

BOARD MINUTES
WISCONSIN BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Meeting of July 20, 2015
Madison, Wisconsin

Board Members

John Townsend, Chair
John Gaedke, Vice Chair
Dan Bohlin, Secretary (excused)
Larry Kutschma
Al Richards
Leigh Neville-Neil (absent)
Cathy Gorst (via telephone)
Kevin Nicholson
Carl Krueger

Others Present (not all inclusive)

Roger Fetterly, COVP/MOAA
David Schmidt, COVP/AMVETS
Joe Aulik, COVP/CSVSOA
Richard Hasse, CVSO Columbia County
Mike Daniels

WDVA Present

John A. Scocos, Secretary
Kathy Marschman, Assistant Dep. Sec.
Ken Grant, Division Administrator
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director
James Bond, Division Administrator
Jim Parker, CFO
Randy Nitschke, Division Administrator
Michael Telzrow, Museum Director
Debra Ripp, Executive Staff Assistant

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chair Townsend. A quorum was present.

2. **Certification of notice of meeting**

Proper notification of the meeting occurred.

3. **Draft minutes**

a. **Board action on minutes of the Board's May 1, 2015 Teleconference meeting in Madison.**

It was moved by Mr. Gaedke, seconded by Mr. Kutschma and carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the Board's teleconference meeting held May 1, 2015 meeting in Madison.

4. **Budget and Legislative Brief**

Secretary John Scocos gave an overall update to the board, James Parker gave an update on the budget and answered questions from the Board; Kathy Marschman recapped legislative initiatives that were adopted last session as well as current initiatives. Randy Nitschke discussed veterans homes, financials, regulations, Medicare certification at King, CMI, leadership structure, star ratings and care metrics; Mr. Nitschke shared that WDVA homes are rated higher than national average and discussed new programs for Alzheimer's and Memory Care Patients. Ken Grant updated the Board on new grants received, the

veterans employment grant, entrepreneurship grant, VHARP (Veterans Housing and Recovery Program), VORP program for chronic homeless veterans and veterans at-risk, (primary focus in rural areas where lack of services exist) and VORP enhancement grant with expanded services, Otto Bremer Foundation grant (emergency services assistance for veterans and their families) and updated Board on news from the Claims Office and internal changes in that regard.

5. Briefing on the Wisconsin WWI Centennial Commission

Museum Director Michael Telzrow briefed the Board on a new WWI Centennial Commission established by the federal government to plan and execute educational programs and make resources available to the public. The Wisconsin Centennial Commission will have an 8 member commission made up of volunteers with expertise in the subject. Chairman of the commission will be John Townsend.

6. Creation of Task Force on the Future of Benefits

Secretary Scocos spoke to the Board regarding the task force which WDVA Board Chairman Townsend will put together. WDVA staff will brief the committee on benefits, trends, audits and develop a plan for the future.

7. Secretary's comments

Secretary Scocos spoke on the following topics:

- Camp Randall Memorial
- WDVA Budget

8. Public comments

Regarding the Task Force on the Future of Benefits, a question was asked regarding the possibility of a community member serving as the member at large. Discussion was had on possible task force members.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Kutschma, seconded and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting, the time was 2:55 p.m.

John Townsend
Chair