVI also received some grant funds for homeless vets. Mr. Naylor asked if the Department had any more information on the grant and if the Department supporting and looking at getting some of this grant money? Secretary Black will get the information to the Board prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Naylor said nationally, we are at a point where we are surpassing last year's suicide total. The Department had a member assigned to the statewide suicide study committee. Secretary Black said the suicide issue is one of many different programs the Department is standing up which will tie into our outreach program. The Department is in the process of looking at the number of outreach personnel we need to assist us in handling some of these challenges. Chair Naylor asked that this outreach issue be placed on the December meeting agenda.

#### 6. Division of Veterans Homes Report

Brian Marshall, Division of Veterans Home Administrator gave the following updates:

- Applicants for the Commandant positions at King and Union Grove were screened for candidacy. Six candidates were formally interviewed by a three-person interview panel. A formal offer of hire was provided to one individual for the Union Grove Commandant position, however, the Department will be re-advertising for the King Commandant position.

- The completion date for the sitting shelters for the Veterans Home at King (Stordock and Olson Halls) is estimated to be November 11, 2010.
- The Revenue Cycle Management Process Action Team (PAT) will have its first formal meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The PAT includes staff from Central Office as well as staff from King and Union Grove.
- There are many initial assumptions in evaluating whether it would be operationally feasible to certify the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King for Medicare Part A billing. In December 2010, the Veterans Home at King will provide an updated analysis with a most-likely case scenario for determining if moving forward in becoming Medicare Part A certified is feasible.
- Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>, formal weekly Marketing Committee meetings have taken place at the Veterans Home at Union Grove. The expectation of the Marketing Committee is for a continuous review and feedback process for increased outreach to veterans' service organizations and health care facilities in the service area. Additional outreach efforts are now encompassing a secondary service area to include Dane, Waukesha and Walworth Counties.
- In November, the Veterans Home at Union Grove will be forming an Assisted Living Process Action Team to study assisted living operations. A formal, written marketing plan is essential in that it provides an unambiguous reference point for activities through the planning period.

Mr. Marshall presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, WDVA received State Building Commission approval of the 35% design report and authority to construct a 72-bed skilled nursing facility at Chippewa Falls. The Building Commission approved the site/property transfer and design report. The Board of Veterans Affairs approved staffing in the operating budget on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. WDVA received the USDVA Conditional Approval Letter dated September 24<sup>th</sup>, which expires on March 22, 2011. The 72-bed skilled nursing facility will have a neighborhood concept with amenities to include single rooms with private bathrooms and showers, a home-like dining room with made-to-order breakfasts and family-style dinner meals, and a centralized member center featuring an interior park, beauty/barber shop, café, recreation room, therapy area and on-site medical exam room.

Pete Moran reiterated whether it is practical and the best use of resources to have a Commandant at each Home as well as a Division Administrator of Homes at the Central Office. Although the Statutes require Commandants at each Home, Mr. Moran does not think this is a dead issue. Secretary Black said he will move forward and look at the overall requirements for running the Homes as the Department goes through its reorganization process.

Dan Naylor addressed the PAT for Assisted Living and asked the PAT to revisit alternative uses as well as family care as an option. He felt the PAT should be as broad-based as can be and encompass all options, either for funding, alternative uses, expansion, or reduction.

Mr. Naylor saw an article in the Washington Post about the VA unveiling a multi-million dollar advertising campaign to encourage more military veterans to enroll for government benefits and services. If at all possible, Mr. Naylor would like to see Wisconsin on board as a partner with the VA in their public relations campaign.

- a. Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant, gave the King Home report.
  - Census at the end of September 2010 was 669—93% average occupancy.
  - Of the 157 female members, 26 are veterans.
  - Received 21 new applications and admitted 29 new members, but also experienced 30 deaths and 4 discharges. Currently, 105 applications are pending.

- As of the end of August 91% of King's account's receivable balance is less than 90 days outstanding, with the average being 39 days. \$5.3 million was collected in the month of August, and \$4.0 million in the month of September.
- Of the 494 direct care permanent positions, 467 were filled (95%) at the end of September.
- Four LPN and 23 CNA vacancies remain to be filled.
- Supplementing direct care staff are 2 RN and 9 CNA LTEs, which maintains the staffing level at 97%.
- Sally Herek, Ainsworth Hall Director of Nursing and a 35 year employee, retired on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Josh Loescher, Air Force and Iraq war veteran, transferred to King from the Department of Military Affairs. He is the new security and fire chief. Ken Barrows is the new senior accountant in the Finance Department. Dr. Allen Strobusch, a veteran, started as Medical Director in September.
- Donations received in August--\$11,377 and in September \$20,944 for a total of \$32, 321 for the two-month period.
- Gifts and Bequests expenditures during this period totaled \$43,295. Approximately \$15,000 was spent on a new sound system for the Olson Hall dining room.
- On August 27<sup>th</sup> 18 women veterans were treated to lunch by the United Women Veterans organization.
- On September 2<sup>nd</sup> the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits was held with a large turnout.
- AMVETS and Auxiliary King Day Weekend was held September 11-12.
- On September 19<sup>th</sup> the MOPH and Auxiliary sponsored a picnic lunch and bingo for members.
- Upcoming events: Veterans Day Program on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and the Pearl Harbor Day Program on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.
- Projects: The Olson Hall window replacement project is ongoing and the new windows are looking great. The sitting shelters bid opening was held at the end of August; notice to proceed was issued and the project has begun. The wandering resident monitoring system construction has begun. The MacArthur Hall roof project contract has been awarded. The power plant chiller was installed and is currently being used in conjunction with the old cooling tower. The new cooling tower will be installed in November.
- Jackie Moore provided a technical explanation of how the chiller system works.
- Nursing Administrator Donna Warzynski is being acknowledged for accomplishments and contributions to the nursing profession by the Wisconsin Nursing Association.
- MDS 3.0 is a new tool for implementing standardized assessments and for facilitating care in nursing homes.
- Ainsworth Hall annual survey was completed and the plan of correction has been accepted.

b. Acting Commandant Shaughnessy gave the Union Grove Home report.

- As of September 30, the campus-wide census was 200. Skilled nursing census was 119 members or 99% occupancy. The assisted living has 81 members—65% occupancy.
- Since the last Board meeting, Boland Hall admitted 7 and discharged 8 members. Assisted living admitted 7 and discharged 4 (3 moved to Boland Hall and 1 was discharged to a hospital).
- Campus-wide—12 applications received, 7 of which were approved and 5 needed additional documentation. Of the 12 applications, 4 were for assisted living and 8 for skilled nursing. Average processing time was 25 days.
- Of the total 155 campus-wide direct-care permanent positions, 144 are filled (93%). As of September 30<sup>th</sup> vacancies include 2 1/2 LPNs, 6 Nursing Assistants, and 1/2 Registered Nurse position. Augmenting direct care staff are 3 RNs, 1 LPN and 5 Nursing Assistant LTEs.

- No significant changes in projects since the last Board meeting. Multiple projects are in process which will improve the quality of life for members.
- Since the last report, received approximately \$1,700 in donations and spent approximately \$1,625. Balance in gifts and bequests as of September 30: \$32,971.
- As of September 30<sup>th</sup> the female census was 13% or 27 members. Boland Hall had 20 females, 6 of whom are veterans. Assisted living buildings had 7 females, 3 of whom are veterans.
- On September 25<sup>th</sup> Union Grove had its annual family picnic. With the support of the Union Grove Recreation Committee and its many organizations, approximately \$7,000 was donated to make this day special for veterans and their families.
- Board Chair Dan Naylor will visit Union Grove on November 30<sup>th</sup> to tour the campus and visit with members and staff.
- The Admission Process Action Team was formed on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Its charter is to standardize application documents, standardize a unified admission agreement and create other admission documents. The PAT is comprised of individuals from both Homes and Brian Marshall.
- During the December Board meetings in Union Grove, tours will be available for visitors to see Boland Hall, Maurer Hall and the Assisted Living buildings. Tours will be offered on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tours will begin in the lobby of Boland Hall. Tours will also be available on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of the Board meeting.

#### 7. Division of Administration Report

Tony Cappozzo provided a report focused on personnel actions, specifically a hiring report for calendar year January 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> as well as usage of the special hiring authority for the non-competitive appointment for disabled veterans.

Wisconsin Statutes, Section 230.275 authorizes state agencies the ability to appoint, without competition, an eligible, disabled veteran, with a service-connected disability of at least 30%, to a non-professional or certain entry level professional position for which they are qualified. The process is permissive, not mandatory. Individuals who qualify will need to apply for each job opportunity and the individual must be qualified to perform the duties and responsibilities of that position. In the time period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, at all three WDVA locations, 109 new, original hires were made. Of these hires, 19 (approximately 18%) are veterans. During this time period WDVA has either utilized or is in the process of utilizing the special hiring authority ten times. Seven of these staffing activities are currently in process and the remaining three hires have been made. For the three hires made, eight disabled veterans applied, all eight were interviewed and three disabled veterans were hired. The seven remaining recruitments, using the special hiring authority are still active and in various stages of recruitment. So far there are 14 applicants for the seven vacancies. Of the 109 hires made in this calendar year, 61 (56%) were nursing positions that require special training or licenses and this may impact the number of applicants qualified to apply under the special hiring authority.

Dan Naylor asked how we get the word out regarding disabled veteran hiring beyond the normal state job postings. Mr. Cappozzo said notices for all vacancies go to DWD, to all the CVSOs, to the DAV and other federal hiring authorities. Notice for positions at King goes to Fox Valley nursing program as well.

#### 8. Finance Report

Ms. Holtan summarized financial statements as of the month ended September 30, 2010.

### Wisconsin Veterans Home-King

Through the end of September, King's operating revenues were \$13.1 million contrasted with \$17.3 million as of the same period last fiscal year. Operating expenses were \$17.7 million, which is \$225,000 less than the same period in fiscal year 2010. The year-to-date net operating loss was \$4,560,000. The balance of accounts receivable as of September 30, 2010 was \$4,271,460. September cash and cash equivalents balance was \$8,429,000.

### Wisconsin Veterans Home-Union Grove

Operating revenues were \$4.5 million through September 30<sup>th</sup>, a decrease of \$211,000 over the same time period in fiscal year 2010. Year-to-date operating expenses were \$5.4 million, an increase of \$141,250 over fiscal year 2010. Personal services expenditures increased \$134,000 while supplies and services expenditures decreased \$40,000. The \$909,000 net operating loss through September 30, 2010 is \$352,000 greater than fiscal year 2010 results as of the same date. The balance of accounts receivable as of September 30, 2010 was \$5,227,489 and the September 30<sup>th</sup> cash balance was a negative \$5,414,920.

### Veterans Trust Fund

Assets in the Veterans Trust Fund on September 30, 2010 were \$7.3 million less than the same date in fiscal year 2010. Year-to-date operating revenues were \$319,000 which includes \$272,000 of interest on loans and \$47,000 of charges for goods and services. Operating expenses through the first three months of fiscal year 2011 were \$2.3 million, a 3% decrease over fiscal year 2010 expenditures during the same period. The year-to-date change in fund equity through September 30<sup>th</sup> was a decrease of \$2,066,000. The September 30<sup>th</sup> cash balance was \$22,962,000, which is \$4.1 million less than the fiscal year beginning balance.

### Mortgage Loan Repayment Fund

Total assets in the Mortgage Loan Repayment Fund decreased \$39.2 million since September 2009. Mortgage loans have decreased \$40.9 million, real estate owned has increased \$385,000 and advances to other funds increased \$454,000. Bonds payable have decreased \$37.1 million since September 2009 to \$250,110,000. Fiscal year 2011 operating revenues and expenses were \$2.1 million and \$7.5 million respectively, resulting in an operating loss of \$5.4 million. The September 30<sup>th</sup> cash balance was \$56.4 million and the insurance reserve requirement of 4% of the outstanding primary mortgage loan principal balance has been met.

The Department is working with Capital Finance, CFX and bond counsel to optimize the use of optional calls and to undertake a fixed rate refunding of outstanding bonds subject to optional redemption. The sizing of the refunding is currently being determined but we would expect the call and the refunding to be completed no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Statistical Reports

The delinquency rate for the Personal Loan Program for September 2010 was 2.87%. The delinquency rate in the Primary Mortgage Loan portfolio for the month of August was 1.89%. No Primary Mortgage Loan applications were received in September due to the continued fund outage.

Ms. Holtan spoke briefly on the issuance of bonds and rate setting. The State of Wisconsin Building Commission supervises all matters relating to the issuance of debt. The Department of Administration assists the Building Commission and the DOA Capital Finance Director and staff manages the state's borrowing programs. The Secretary of WDVA initiates request for Commission adoption of authorizing resolution for issuance of debt and certifies continued validity of program and accounting resolutions. The Finance and Bond Officer is responsible for collaborating with

DOA Capital Finance to establish a timeline for issuance and recommends rates based on arbitrage yield limits. The WDVA Board Chair certifies that the Board will establish rates which comply with tax certificate or that bonds are not tax-exempt.

The Primary Mortgage Loan Rates are set by the Board based on recommendation from staff in the form of a resolution. Home Improvement Loan rates are set by the Board in accordance with the "HILP Rate Policy." The rates are reviewed at least quarterly; they must be at least 25 basis points below the average conventional rate and at least 87.5 basis points above State Investment Fund or bond coupon rate, and 90% loan-to-value rate not to exceed more than 100 basis points, the rate set for 80% loan-to-value rate. Personal Loan Rates are set by the Secretary in accordance with the "PLP Rate Policy." The limitations were established to be consistent with the HILP rate policy approved by the Board.

Ms. Holtan reported on her work with the Capital Finance Office and the state's quantitative analysis firm CFX, and bond counsel on a November 1<sup>st</sup> call and refunding. On November 1<sup>st</sup> \$27,365,000 of bonds will be retired as a result of a special redemption using taxable and tax exempt and equity prepayments, as well as \$17 million of the \$18 million excess insurance reserves. Following this call, the amount of outstanding bonds payable will be more closely aligned with the revenue producing mortgage loan portfolio and the cash balance on which investment earnings are accruing at a rate of 24 basis points will be reduced by approximately one half. The weighted average coupon on the \$6,920,000 in taxable bonds being retired, as a result of this call, is 7.65% and the weighted average coupon on the \$20,445,000 of tax exempt bonds is 4.76%. Consequently, the call will avert continued negative arbitrage losses on those bonds being called. The other portfolio management strategy was the use of optional calls to undertake a fixed rate economic refunding of outstanding bonds subject to optional redemption. Our bonds are structured in a manner that we are not able to optionally redeem prior to ten years after their issuance; therefore, as of November 1<sup>st</sup> we have a number of bonds eligible for optional redemption. We are continuing to work with CFX on alternative strategies that may make the refunding bonds more attractive to investors. It is likely the refunding bonds will be placed through non-competitive sale permitting the transaction to be completed more quickly. The sizing of the refunding has not been finalized at this time since bonds will only be refunded if they meet specified present value savings percentages set by Capital Finance in consultation with the Department. This will be an economic refunding and no new lendable proceeds will be generated.

#### 9. Wisconsin Veterans Museum Report

Museum Director Michael Telzrow highlighted the following:

- The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation has nominated and received the Secretary's approval for the following membership to the Board of Directors. William Schrum, Vietnam Veteran, member of the American Legion and Vice President of Human Resources at the UW Medical Foundation; Scott Campbell, Dean, School of Graduate Professional Studies, Edgewood College; Carl Hanson, Veteran Army Officer, Veteran of Iraq and practicing attorney in Janesville.
- The Foundation is moving forward with the establishment of a Friends Group. This program will offer Museum supporters throughout the state and nationally the opportunity to strengthen the Museum through a traditional Museum membership program.
- The Foundation is in the process of developing an agreement with the world's largest manufacturer of collectible miniature soldiers. A number of figures will be produced based upon our flag collection. In exchange for access to our collection the firm will provide the WVM with membership and flag conservation solicitation materials to be inserted with each figure set, on average 50,000 sets per figure. They will also develop a flag set to coincide with each year of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. This program will have the potential to

expand the Museum's base and funding by putting membership and fundraising materials in the hands of tens of thousands of military history enthusiasts.

- The Museum is in the process of filling two vacant positions, Processing Archivist and Collections Manager.
- The development of the joint preservation storage facility continues; architects have recently submitted the 35% design set of documents to DOA, and the shelving consultant has submitted his preliminaries as well. The anticipated construction start-up is September 2011 with the completion in September 2014.
- Museum Store sales continue to improve due to a major shift in product offering, better merchandising strategies and better accounting mechanisms. The first three months of this fiscal year have witnessed a 35% increase in net profit over FY 2010.
- At the last Board meeting, Mr. Daniel Einstein requested assistance in finding a home for the Spanish Cannon currently at Camp Randall. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum will take possession and ownership of the cannon.
- Sesquicentennial Commission has been formed and is beginning to assemble a team to help implement a four-year observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War.
- The Museum acquired a Confederate bell plate which was excavated at the site where Confederate prisoners were captured on Island No.10, 1862 and off-loaded on their way to Camp Randall. It is the only artifact associated with those prisoners at Island No. 10.
- The "Rise of the Fall" exhibit will come down the end of this month and the Afghanistan exhibit will be disassembled and incorporated into a permanent exhibit.

#### 10. Kevin Moshea, Director, Camp American Legion

Mr. Moshea talked about Camp American Legion, maintained and operated by the American Legion, State of Wisconsin since 1925. The camp is governed by a Board of Trustees. In addition, many American Legion Posts and County Councils assist by sending work parties and maintaining individual cabins. Camp American Legion is a haven for the Wisconsin veteran who has helped his country and who could now use a little help on the road back to health. A veteran fills out an application and their physical provider fills out a form for admission to the Camp. The aim and purpose of the Camp is to fill the gap in a disabled veteran's circle of life between their home, their job, society and their hospital. It brings them to a special place for seven days, free of charge.

This year, over 400 disabled veterans came through the Camp. Over 40% of the veterans come from 12 VA facilities/veterans homes. Women veterans comprised 10% of the population. Thirteen percent of the Camp participants are in the 40 or younger age bracket. Eight percent of the veterans who came to Camp are African-American. Disability type: 62% suffer from some type of psychological disability and 88% suffer from some type of physical disability.

The web site is: [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) and the Camp's phone number is (715) 277-2510.

#### 11. Secretary's Matters

##### a. Briefing and status update on all current WDVA Process Action Teams (PAT)

Before reporting on the PATs, Secretary Black said when he visited Camp American Legion he found it difficult to leave; it is truly a great place to go for peace and serenity. The Secretary gave an update on the following:

- The Admissions PAT, Revenue Cycle PAT and the Assisted Living PAT were addressed earlier in the briefing meeting.
- James Bond and Rick Gates are looking at how the CVSO grant forms can be altered.

- The Department is in the process of looking at reorganization to best support veterans. The plan will have short-term, intermediate and long-term implementation goals.
- The budget went before the Board on September 17<sup>th</sup> and was approved. The budget is currently at the Department of Administration.
- The Secretary has set up a quarterly budget review to make sure we are staying within our budget
- It was previously reported that the Milwaukee Service Center was closed out at a cost savings of about \$18,000.
- An offer was made to the Commandant candidate for Union Grove. The King Commandant position will be re-posted.
- Completed a pilot survey within the organization to get ideas of what we can do better. The data is currently being compiled and from that we will figure out how to get better at Central Office and then we'll survey the rest of the organization and the community.
- In the process of completing our new web page and we have face-book to increase our social network ability to tap into the younger veteran.
- Working closely with the Department of Revenue to simplify the application requirements pertaining to residency. Veterans may file a simple affidavit of residence.
- There was some digging of holes and dumping of trash at the Union Grove Cemetery. All of the dumping occurred outside of the burial plot area. Mr. Bond and the DNR are conducting an investigation to find out the specifics of the dumping.
- Women Veterans Conference is October 22-24 at Ft. McCoy. The National Women Veterans Conference will be May 16, 2011 in Madison.
- Veterans Day events will be held at the three state veterans' cemeteries. The theme this year is "Honoring all who Served—Traditions of Service."
- Pearl Harbor Day event on December 7<sup>th</sup> at King and Union Grove Veterans Homes.
- The Secretary made a trip around the northwestern portion of Wisconsin to attend town hall meetings. Between now and January the Secretary will hold more town hall meetings around the state.
- President Obama signed the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010 which includes an increase in the burial plot allowance from \$300 to \$700.
- The Vet Center mobile outreach van is in Rhinelander today.

