

BOARD MINUTES
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Meeting of June 29, 2017
Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls
2175 East Park Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Board Members

Larry Kutschma, Chair
Dan Bohlin, Secretary
John Gaedke
John Townsend
Al Richards
Cathy Gorst
Carl Krueger

Others Present (not all inclusive)

Ryan Knocke (Rep. Evan Goyke's Staff)

WDVA Present

Dan Zimmerman, Secretary
Tom Rhatican, Deputy Secretary
Kathy Still, Asst. Deputy Secretary
Randy Nitschke, Homes Administrator
Ken Grant, Division of Veterans Services Administrator
James Bond, Division of Veterans Benefits Administrator
Steve Janke, CVSO Liaison
Jason Church, VSO Liaison
Josh Heine, Executive Staff Assistant
Kelly Behling, Executive Staff Assistant

1. Call to order and roll call

A moment of silence was observed for POWs, fallen comrades, and all others whose job is to serve and protect. The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by the Chair. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Certification of notice of meeting

Proper notification of the meeting occurred.

4. Board action on minutes from October 20, 2016 meeting

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 9th, 2017.

5. Discussion on new Field Representatives appointed by Secretary Zimmerman

Field Representatives Jason Church and Steven Jenke introduced themselves to the Board Members. Board Chair Larry Kutschma requested information on how the LTE Positions were paid for. Board Member Dan Bohlin requested a Report from Jason and Steven be added to future Agendas.

6. Discussion Legislation on Veteran Farmer Assistance Program

Board Members discussed Legislation on Veteran Farmer Assistance Program. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously on a voice vote support Legislation on Veteran Farmer Assistance Program.

7. Discussion on Legislation of Veterans Affairs review of Chapter 45

Board Members and WDVA Staff discussed Legislation of Veterans Affairs review of Chapter 45. Board Chair Larry Kutschma requested copies of the updated draft of Chapter 45. Assistant Deputy Secretary Kathy Still stated she would provide a “P2” edition to the Board members. Board Member John Gaedke recommended a representative from the Board meet with Assistant Deputy Secretary Kathy Still and Representative Skowronski to discuss the Chapter 45 revision.

8. COVP Report to the Board

No Council members present to provide the COVP Report.

9. Secretary’s Comments

Secretary Zimmerman addressed the Board.

10. Board Members Report by District.

District one: Board Chair Mr. Kutschma reports he is working with the Governor’s Office to fill vacant Board Member positions.

District Two: Mr. Gaedke has nothing to report.

District Three: Mr. Bohlin Reports he is resigning his position as a Board Member.

District four: Mr. Krueger has nothing to report.

District six: Mr. Townsend Reports requested the Wisconsin Veterans Museum add books about Wisconsin Veterans. Mr. Townsend brought up the declining membership in Veterans Service Organizations which is causing a financial hardship for the organizations.

District Seven: Ms. Cathy Gorst has nothing to report.

At Large: Mr. Richards has nothing to report.

12. Future Meetings

Board Chair will work with WDVA Secretary to plan next meeting.

13. Public Comment

No Public comment.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

Larry Kutschma
Chair

ATTACHMENTS: