

**BOARD MINUTES**  
**WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Meeting of April 14, 2014  
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

**Board Members**

John Townsend, Chair  
John Gaedke, Vice Chair  
Dan Bohlin, Secretary  
Al Richards  
Carl Krueger  
Cathy Gorst (via teleconference)  
Larry Kutschma  
Kevin Nicholson (excused)  
Roger Roth (excused)

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

Roger Fetterly, MOAA  
Mike & Denise Rohan, American Legion  
Rep. Warren Petryk  
Mike Gourlie, WACVO  
Mike Furgal, VFW  
Dave Zien, former State Senator  
Tony Tyczynski, Sauk CVSO  
Clif Sorenson, Eau Claire CVSO  
Jim K. Overman  
Dennis Wood, FOG Magazine

**WDVA Present**

John A. Scocos, Secretary  
Chad Koplien, Chief Legal Counsel  
Carla Vigue, Communications Director  
Ken Grant, Division Administrator  
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director  
James Parker, CFO  
Kathy Marschman, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
James Bond, Division Administrator  
Kelli Kaalele, Division Administrator  
Mark Wilson, Chippewa Falls Commandant  
Randy Nitschke, Division Administrator  
Jessica Manthe, Chippewa Falls Admissions Director  
Julie Van Metre, Executive Staff Assistant

1. **Call to order and roll call**

The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Certification of notice of meeting**

Proper notification of the meeting had occurred.

3. **Board action on minutes of the Board's September 13, 2013 teleconference**

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Bohlin and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the Board's September 13, 2013 meeting in Union Grove.

4. **Election of Board Officers**

Mr. Gaedke nominated John Townsend for Chair. The nominations were closed and Mr. Townsend was elected chair.

Mr. Kutschma nominated John Gaedke for Vice Chair. The nominations were closed and Mr. Gaedke was elected Vice Chair.

Mr. Kutschma nominated Dan Bohlin for Secretary. The nominations were closed and Mr. Bohlin was elected Secretary.

Secretary Scocos took a moment to present an award plaque to State Representative Warren Petryk.

5. Jim Overman (USAF-Retired) spoke on the importance of promoting the story of the American Bald Eagle as our national emblem. He talked about the planned event, "Moments," at Yankee Stadium in recognition of Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives on 20 June 2014. The event will be promoted by the National VFW.

6. Secretary's Matters

Secretary Scocos gave a power point presentation updating the Board on Department issues to include: legislative, budget & finance, veterans homes, administration, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, benefits, and services. He answered several questions from Board members.

7. The Board and its Role for the Department

The role of the Board has shifted from a governing Board to an advisory Board.

- a. District Updates to the Agency

Each Board member spoke briefly on veteran issues in the congressional district they represent.

- b. Future WDVA Newsletter

A copy of the Department's *Advocate* was provided to the Board members. It has been distributed to veterans service organizations and posts.

- c. Advice on Topics Solicited from the Secretary

The Chair asked how the Board could assist the Department. The Secretary said communication is key, and sharing what you're hearing around the state on how we can assist veterans.

- d. Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

Volunteering to be on the Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award Committee to select recipients for the award: Larry Kutschma, Al Richards and John Gaedke.

- e. Possible Grant Award Committee (2013 AB 805/SB613)

Volunteering to be on the grant award selection committee: Larry Kutschma, Carl Krueger and Dan Bohlin.

8. Revision of By-Laws

A draft of the proposed Board By-Laws was provided to Board members for review with instructions to forward their comments to WDVA Attorney Chad Koplien.

9. Report of the Council on Veterans Programs

Roger Fetterly, Chair of the Council on Veterans Programs reported on four items discussed at the April 14th Council meeting.

(1) A presentation on the proposal by the Wisconsin Council on Licensing and Certification for accelerating veteran's certification for LPN, Commercial Drivers Licenses and law enforcement. They voted to make the COVP a member of the Wisconsin team.

(2) The Fisher House groundbreaking is June 3 on the Milwaukee VA Hospital grounds.

(3) Veterans Courts—the Council has and will continue to support legislation on veterans courts.

(4) A discussion on a proposed protocol on electronic communications and the open meetings law.

10. Public comments

Dennis Wood, Sr., the publisher of FOG, a veteran magazine to help generations of veterans provided the group with this new veterans journal which is distributed in Wisconsin and surrounding states.

Dave Zien, former Senator, spoke on the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home expansion, the Wisconsin Veteran Tribute, veteran named highways and bridges, the Veterans Empowerment Resource Command (VERC), mining and the Veterans Trust Fund.

Chair Townsend read a letter signed by Kern Marden encouraging the expansion of the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

11. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke, seconded by Mr. Kutschma and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting, the time was 3:00 p.m.

John Townsend  
Chair