## 12. Public Input

Scott Berger, President of the CVSO Association of Wisconsin presented a recognition award to Julie Van Metre. The Association celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Convention in Port Washington where several recognition awards were presented, to include Jim Engel of the Milwaukee Claims Office.

Duane Miskulin spoke on PTSD/suicide/TBI. Suicide is on a rapid increase, since Operation Freedom there have been more veteran suicides than deaths in Iraq. The biggest percentage of recorded suicides at the hospitals is relationships—80%. Mr. Miskulin and Secretary Shinseki spoke about the problem and agreed that it is due to redeployment.

Dr. Hofer recommended Camp American Legion contact VISN 12 and 23 leadership for help in bringing the program to another level. Health care providers could go there and do health care screenings.

## 13. Recess/Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Tyczynski, and carried on a voice vote that the CVSO Advisory Council stand in recess until 1:25 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Roloff, seconded and carried on a voice vote that the Finance Committee stand in recess.

It was moved by Mr. Rock, seconded and carried on a voice vote that the Legislative & Program Review Committee stand in recess.

It was moved by Ms. Roddy, seconded by Mr. Sorenson, and carried on a voice vote that the Long Term Care Committee stand in recess.

It was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote that the Council on Veterans Programs stands in recess.

The time was 1:20 p.m.

**MINUTES**  
**CVSO ADVISORY COUNCIL**

October 14, 2010  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

**Members Present**

Scott Berger, Marathon  
Yvonne Dueterhoeft, Jefferson  
Rick Gates, Polk  
Kathy Gausmann, Monroe  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha  
Dale Oatman, Langlade  
Robert Stone, Winnebago  
Tony Tyczynski, Sauk

**Members Excused**

Andrew Clark, Outagamie

**WDVA Staff**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
José León, Executive Assistant  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Director  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant—UG  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant—King  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Mark Mathwig, Bureau of Veterans  
Cemeteries  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS Union Grove  
Steve D’Amanda, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Russ Alsteen, Navy Club  
Mark Baldwin, Washington CVSO  
George Banda, AGIF  
Dave Boetcher, Board Member  
Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mark Grams, Dodge CVSO  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
John Hofer  
Michael Jackson, Dane CVSO  
Joseph & Peggy Maehl  
Bruce Markert  
Dan Naylor, Board Member  
Jerry Polus, Brown CVSO  
Al Richards  
Ken Rock  
Chuck Roloff, AL  
Bill Schalk  
Rick Scollon  
Clif Sorenson, Eau Claire CVSO  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Victor Vela  
Tammy Walters, Oneida CVSO  
Charles Young

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting of the CVSO Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Gates at 1:25 p.m. Roll was called, a quorum was present.

2. **Certification of Notice of Meeting**

The meeting was properly noticed.

3. **Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2010 Meeting**

It was moved by Mr. Oatman, seconded by Ms. Dueterhoeft and carried on a voice vote (one abstention) to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2010 meeting.

4. Announcements and Introductions

Introductions included: Scott Berger, CVSO Association President.

5. Council Discussion and Action on WI CVSO Association Resolution/Position on Standardized Statewide Definition of “Veteran” for Eligibility to Wisconsin Veterans Benefits

The resolution/position paper was brought up at the CVSO Conference last week and the Association’s Resolutions Committee voted not to forward it up for a vote. Because of that, the Council will not take action on it today.

6. Council Discussion and Action on the VA’s Paperless Initiative and How it will Affect WDVA Claims Office and CVSOs

Rick Gates pointed out that the CVSOs are concerned about the upcoming initiative through the VA and how it will affect the WDVA Claims Office as well as CVSOs individually. Last year, the VA had over a million new claims. The federal government has seen an increase of 75% in claims from 2000 to 2009 and they are looking at better ways to do business. The VA hired 3,500 new people and began accepting on-line applications for initial disability benefits, which is new. They’ve launched over 30 pilot programs and initiatives to identify best practices and they’ve invested over \$138 million in a paperless veterans benefit information management system that will be deployed in fiscal year 2012.

CVSOs want to express their concern about collectively getting on board with this paperless initiative. Secretary Shinseki is extremely pro-technology and he will make a good attempt to get this underway. The most likely software system is called Vetra Spec for veterans information processing and claims processing. Vetra Spec can be purchased in a state version which would allow CVSOs and WDVA to share the same electronic file on represented veterans.

Kathy Gausmann is excited about the paperless system; however, it would be easier if the system could be built together among CVSOs and WDVA. Robert Stone is concerned with their role as case manager/veterans advocates and Scott Berger cautioned that Vetra Spec would have to show the ability to import information from the VIMS files which is currently used. Derrell Green noted that the younger veteran is using technology in greater numbers and expect this faster form of communication.

Ms. Duesterhoeft thought there were three counties already using Vetra Spec. For those using VIMS there is a problem with transferring data. Secretary Black said change is coming and he recommended assembling individuals from the CVSO community and WDVA to get input early on in the paperless process to mold that system so it best supports the veterans of Wisconsin.

7. Secretary’s Matters

The Secretary had nothing further to add.

8. Council Members’ Matters Not Subject to Adoption

Scott Berger said that Ken Rock will be filling in as Door County Veterans Service Officer beginning November 8<sup>th</sup>; Scott McFarlane is being redeployed.

9. Public Input

Dave Boetcher talked about lobbying training. He wanted to know what format (where, when and how long) would reach a majority of the CVSOs. The training could be anywhere from four to eight hours long and involve exactly how the legislative process works. It was thought having the training at the four regional association meeting locations would be most effective.

Mark Grams asked if the plot allowance benefit increase from \$300 to \$700 was just for state cemeteries and what about the burial allowance, is that still \$300. Secretary Black will get back to the CVSOs with the most current information about the bill that was signed recently. Mr. Grams suggested that the proposed lobbying training be scheduled one time at a central location, like King.

10. Next Meeting Schedule

December 9, 2010 in Union Grove

11. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Greene, seconded by Ms. Dueterhoeft, and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the CVSO Advisory Council meeting, the time was 1:57 p.m.

Rick Gates  
Chair

MINUTES  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of October 14, 2010

**Committee Present**

Pete Moran  
Mike Gourlie  
Steve Lawrence—Madison teleconference  
Duane Miskulin  
Todd Nehls  
Jerry Polus  
Charles Roloff  
James Romlein  
William Schalk  
Robert Stone  
Alan Walker—Madison teleconference

**Committee Excused**

Marv Freedman

**WDVA Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
José León, Executive Assistant  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Office  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant-UG  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant--King  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS Union Grove  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Steve D'Amanda, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Russ Alsteen, Navy Clubs  
Mark Baldwin, Washington CVSO  
George Banda, AGIF  
David Benson  
Scott Berger, Marathon CVSO  
David Boetcher, Board Member  
Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Kathy Gausmann, Monroe CVSO  
Mark Grams, Dodge CVSO  
David Green  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
John Hofer  
Michael Jackson, Dane CVSO  
Joseph & Peggy Maehl  
Bruce Markert  
Colin Moten, VAF  
Dan Naylor, Board Member  
Dale Oatman, Langlade CVSO  
Richard Paradowski  
Wilbur Petrowski  
Al Richards  
Ken Rock  
Vera Roddy, UWV  
Jim Romlein  
Rick Scollon  
Clif Sorenson, Eau Claire CVSO  
Walter & Ann Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Victor Vela  
Ken Wendt, PLAV  
Charles Young

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 2:10 p.m.; a quorum was present.

2. Certification of Notice of Meeting

It was certified that proper notice of the meeting occurred.

3. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2010 Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 19<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting.

4. Status Report and Committee Discussion of Veterans Homes Accounts Receivables as an Output of the Revenue Cycle PAT

Brian Marshall said the PAT will meet on October 19<sup>th</sup> and he will report out more information in December after the team meets and discusses issues.

Colleen Holtan reported that the total amount in accounts receivable by payor source at King as of September 30<sup>th</sup> is \$7,238,702. The largest component, 58% is in Medicaid accounts receivable and the next largest is 33% in USDVA per diem accounts receivable. The total amount in Assisted Living accounts receivable by payor source at Union Grove as of September 30<sup>th</sup> is \$356,000. Thirty-three percent of that amount is private pay, 46% is USDVA per diem. The total amount in Skilled Nursing accounts receivable by payor source at Union Grove as of September 30<sup>th</sup> is \$4.8 million. Fifty-four percent is private pay, Medicaid accounts is 13.5%, the USDVA per diem is 9.2% and service-connected is 3.5%.

Mr. Moran asked if there is a collection issue with private pay and skilled nursing—how does that compare to private pay for the assisted living—where is the bigger challenge in terms of collection? Ms. Holtan said there is more of a challenge in the skilled nursing with respect to collection. This also reflects back to the May and June timeframe when Union Grove reclassified receivables from Medicaid to self-pay for a number of members. Mr. Moran asked if reclassifications can be expected every month. Ms. Holtan understands that Union Grove is currently on top of the reclassifications because of the new LTE. The Revenue Cycle PAT will assure we have in place timely recertification for Medicaid.

