

Meeting - Veteran's Service Committee & Commission Minutes

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee & Commission

Date: Thursday October 26th, 2017

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: Forest County Board Room #107

Call to Order

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and read the agenda.

Roll Call

Members Present: Bocek, Papapetru, Cundiff, Thornton, Matuszewski and Chaney.

Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

Approve Agenda

Motion by Matuszewski to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Thornton, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

Approve Minutes of the June 14th 2017 Meeting

Motion by Chaney to approve minutes of the June 14th 2017 meeting, seconded by Cundiff, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

Introduction of new Commission Member

VSO introduced Paul Thornton of Laona. VSO explained that Mr. Thornton has replaced Lynn Liesch as the Commander of the VFW Cook-Elfors Laona Post 6823.

The Higher Ground Veteran Tour –Neillsville WI

VSO reports the trip / tour of the Higher Ground in Neillsville on August 6th was highly successful. VSO explains 26 veterans participated and that the feedback after was extremely positive.

Veteran Town Hall

VSO reports that Iron Mountain VAMC presented a Town Hall in Crandon on September 7th at the American Legion Post 94 in which 17 veterans attended. VSO explains that this informational presentation about what services are newly offered and primarily a Q&A session so if a veteran has questions or issues this is the time to ask. VSO explains that the leadership from Iron Mountain VAMC are the presenters and will listen to comments & concerns. VSO also announces that another Town Hall will be presented on December 12th at the American Legion Post 94 in Wabeno at 9:30. VSO also advises that he invited and was informed that the Oconto CO CVSO Ron Christensen will attend this presentation as well.

Nolden Vet Bugs Donation

VSO explained the Nolden' Donated another \$700.00 to the office. VSO explains that this donation was used to purchase gas cards to be distributed to needy veterans.

Veteran ID Cards

VSO explains that in November veterans can apply for a Veteran Id Card. VSO explains that this Id card can be applied through the general VA website. VSO explains that the VA could charge a fee for this but currently that is not planned. VSO explains that there is no timeline in how long it takes to receive the card.

WDVA Reimbursement Grant Update

VSO Explains that on July 13th 2017 he received \$364.83 from the WDVA with a grand total of \$5963.99 reimbursed for 2017. VSO explains that this will be last reimbursement style grant due to the fact that the grant will be returned back to the original block style grant. VSO explains that he will be eligible for an \$8500 grant without having to supply proof of expenses.

WI GI BILL Dependent Update

VSO explain that the WDVA has changed the criteria in regards to eligibility of the WI GI Bill. VSO explains that a veteran has to live in Wisconsin (Home of Record) five consecutive years to be eligible for the WI GI Bill which is tuition remission of 128 credits or 8 semesters and a dependent wasn't eligible. WDVA is now taking applications and certifying children of 30 S/C or more veterans (those without Wisconsin Home of Record) for the WI GI Bill. They will require documentation for the child to show that he/she has also lived in WI for at least five years.

Request Increase of Veteran Relief Amount

VSO requests that the current relief amount to be distributed to a veteran in need is \$100.00. VSO explains that this amount doesn't go very far when a veteran is in dire situation. VSO request that this amount be increased to \$200.00. VSO explains that he distributed relief checks to two needy veterans this year and in his opinion they needed much more. All present unanimously agree that the VSO shall have the discretion on amount to be distributed up to \$250.00 annually.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Motion by Matuszewski to adjourn, seconded by Cundiff, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.