In answer to Mr. Miskulin's question, Ms. Holtan said there is an opportunity to come up with standard procedures between King and Union Grove to determine what is uncollectible. Factored in will be whether a discharge was due to death, is the estate now closed, and is there an opportunity for collection. Whatever policy is ultimately developed for the write-off of accounts receivables will need to go to the State Comptroller's Office for approval. They will have to be assured we can prevent reoccurrences and they will want to make sure that we've done everything we can to exhaust all opportunities to collect those funds.

Ms. Holtan explained the financial impact of reclassification from Medicaid to private-pay. The private pay rate is based on the cost of care with the per diem received being an offset to what the member pays out-of-pocket. Medicaid is billed at the rate reimbursed to us and then we collect the per diem. Depending upon the member's level of care and the rate they pay for that level of care, we could end up collecting less under private pay than if we were collecting the Medicaid reimbursement plus the per diem.

Mr. Schalk asked if the Medicaid payments pay the cost of the service provided and if not, how much of a loss are we sustaining. Ms. Holtan said typically the Medicaid rate plus the per diem is a better payor model for the Home. Our Wisconsin Veterans Homes, along

with a tribal facility, are paid under a different model for Medicaid than all other nursing homes. The Veterans Homes receive the Medicare upper limit based on our acuity; therefore we have a higher reimbursement rate for a member at the same level of care than would a private facility.

Mr. Roloff asked if we have an idea of how much we might have to write off. Ms. Holtan said an estimate was put together by Union Grove Finance staff for the consolidated annual financial report. It is an amount they conservatively believed would likely be uncollectible and that information can be brought to the Committee in December.

Robert Stone asked how many members under the 70% service-connected provision are residing at the Homes. Pat Shaughnessy said Union Grove has seen a slight increase in the number of 70% service-connected members—in the past six months it has increased from about 11 members to 13 or 14 members. Jackie Moore said King currently has about 25 members in this category.

5. Status Report and Committee Discussion on a Demand Analysis, Right-Sizing Plan, and a Business Plan for the King and Union Grove Veterans Homes

Ms. Holtan said a demand analysis was prepared. We are working to provide a briefing to staff internally and then we would be prepared to brief the Board. Materials would be mailed well in advance of the December meeting. Ms. Holtan has spoken with the state's accounting and consulting contract under which any business plan would fall and we are waiting to get information back on what they thought it might cost. We would anticipate doing this work internally; however, it is something the DVA Finance and Bond Officer would have the lead in working together with the Homes to preparing a business plan. It is hoped the Finance and Bond Officer position will be filled soon.

6. Status Report, Committee Discussion and Action on a Cost-Benefit Analysis Regarding the King Medicare Title 18 Issue

It was noted that Brian Marshall delivered an update at the Briefing meeting.

7. Status Report and Committee Discussion on Partnering with Wisconsin Public Television and the Green Bay Packers on PSAs to Promote the Veterans Trust Fund Tax Check-Off

Sara Stinski consulted with Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) and learned their policy is not to air public service announcements. Concerns about public service announcements utilizing the Green Bay Packers team members are the timeline and the available resources in this year's budget. We would want to be on the air well in advance of April. Ms. Stinski would like to come up with a plan to increase participation in the veteran's tax check off that doesn't use resource constraints associated with public television service announcements using the Green Bay Packers. We are looking at different and creative ways to get the word out more effectively than has been done in the past. A public relations campaign would be a good starting point. We can reach out and find practical partners—it has been suggested that we work with tax preparation firms. Ms. Stinski will put together a summary of ideas in advance of the December Board meeting.

Ken Wendt thought every County Veterans Service Officer could do a public announcement in his or her own county. Duane Miskulin said Stevens Point has a communications director who will interview the public for airing on television and radio.

8. Discussion on the Recently Approved WDVA 2011-2013 Biennial Budget and the Way Forward

Mr. Moran provided a summary of the 2011-2013 biennial budget as approved by the Board of Veterans Affairs.

- A request for an additional \$9.45 million in general purpose revenue biennially.
- GPR increase components: an increase of \$4.252 million for the Veterans Museum, including a shift of \$3,713,800 from the VTF to GPR and \$537,900 of new GPR for the Museum; a shift of \$2.237 million for the Veterans Cemeteries from VTF to GPR; \$2.9 million in supplemental relief for the VTF from GPR; and \$15,000 for tele-mental health equipment service contract.
- The budget includes sufficient monies to fund all existing veterans programs without experiencing fund outages.
- The Board approved moving ahead with the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home project.

Mr. Moran noted that agencies are required to prepare a plan to absorb a 10% permanent base cut of all non-federal appropriations by November 8<sup>th</sup>, pursuant to the major budget policies issued by the Governor. Ms. Holtan said specific instructions for the budget reduction plan have been received by DOA. WDVA has a two-year target of \$3,230,040 which translates to \$1,615,020 annually. The target excludes the operation of the Veterans Homes and the Veterans Memorial Cemeteries which is also afforded DHS institutions. It also excludes program revenue, federal dollars, gifts and bequests appropriations and DOA has indicated they would exclude any appropriations used to make loans; however, the Department may choose to suggest a reduction in any appropriation that is not sum sufficient or federal.

Mr. Moran asked what our total budget is and what does it represent in terms of a rate increase. Ms. Holtan said the total revised biennial request from the time we sent the budget request to the Board for its consideration and approval to the time we submitted the final budget to DOA was \$307,558,700 for an increase of \$22,107,500 representing a 7.7% increase.

Mr. Polus asked when DOA needed to respond to our budget. Ms. Holtan provided a biennial budget flowchart showing that the budget was submitted September 30<sup>th</sup> to DOA and the Legislature. WDVA is currently working with the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and the State Budget Office to address their questions and provide them with additional information. It is not until the January timeframe that the Governor is required to introduce the biennial budget. Typically the Governor gets the permission of the Legislature to delay that until February when the Executive Budget will be introduced. During this period of time we won't know what will ultimately be included in our budget.

The Department is working on getting a 2011-13 biennial budget page up on our web site. By October 22<sup>nd</sup>, all of our budget documents, including the budget that was presented to the Board and the budget that was submitted to DOA, will be available on the web site as well as a link to any fiscal bureau papers that are released. Materials already on the web site are linked with the Board's home page.

William Schalk asked if there is a “Plan B” if the money does not come from GPR—are we thinking ahead of what the options would be in that case. Secretary Black said the last three biennia have not given the Department everything it wanted so we understand that we are in that situation this time as well. We are looking at a number of different things to include rallying of the entire veterans community to move on the Capitol and make sure the Legislature understands this is an important issue and we don’t intend to back down.

Todd Nehls asked how often we invite our legislators to tour our Homes to see first hand the issues and product we have and address the resources we need. Secretary Black said this has been done in the past. We invite legislators not only to see our Homes but to come in and view our Museum.

9. The Role of the Finance Committee in the Development of the WDVA Biennial Budget

Mr. Schalk said the Finance Committee has little or no impact on the budget as it goes to the full Board before Committee members even see it. He recommended that the budget is briefed to the Finance Committee. Mr. Moran said all three standing committees have a part in the budget and this needs to happen early on in the budget process. There has been a shift in the active involvement of the various committees and the challenge is to utilize these great assets. Mr. Moran asked the Secretary and Board Chair to explore ways to actively involve, early on in the process, budget input from all three committees.

10. Briefing and Committee Discussion on a Web Services Framework Incorporating Multimedia Technologies to Enhance Accessibility to Board, Board Committee, and Council Meetings

Jim Romlein provided a short, conceptual briefing on the use of pod casting to enhance meeting access. The system he explained has minimal infrastructure requirements at the origination site, minimal infrastructure requirements at the viewing site, simple intuitive controls at the origination and viewing sites, provisions for development of rich content, minimal first cost, no fixed cost, no long-term cost, pay-as-you go, minimal organization and site set-up at either end and security consideration. The process involves creating a publishing point on the web site; the broadcaster is also placed on the web site. The broadcaster logs in and downloads the access link, connects to the device and the end user connects to the web site. In summary, there is a one-time fee of \$19.00 to create the account and an ongoing fee of \$1.00 per hour per viewer.

Mr. Moran said the Board is serious about making its meetings more accessible and it is working on a policy in that regard.

11. Briefing and Status Update on any WDVA Related s.13.10, s.16.505, s.16.515 and/or Building Commission Proceedings since the August 2010 Board Meeting

Pete Moran will move this agenda item to the Finance Committee meeting in December.

12. Secretary’s Matters

Secretary Black agreed with the concept to involve the committees in the budget process and the earlier the better.

13. Public Comment

None.

14. Committee Members' Matters (Not Subject to Adoption)

Al Walker commended Ms. Holtan on her reports. Mr. Moran thanked committee members for their diligence; it is a hard-working committee. Mr. Moran talked about Kirk Rodman and the Highground coming to a future meeting of the Board. An item referred to this meeting will be taken up in December regarding a report on the internal audit changes that have been affected as a result of the 2009 audit report.

15. Next Meeting Date

December 9, 2010 in Union Grove

16. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Schalk, and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting; the time was 3:30 p.m.

Pete Moran  
Chair

MINUTES  
LEGISLATIVE & PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of October 14, 2010

**Committee Members Present**

Dave Boetcher  
Mark Baldwin  
Yvonne Duesterhoeft  
Bruce Markert  
Roger Mathison—Madison teleconference  
Ken Rock  
Rick Scollon  
Victor Vela  
Charles Young

**Committee Members Excused**

Loren Christensen  
Charles Vandenplas

**WDVA Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
José León, Executive Assistant  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Office  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant—King  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant—UG  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS-Union Grove  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Steve D’Amanda, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Russ Alsteen, Navy Clubs  
George Banda, AGIF  
David Benson  
Scott A. Berger, Marathon CVSO  
Ben Berlin, JWV  
Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Paul R. Fine, ANU  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Rick Gates, Polk CVSO  
Mark Grams, Dodge CVSO  
David Green  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
Michael Jackson, Dane CVSO  
Joseph & Peggy Maehl  
Duane Miskulin  
Dan Naylor, Board Member  
Dale Oatman, Langlade CVSO  
Richard Paradowski  
Wilbur Petrowski  
Al Richards  
Vera Roddy, UWV  
Chuck Roloff, American Legion  
Jim Romlein  
Clif Sorenson, Eau Claire CVSO  
Walter Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Robert Stone, Winnebago CVSO  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Gary Traynor, BVA  
Al Walker, Madison teleconference  
Ken Wendt, PLAV

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting of the Legislative & Program Review Committee was called to order at 3:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **Certification of Notice of Meeting**

It was noted that proper notice of the meeting occurred.

3. **Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2010 Meeting**

It was moved by Mr. Baldwin, seconded and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative & Program Review Committee meeting.

#### 4. Committee Discussion and Action on WDVA Legislative Priorities

Mr. Boetcher asked for discussion and prioritization of the all-inclusive list of legislative issues from the August meeting. The Committee recommended pursuing the following as high priority items:

- 1) Develop a source of ongoing funding for WDVA operations.
- 2) Full restoration of Wisconsin GI Bill benefits to students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill at state universities and technical colleges.
- 3) Provide Wisconsin retirement credit for veterans serving after 1974.
- 4) Update Wis. Stats. 45.05 should be clarified as to which veterans' documents can be recorded at no charge and who may have access to them.
- 5) Nursing home bed tax by bed allotment; WDVA usually gets exempted but it is not automatic every year. The bed tax is on all the nursing homes and the revenue is used to increase the rate of Medicaid paid. The Veterans Homes were exempted in the last budget and there is a request to be exempt again in this budget. It was estimated the amount is \$175.00 per bed per month.
- 6) Support changes to disabled veterans license plates—currently branch of service logo cannot be denoted on the plate. It was suggested to open a dialog with DOT and have a legislator sponsor legislation.
- 7) Eligibility for state benefits simplified in the statutes; simplify state definition of veteran. Mr. Boetcher asked if it would be possible to have an overview of all the different definitions of a veteran for the December meeting. Mr. Stewart said besides WDVA, you have veteran definitions in Chapter 15 dealing with Boards using the term veteran; Chapters 36 and 38 dealing with the Wisconsin GI Bill and a separate definition of veteran; Chapter 71 dealing with the Property Tax Credit definition of veteran; Chapter 230 and state service has a different definition of veteran; the definition of veterans eligible for license plates in DOT would need to be reviewed; and DNR has their own definition of veteran with respect to hunting and fishing licenses.

It was recommended the Homes Admissions Process Action Team consider the requirement in Administrative Code that an applicant must provide a certified birth certificate. Secretary Black asked that the CVSOs provide a consolidated list of admissions issues to the PAT advisor, Brian Marshall.

#### 5. Lobbying Training for Stakeholders

Mr. Boetcher said the training will help people learn the process within state government and how to speak effectively with a legislator. The first target group for training is the County Veterans Service Officers. In February, the morning before the regularly scheduled Thursday committee meetings, Mr. Boetcher could possibly conduct a training session, open to all who are interested in attending.

#### 6. Secretary's Matters

Secretary had nothing to offer the Committee at this time.

#### 7. Public Input

None.

8. Committee Members' Matters (Not Subject to Adoption)

Bruce Markert said there is an increase in jobs around the country and yet there is a 9% unemployment rate. The reasons are: (1) job seekers are collecting unemployment checks and being very specific on what kind of job and how much money and benefits they want (2) job seekers are not relocating, and (3) employers are not looking to train individuals. The unemployment rate for recently separated veterans is around 14-20%. Veterans always have a higher unemployment rate. Mr. Markert said the State of Wisconsin Legislature needs to step up and develop some employment programs for veterans.

9. Next Meeting Date

December 9, 2010 in Union Grove

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Vela, and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting; the time was 4:35 p.m.

Dave Boetcher  
Chair

MINUTES  
LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of October 14, 2010

**Committee Members Present**

Dan Naylor  
Pete Moran, ex-officio, non voting capacity  
David Benson  
Scott Berger  
David Green  
John Hofer  
Joseph Maehl  
Richard Paradowski  
Al Richards  
Vera Roddy  
Clif Sorenson

**Committee Members Excused**

Rod Moen  
Edward Healey

**WDVA Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Director  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant-King  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant-UG  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS-Union Grove  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Steve D'Amada, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Russ Alsteen, NCUSA  
Mark Baldwin, Washington CVSO  
George Banda, AGIF  
Ben Berlin, JWV  
Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Yvonne Duesterhoeft, Jefferson CVSO  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Paul Fine, ANU  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Rick Gates, Polk CVSO  
Kathy Gausmann, Monroe CVSO  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mark Grams, Dodge CVSO & MCL  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO  
Anthony Hardie, DAV  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
Michael Jackson, Dane CVSO  
Mrs. Joseph Maehl  
Duane Miskulin  
Colin Moten, VAF  
Wilbur Petrowski  
Chuck Roloff, Am. Legion  
Rick Scollon  
Walter Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Gary Traynor, BVA  
Al Walker, Madison teleconference  
Ken Wendt, PLAV

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting of the Long Term Care Committee was called to order at 4:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **Certification of Notice of Meeting**

It was certified that proper notice of the meeting occurred.

3. **Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2010 Meeting**

It was moved by Mr. Sorenson, seconded by Mr. Hofer and carried on a voice vote to approve the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

4. Briefing and Committee Discussion on Cash Flow for King Skilled Nursing and Union Grove Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities

Dan Naylor said this report has been heard by other committees this afternoon and will be on future agendas. Committee members had no specific questions on the issue.

5. Secretary's Matters

Secretary Black had nothing to offer the Committee at this time.

6. Public Input

Ms. Duesterhoeft brought forward a discussion item from the Legislative and Program Review Committee. The issue was the requirement that an applicant to the Veterans Homes provide a certified birth certificate. She asked that this be dealt with in the statutes so as not to hold up an admission if a veteran does not have this certified document. Mr. Naylor asked for a follow-up at the next meeting of the Long Term Care Committee.

7. Committee Members' Matters (Not Subject to Adoption)

Clif Sorenson thanked the Secretary and staff for the ongoing support for the Chippewa Falls nursing home.

John Hofer asked if there is any legal way that donations could possibly be solicited for the Chippewa Falls Home. Ms. Holtan said our first donation for the Chippewa Falls facility was made by the Wal-Mart Foundation a number of years back. We accepted a check for \$10,000 from them, specifically for the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. As part of the business plan concept, we did expect we would fundraise for vehicles for that facility as we did with the King Coach and the vehicles at Union Grove.

John Hofer would like to see all committees have an orientation/training session to bring them up-to-speed as fast as possible. He also suggested having paper/stick on name badges for each member. Mr. Maehl said the member's home county could be included on the name badge.

Mr. Naylor had two items for the December Long Term Care Committee agenda: (1) the fire department at King and (2) the Commandant positions at Union Grove and King. He also reiterated Mr. Shaughnessy's invitation to tour the Home at Union Grove.

8. Next Meeting Schedule

December 9, 2010 in Union Grove.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mr. Paradowski and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting; the time was 4:50 p.m.

Dan Naylor  
Chair

MINUTES  
COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS  
Meeting of October 14, 2010

**Members Present**

Russ Alsteen, NCUSA  
George Banda, WI AGIF  
Scott Berger for Mike Haley, CVSOA  
Ben Berlin, JWV  
Vera Roddy for Linda Dancker, UWV  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Paul Fine, ANU  
Mark Foreman, VVAW  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mark Grams, MCL  
Anthony Hardie, DAV  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Michael Jackson, VVA  
Charles Roloff, AL  
Walter Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Gary Traynor, BVA  
Ken Wendt, PLAV

**Members Excused**

Rick Cherone, MOPH  
Mike Furgal, VFW  
Bill Hustad, WVV  
Max Oleson, ARC  
Lenny Shier, TREA  
William Sims, NABV  
Vacancy, American Ex-POWs

**Others Present (not all inclusive)**

Mark Baldwin, Washington CVSO  
Donna Chrzas, Columbia CVSO  
Rick Gates, Polk CVSO  
Kathy Gausmann, Monroe CVSO  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
Bruce Markert  
Duane Miskulin  
Colin Moten, VAF  
Dan Naylor, Board Member  
Dale Oatman, Langlade CVSO  
Wilbur Petrowski  
Al Richards  
Ann Stenavich  
Victor Vela, AGIF  
Charles Young

**WDVA Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Micabil Diaz, Assistant Chief Legal Counsel  
José León, Executive Assistant  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Director  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant, King  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant, UG  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Tony Cappelzozzo, Division Administrator  
Sara Stinski, Public Affairs Officer  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS Union Grove  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Steve D'Amanda, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**

The meeting of the Council on Veterans Programs was called to order by Charles Roloff at 4:55 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **Certification of Notice of Meeting**

It was certified that proper notice of the meeting occurred.

3. Introduction of Guests and Announcements

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of August 19-20, 2010 Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Wendt, seconded and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 19-20 Council meeting. Mr. Alsteen said the Council heard a discussion from Rick Gates in August with regard to the Fisher House and a follow-up report will be given at this meeting.

5. Council Communications

Mr. Roloff said a letter was sent to the Legislature regarding the Blinded Veterans Association issue. Additionally, letters were sent to all the Veteran Honor Flight Hubs in appreciation for their efforts to get WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see their memorial.

6. Museum Foundation Report

Michael Telzrow, Museum Director, said his report was rendered at the morning briefing session. Council members had no questions.

7. Briefing on USERRA from DOL

Mr. Roloff received an email from the presenter who advised he was unable to attend due to budget cuts in travel. The briefing will be added to the December meeting agenda.

8. Activities within the Veterans Community

Reports from each member organization were submitted in writing and placed in each member's folder.

9. Discussion and Action on Member Organizations not in Compliance or at Risk of Noncompliance with Attendance Rule

Mr. Roloff sent a registered, return-receipt letter to The American Ex-Prisoners of War organization. No communication has been received from the American Ex-POWs at this point. Paul Fine was unsuccessful in contacting individuals from the organization. The ExPOW membership status will be an item for action at the December meeting of the Council.

10. Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Action on WDVA Proposed 2011-2013 Biennial Budget

Mr. Roloff said this issue was discussed at the earlier meetings. The organizations should prepare themselves to go to Madison in February and speak to legislators about veterans issues. Mr. Boetcher will conduct lobbying training in February as well.

11. Briefing and Action Related to State Veterans Courts

Mr. León said the District Attorney has applied for federal grant money to help launch Veterans Courts statewide. Clif Sorenson, Eau Claire County, received grant money to send people from Eau Claire County to Buffalo, NY for training on Veterans Courts. The Council will request a report from Mr. Sorenson for its December meeting.

Mr. Hardie said the DAV has taken a position in favor of Veterans Courts. The initial Veterans Courts around the country were accomplished with no funding but through the dedication, hard work and commitment of individuals. Mr. Hardie strongly urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to lead the way to have Veterans Courts in each county; funding is helpful but not relevant. Mr. Grams said there is a budgetary, funding issue and

counties are executing memoranda of agreements so several counties can go together and have a Court in one location.

Mr. Hardie said there has been Congressional interest and action on pilot programs related to Veterans Courts.

12. Briefing, Discussion and Possible Action on Veterans Homes Matters

a. Difference in Rates at the Homes and Basis for Disparity

Colleen Holtan said the difference in rates is based on the differences in cost of care at each facility. The Legislative Audit Bureau, in its letter report on rates did recommend that the Board of Veterans Affairs amend Chapter VA 6 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code to include a formula for calculating private pay rates for nursing home and assisted living care at the Veterans Homes with clear definitions of rate setting terms. It should be specified whether separate rates should be calculated for each Home or if a single rate should be established for both. At upcoming Board meetings the Department will be putting together information for the Board with respect to the methodology that's been used in the past for calculating rates. The Audit Bureau has recommended a methodology be codified. There will be subsequent discussions on this matter.

13. Brief Discussion on Proposed By-Laws and Rules of Procedure to Govern the Council on Veterans Programs

a. Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to Return in December with a Recommendation

Mr. Roloff received a number of suggestions about changes or additions to the Council's Rules of Procedure/Protocol. An ad hoc committee to review the proposed by-laws was appointed by Mr. Roloff and will be chaired by Mr. Roloff. Mr. Hardie and Mr. Alsteen have agreed to be on the committee—two more volunteers were solicited. Hearing requests from several members, Mr. Roloff increased the size of the Ad Hoc Committee to seven members (as allowed by the current Council Protocols). They are: Roloff, Hardie, Alsteen, Thiers, Fine, Fetterly and Grams.

14. Discussion of What is Desired in WDVA Benefits Presentation for December Meeting

Mr. Grams said the Council's purpose is to advise the Board and Department on benefits and what may be lacking in the veterans community as far as benefits. Council members may not know about all the current Wisconsin benefits and would profit from a briefing by the Department. The briefing should be strictly on WDVA funded benefits. It would be educational for Council members to know what those benefits are, how many veterans utilize them and how much money is expended for them. Mr. Hardie said it would be helpful to know how many dollars come in for those programs by year and from what sources—for example, cemeteries have funding coming in from a number of different sources. He would also like to know how many veterans are buried in veterans cemeteries each year and the cumulative total of burials. For the Aid to Needy Veterans Grants—how many veterans are served, what is the total grant allowance right now for that program and how much does it cost to run the program. Additionally, report how many staff and FTEs in each program and overall cost of each program. Mr. Grams said knowing the eligibility for each program would be helpful.

15. Secretary's Matters

The Secretary is conducting town hall meetings beginning October 18<sup>th</sup>. He will be in Keshena, Oconto Falls, Marinette and Fond du Lac. The listening sessions are posted on the Department's web site.

Paul Fine asked about the BO100 Benefits books; the CD format is not readily useable for a lot of veterans. Mr. Black said he understands going to a high-tech way of doing business will cut off a large portion of veterans. Ms. Stinski said the BO100 is not going away, it will be reprinted. It is going through a review process and that will take some time. The piece will be compressed somewhat and printed with the same information without quite so many pages and expensive color. Whatever changes are proposed will be coordinated with the CVSOs to make sure we have their input. The Department is going to create a much smaller brochure which gives a quick snapshot of all of our services. The Department works with the Department of Administration for state-contracted printing orders. Mr. Hardie remembered the cost of printing the booklet to be about \$1.00 for 3 booklets. He asked if there is a quantity of BO100s on hand and what is being distributed right now. It was noted there are more requests for the BO100 booklet than exist in inventory.

#### 16. Council Members' Matters not Subject to Adoption

Mr. Alsteen said the Council worked on a Senate Bill in 2009 regarding eligibility criteria for membership on the Council. The Council Protocol was amended to include those items regarding eligibility; however, there is no statutory language on eligibility because the Senate Bill did not pass. Mr. Alsteen would like to discuss this at the December meeting.

Mr. Alsteen said he and Rick Cherone are getting as much information as possible on Fisher Houses. The Fisher House general offices, the Milwaukee VAMC Director and the Chairman of the Fisher House Foundation are working on procuring finances for Fisher Houses from GE Health Care, Miller-Coors, House of Harley Davidson and Parateck Ambulance Services. Mr. Alsteen will invite a speaker to the next Council meeting. Mr. Roloff will schedule the Fisher House subject as the sole item for Friday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Vera Roddy said women veterans sponsored a luncheon at King and Union Grove. Secondly, she provided handouts from FEMA on disaster relief for Milwaukee and Grant Counties.

Michael Jackson is the interim representative on the Council for VVA; this will be his last meeting. VVA has identified a permanent representative from VVA, Mr. Robert Piaro.

Ken Wendt said the Door County Veterans Service Officer will soon be re-deployed and Ken Rock will be the interim CVSO.

Anthony Hardie reported the US DVA has a task force on Gulf War veterans health issues and Secretary Shinseki has pledged to solve the Agent Orange and Gulf War Illness issues. There is a very extensive report which is the beginning of a process and Mr. Hardie encouraged CVSOs and VSOs to review the report and submit comments. New research on Gulf War Veterans health issues finally acknowledges that it is a neurological disease, with immunological dysfunction caused by chemical warfare agents. Tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. at the Radisson Paper Valley in Appleton, the DAV Convention will have the grants program manager from the Congressionally-directed medical research program in the US Department of Defense give a presentation on the program.

#### 17. Public Input

None.

18. Election of Council Officers

Mr. Grams nominated Charles Roloff for Chair. It was moved by Mr. Thiers, seconded by Mr Jackson and carried unanimously on a voice vote to cast a unanimous ballot for Charles Roloff for Chair.

Mr. Jackson nominated Roger Fetterly for Vice Chair. Mr. Hardie nominated Tim Thiers for Vice Chair.

Attorney Diaz advised that the Protocol states the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary shall be elected by a majority of the Council and shall be by secret ballot. Nominations will be accepted but election should be done pursuant to the Protocol.

Mr. Hardie nominated Roger Fetterly for Secretary. Mr. Fetterly declined accepting the nomination for Secretary. Mr. Stenavich nominated Paul Fine for Secretary.

Mr. Grams and Mr. Jackson counted the ballots; they certified that Chuck Roloff was elected Chair; Roger Fetterly was elected Vice Chair and Paul Fine was elected Secretary.

It was moved by Mr. Fine, seconded and carried on a voice vote to destroy the ballots.

19. Next Meeting Date

December 9-10 in Union Grove.

20. Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote to adjourn; the time was 6:05 p.m.

Charles Roloff  
Chair

BOARD MINUTES  
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Meeting of October 15, 2010  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

**Board Members Present**

Dan Naylor, Chair  
Pete Moran  
David Boetcher  
Rod Moen (teleconference until 9:40 a.m.)  
Marv Freedman--excused

**WDVA Present**

Kenneth B. Black, Secretary  
Donna Williams, Deputy Secretary  
Jimmy Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel  
Sara Stinski, Communications Director  
Micabil Diaz, Legal Counsel  
Jackie Moore, Acting Commandant-King  
Pat Shaughnessy, Acting Commandant-UG  
Colleen Holtan, Budget Director  
Brian Marshall, Division Administrator  
Tony Cappozzo, Division Administrator  
Chris Schuldes, Madison teleconference  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant  
Jim McGarvey, BOIS-Union Grove  
Dr. Alan Strobusch, King teleconference  
Laura Mays, King teleconference

**Others Present (not all-inclusive)**

Mark Baldwin, Washington CVSO  
George Banda, AGIF  
Dave Benson  
Scott Berger, Marathon CVSO  
Ben Berlin, JWV  
Yvonne Duesterhoeft, Jefferson CVSO  
Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Rick Gates, Polk CVSO  
Kathy Gausmann, Monroe CVSO  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mark Grams, MCL & Dodge CVSO  
David Green  
Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO  
Anthony Hardie, DAV  
Jesse Haro, CWV  
Ted Harvey, Price CVSO  
Katie Herrem, LAB  
John Hofer  
Senator Jim Holperin  
Michael Jackson, Dane CVSO  
Joseph & Patty Maehl  
Bruce Markert  
Rep. Dan Meyer  
Duane Miskulin  
Colin Moten, Veterans Assistance Foundation  
Janet Murphy, VISN 23 Network Director  
Todd Nehls  
Dale Oatman, Langlade CVSO  
Richard Paradowski  
Wilbur Petrowski  
Ken Rock  
Vera Roddy, UWV  
Chuck Roloff, American Legion  
Jim Romlein  
Rick Scollon  
Walter & Ann Stenavich, USSVWWII  
Jack Stone, PVA  
Tim Thiers, AMVETS  
Gary Traynor, BVA  
Victor Vela, WI AGIF  
Tammy Walters, Oneida CVSO  
John Weindorfer, Sr. and family members  
Rep. Mary Williams  
Charles Young  
Dave Zien

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was present. Introductions included: Senator Jim Holperin, Representative Dan Meyer, Rep. Mary Williams, and Oneida CVSO Tammy Walters.

Senator Holperin welcomed the Board to Rhinelander; it is always appreciated when State Boards and Councils and Committees are able and willing to come to Northern Wisconsin to do your work here and demonstrate to audiences outside your excellent stewardship of state tax dollars. The 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District appreciates the work you do on behalf of veterans of the state and making Wisconsin a leader in offering meaningful veterans benefits and services to those who served this country.

Representative Meyer is happy to have the Board in northern Wisconsin. We face tough times and a tough budget this past session but he hopes we do not lose sight of our veterans. He hopes we remember the obligations we made to our veterans and if we are not able to offer new programs, certainly honor the programs for which commitments were made. The Veterans Trust Fund is in jeopardy and Rep. Meyer hopes the next Governor and Legislature will make that a priority and put real dollars in the Trust Fund. In the last session there was a bill Rep. Meyer, along with Sen. Fitzgerald and Rep. Petersen signed to add \$12.5 million to the Trust Fund for the next three years. He hopes that can be accomplished this session; veterans should be made a priority.

Rep. Williams said it is nice to be here with all of you. Her father, grandfather and brother were all in the service. She is a member of the AMVETS Auxiliary in Price County and the Auxiliary for the American Legion in Stetsonville. She is sure the Legislature will keep up the good fight for veterans who have done so much for us.

2. Certification of Notice of Meeting

It was certified that proper notification of the meeting occurred.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Board Meeting of August 20, 2010

**MOTION #1:** It was moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Moen and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes.

b. Special meeting by teleconference, September 17, 2010

**MOTION #2:** It was moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Moen and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes. Mr. Moran pointed out that during the meeting Dan Naylor was elected Chair of the Board. Brigadier General Marcia Anderson was activated for one to three years which necessitated her resignation from the Board.

c. Special meeting by teleconference of September 21, 2010

**MOTION #3:** It was moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Moen and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes.

d. Special meeting by teleconference, September 22, 2010

**MOTION #4:** It was moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Moen and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes.

4. Board's Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board of Veterans Affairs Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to John F. Weindorfer, Sr. (copy attached to these minutes). Mr. Weindorfer will continue to do the things he does for veterans so the veterans of the past are not forgotten. He thanked the Board for selecting him for this high honor and he is proud to receive it.

5. Board Members' Matters

a. Individual Board Member Activity Reports

Pete Moran has been working with Northwest Wisconsin CVSOs and Northeast Minnesota veterans advocates to establish an Honor Flight Hub in Minnesota. The objective is to launch the first flight in the summer of 2011. On August 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. Moran represented the Board at the funeral visitation of Matthew Magdzas, a Wisconsin Army National Guard member, Iraqi War veteran and suicide victim. On August 28<sup>th</sup> Mr. Moran represented the Board at the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home event held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. On September 21<sup>st</sup> he accompanied Secretary Black on a visit to the Superior Veterans Clinic. That visitation was followed by a productive listening session held at the Bong Veterans Heritage Center. Mr. Moran and his wife toured Camp American Legion, hosted by Camp Director Kevin Moshea. Mr. Moran will deliver welcoming remarks during the Veterans Day observance at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner. The Board has an informal practice of sharing a meal with members when it meets at the King and Union Grove Veterans Homes and would like to see that occur this December at Union Grove.

Rod Moen attended via teleconference because, as the City of Whitehall Mayor, he is in budget deliberations.

Dan Naylor attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual VVA State Convention, as well as the 75<sup>th</sup> CVSO Association State Convention.

6. Board Action from Committee and Council Meetings

**MOTION #5:** It was moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Boetcher and carried on a voice vote to allow the Council on Veterans Programs report to take precedence over the other reports.

Council on Veterans Programs. Chuck Roloff said the USERRA briefing was postponed until the December meeting because of travel limitations by the speaker. The Council heard a briefing on action related to state Veterans Courts and Clif Sorenson will report on the grant he received for his county. An ad-hoc committee was formed to meet and study all proposals for the Council's by-laws and protocol. The Council asked for a presentation in December on all WDVA benefits. Election of officers—Roloff, Chair; Fetterly, Vice Chair; and Fine, Secretary.

CVSO Advisory Council. Rick Gates said no action was taken for Board consideration. The Council spent some time discussing the Federal VA's paperless initiative and how it will affect the Department and CVSOs. The Council was invited to attend lobbying training, a joint effort between the Board and WDVA. It was suggested the training could be conducted at the regional association meetings. Mr. Gates announced two seriously ill CVSOs—Richard Baer, Racine County and Ted Mynyk, Iowa County.

Legislative & Program Review Committee. Dave Boetcher said the Committee met and pared down a legislative issues list to seven items. The top two issues are developing a source of ongoing funding for the WDVA operations and then full restoration of the Wisconsin GI Bill. The Committee is planning on a lobbying training at the February Committee meeting in Madison.

Finance Committee. Pete Moran said the items of business included: status report of Veterans Homes Accounts Receivables , status report on a demand analysis, right-sizing plan and business plan for King and Union Grove Homes, status report on a cost-benefit analysis regarding the King Medicare Title 18 issue, status report on partnering with Wisconsin Public Television and the Green Bay Packers on PSAs to promote the VTF tax check-off, the recently approved 2011-13 biennial budget, the role of the Finance Committee in the development of the WDVA biennial budget, and a briefing on a web services framework incorporating multimedia technologies to enhance accessibility to meetings. No action was taken which would require Board consideration.

Long Term Care Committee. Dan Naylor facilitated the meeting. It took no action requiring Board consideration. The December meeting agenda will include discussion on the fire department and the status of the Commandants. It was suggested that all committees provide orientation training for its members.

Rod Moen announced that he had to excuse himself from the rest of the Board meeting, the time was 9:40 a.m. Chair Naylor announced that four Board members are needed for a quorum; therefore, no formal business may be transacted. The meeting is now deemed a conference of the Board.

7. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Reports

Representatives from VISN 12, 23 and the Milwaukee Regional Office were not yet in attendance.

8. Briefing, Board Discussion and Action on 2011-13 WDVA Budget

Colleen Holtan said the Board approved WDVA's biennial budget request on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. On September 30<sup>th</sup> the Department electronically submitted the biennial budget through the new state budget system. We have provided copies of the budget to the State Budget Office as well as the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. We have been in contact with both offices since submitting the budget as they work to evaluate each of our budget requests. We will be meeting with the State Budget Office on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to review our budget request with them in preparation for their briefings to Executive Management at DOA. By the end of next week the Department will be posting a WDVA budget page for the 2011-13 biennial budget. On that budget page you will be able to find all the budget documents.

Key highlights of the biennial budget: we requested the operating budget for the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home; requested additional staffing for expanding the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery; seeking general purpose revenue funding for State Veterans Cemeteries as well as for the Veterans Museum; and seeking a supplement for the Veterans Trust Fund in the 2013 fiscal year as a result of cash flow needs at that time.

The Department has been given more clarification from DOA about their expectations in terms of the amount they will ask us to come up with in the budget reduction plan.

Chair Naylor said a second report will be coming to the Board from the Legislative Audit Bureau and we don't know what it will consist of but there certainly could be fiscal implications as part of their recommendations which the Board will need to look at. He asked if the federal increase for burial plot allowance will have a fiscal impact on the Department's budget compared to what was originally submitted. Secretary Black said it will have an impact in a positive way. Colleen Holtan said a number of staff are paid using revenues received from the burial plot allowance. With the additional revenue, we could potentially support more positions in that federal appropriation and it is something we will share with the State Budget Office. It could ultimately

result in less GPR being needed if we were to have additional staff in the federal appropriation as opposed to the appropriations currently funded with the Veterans Trust Fund.

9. Briefing and Board Discussion on Status of Proposed Chippewa Falls Facility

Colleen Holtan had provided a briefing document on the Chippewa Falls facility. Since the last Board meeting the Department has received the conditional approval letter from the USDVA. The conditional approval letter now provides us with 180 days, or until March 22, 2011 to complete all of the remaining requirements to be eligible to receive a federal grant for the construction of that facility. We are on track with that and continue to work with the Division of State Facilities and the architectural and engineering firm on the plans for Chippewa Falls. Subsequent to the August Board meeting, on September 15<sup>th</sup>, the State Building Commission did approve the 35% design report and did provide authority to construct the Chippewa Falls facility. They also approved the transfer of the land from the Department of Health Services to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10. Briefing and Status Update on any WDVA Related s.13.10, s.16.505, s. 16.515 and/or Building Commission Proceedings since the August 2010 Board Meeting

Documents will be addressed at the Board's December meeting and placed on the Department's web page. There are no s.13.10, s.16.505 or s.16.515 actions to report.

11. Briefing, Status Update and Board Discussion regarding all Current WDVA Process Action Teams

An overview was provided by Brian Marshall. There are three Process Action Teams (PATs). The Admissions PAT highlights were given at the Briefing meeting yesterday. The Revenue Cycle PAT will begin work on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be looking at accounts receivables at both Homes. The Union Grove Assisted Living PAT will begin in November.

12. Secretary's Matters

The Secretary had nothing additional to report.

13. Public Comments (speakers limited to 5 minutes each)

Mark Foreman referred back to yesterday when Duane Miskulin, recent past National Commander of AMVETS, gave a suicide report. We learned that more of our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and active duty troops have committed suicide than have been killed in the war. Mr. Foreman hopes that the Board and Council on Veterans Programs will come together and have an effect on the policy-makers in Washington who are forcing our troops to make multiple deployments. Mr. Naylor said the Department has a staff member on a committee for suicide research at the state level which is currently doing research and making some key recommendations on the steps forward. In an article, Col. Chris Philbrick, Deputy Director of a special task force established to reduce the size of the military, said more soldiers were seeking help for psychological problems than ever before; it was the leading reason for hospitalizations in the military last year.

Duane Miskulin commented that Secretary Shinseki signed a bill that would increase the number of presumptives for Agent Orange. The backlog of claims is very high. When veterans service organizations met with the VA and Congressional representatives, they put in a recommendation that proper paperwork coming through regarding Agent Orange would be paid immediately.

Chair Naylor acknowledged the arrival of Jan Murphy and with consent of the Board, reverted back to Agenda Item #7—US Department of Veterans Affairs Reports.

Jan Murphy, VISN 23 Network Director reported for both VISNs 12 and 23. She began by thanking veterans for their service to our country.

- The federal budget cycle started on October 1st. Both VISN 23 and VISN 12 did very well fiscally in the budget cycle.
- Secretary Shinseki understands what it is like to be a soldier and a veteran. He has done an excellent job of understanding all the businesses the Department of Veterans Affairs manages. He understands national cemeteries, health care, veterans benefits and he has a huge agenda for improving services on the benefits side of the VA business. He is into using technology to expedite benefits processing.
- Secretary Shinseki is setting up expectations in the health care field. The new guideline for access to care is all veterans who want an appointment will get an appointment within 14 days. Ninety-nine percent of veterans must have these appointments available to them.
- The Secretary's other strong agenda is reducing, eliminating and preventing homelessness. He feels that having any veteran living on the street is a disgrace for us as an agency and for us at the state level.
- In VISN 23, it is estimated there are 4,500 veterans on any given night who are either homeless or close to homeless. Working with HUD and community agencies to develop community centers, single room occupancy, living spaces for veterans and working with local and state government as well as voluntary agencies.
- Secretary Shinseki is asking VISNs to create new ways for veterans to communicate with us. You may be hearing about a new program called secure messaging, a way for veterans to communicate with their physician or their health care team nurse via a secure web site on the internet.
- There will be a complete renovation and expansion of the Twin Ports CBOC.
- Hayward/Rice Lake had no interruption of service in a recent sprinkler head flood.
- VISN 12 will do two new CBOC build-outs, one in Green Bay and one in Crown Point, IN.
- VISN 12 is scheduling 88% of new primary care appointments within 14 days and 91% of specialty care clinics within 14 days.
- Currently, 94% of all mental health enhancement positions are filled.
- VISN 12 homeless programs continue to collaborate with HUD in order to provide housing to homeless veterans.
- The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) expenditure plan was successfully completed in July 2010. VISN 12 was allocated about \$64 million in ARRA dollars. VISN 23 spent about \$57 million in ARRA dollars.
- VISN 12 received almost \$15 million for rural health initiatives. \$2.9 million was received in June 2009 for Telemedicine in the Central and Northern market. Madison, Iron Mountain and Tomah used the money to set up TeleAudiology and TeleRetinal screenings.
- Veterans Courts are currently located in Lacrosse, Waupaca and Rock Counties.

Pete Moran noted there are no medical schools in Wisconsin which currently send interns up to Superior to work in the Twin Ports Clinic. Twin Ports requests more control over their fee budget to take care of outsourced procedures. They are eager to have a pilot program as far as emergency dental services. Ms. Murphy will speak with Mr. Kleinglass about these two issues. Mr. Moran advised Ms. Murphy of Wisconsin's Camp American Legion and provided brochures left for her by Camp Director Kevin Moshea.

Mark Foreman and Veterans for Peace with the help of Vietnam Veterans Against the War are dealing with homelessness in the City of Milwaukee. Today, they are feeding over 80 homeless veterans and will begin a housing program by raising funds from foundation grants. Mr. Foreman

asked for contact information on obtaining federal grants. Ms. Murphy responded the homeless coordinator contact at the Milwaukee VA is Barbara Gilbert and she is the place to start.

Derrell Greene, Kenosha CVSO, said the Great Lakes Hospital and the VA combined in a pilot program, and asked how that was working for the veterans. Ms. Murphy will take that question back to Renee Oshinski of VISN 12.

Bruce Markert asked for an update on the involvement of the VA with incarcerated veterans within the state prison system. There is a program of sending representatives into state prisons in order to help incarcerated veterans on employment training and veterans benefits and having the VA get involved in looking at PTSD and suicide rates with these veterans. Ms. Murphy will find out more and get back to Mr. Markert.

Dr. Hofer, Chief Dental Officer in the Madison VA, will be happy to work with the VISN 23 dental representative on any pilot program. He understands there will be a large dental presence in the Green Bay CBOC.

Chair Naylor said two issues will be on the Board's agenda for its December meeting in Union Grove, one is on the issue of suicide prevention/intervention and the other is veterans courts. He asked that the report rendered by the VISNs include these topics and, if possible, be sent out in advance for posting on the Department's web site.

Chair Naylor asked for public comments from the teleconference at the DAV convention; the Madison site, Union Grove site and the King site. No comments were offered.

#### 14. Other Matters Not Subject to Adoption

Pete Moran commented about the WDVA Claims Office in Milwaukee. Russ Peck was acknowledged for his assistance in the claims process for the wife of a veteran who is an acquaintance of Mr. Moran's.

Dan Naylor thanked Jim Romlein for sharing his thoughts about options for making Board meetings more accessible. He acknowledged the Department is exploring other options such as "Live Meetings". The Board advocates having the option of a video-conference system in place to allow all remote sites to participate beginning with the December meeting.

Chair Naylor's tentative recommendations for 2011 Board meeting dates and locations: February 10-11 in Madison; April 14-15 in Madison; June 16-17 in King; August 18-19 location TBD; October 13-14 location TBD; and December 8-9 in Union Grove.

Mr. Naylor announced the impending retirement of Michael Jackson, Dane County CVSO for 22 years. He was Army Special Forces in Vietnam, a Bears fan, a runner, a good friend of many and one of the most active advocates for veterans that we know.

#### 15. Next Meeting Date

December 10, 2010 in Union Grove.

16. Adjournment

The conference of the Board concluded at 11:05 a.m.

Dan Naylor  
Chair

*Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs  
Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award  
Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, John F. Weindorfer, Sr. was born February 13, 1924 in Hillstown, Bucks County, PA and was raised in Milwaukee, WI. He enlisted in the United States Navy on April 2, 1941 in Milwaukee, took basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago, IL, and advanced training as an Aviation Mechanic at the Navy Aircraft Training Center in Seattle, WA; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 19, 1941, he arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii aboard the Destroyer Escort USS Cassin which was scheduled for dry dock; and he was assigned to the Ford Island Naval Station as an Aviation Mechanic. While on mess hall duty on the morning of December 7, 1941, he was an eyewitness to history as the first wave of Japanese attack aircraft struck and sunk the USS California and USS Oklahoma anchored just across the bay on Battleship Row. At the emergency aid station established in the mess hall, he helped provide first aid, with limited medical supplies, to scores of wounded sailors, many of whom had sustained severe burn injuries; and he lost 43 former shipmates when the USS Cassin was destroyed in dry dock; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 1942, he was assigned to PBY sea plane patrol duty as a Flight Engineer operating out of multiple bases, including Midway Island and the Ellis Islands, near Guadalcanal, where he survived the first of three military airplane crashes, a sea crash during take-off; and in 1944, he survived his second sea crash into San Francisco Bay while on a new equipment test flight and he was instrumental in saving his pilot's life. He continued on patrol duty in the South Pacific until he was rotated back to the United States, and was homeward bound aboard an aircraft carrier when the Japanese surrendered on August 14, 1945. He was assigned to the Pensacola Naval Station in Pensacola, FL as a Sea Plane Flight Instructor and served in that capacity until his discharge on February 6, 1947 with an Aviation Mechanic Flight Engineer First Class rating; and

**WHEREAS**, he enlisted in the United States Army in March 1948 in Milwaukee, WI and was assigned to the Army Air Corps as a B-29 Crew Chief at Fairfield Suisun Army Air Field, now Travis Air Force Base, near San Francisco, CA; and he was subsequently assigned to fly weather missions in the Aleutian Islands for 13 months. He was discharged from active duty on September 23, 1949 at Fairfield Suisun with the rank of Technical Sergeant (E6), and returned to Milwaukee as an Army Reservist; and

**WHEREAS**, he joined the United States Air Force Reserve in March 1952 in Milwaukee, WI as a full-time Department of the Air Force Technician and a Reserve Flight Chief. In 1964, he survived his third airplane crash at Billie Mitchell Field in Milwaukee during a snow-hampered take-off, and in 1965, he missed a fatal flying mission to the Bermuda Triangle Area, when a fellow NCO asked him to swap assignments. He became a Flight Line Chief and served in that capacity until his retirement as a Senior Master Sergeant (E8) on June 30, 1974 in Milwaukee. His total military service time for pay was 42 years, 10 months, 11 days; and his military decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medals from the Navy, Army Air Corps, & Air Force Reserve, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, Armed Forces Campaign & Service Medal, Air Force Reserve Medal, and Air Force Longevity Service Award; and

**WHEREAS**, he is a 26-year member of American Legion Post 532, Fifield, serving as Adjutant, a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6903, Park Falls, and a Life Member of AMVETS Post 50, Phillips. He is a six-year member of the Price County Veteran Services Commission; and he visits veterans in area nursing homes, installs veteran grave markers and flag holders in Price County cemeteries at no cost to veterans' families, and performs Honor Guard Service at veterans funerals. He is researching and writing a book about veterans buried in Price County cemeteries who served in the Indian Wars, Mexican Border War, Civil War, and Spanish American War; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as Secretary of the Price County Aging Board for six years, served as Commissioner of the Fifield Sewer and Water Board for seven years, and is the Caretaker of the Price County Museum located in Fifield. He delivered meals to area elderly for two years, is active in Santa's Elves Foundation, and is a long-time member of St. Francis Catholic Church. He and his late wife, Elisabeth, raised four children, two of whom are Vietnam veterans; and, over the years, has been instrumental in saving the lives to two drowning and two car crash victims.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Daniel J. Naylor, Chair of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, proclaim **JOHN F. WEINDORFER, Sr.** the recipient of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2010.

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**DANIEL J. NAYLOR**  
Board Chair