

## **Meeting - Veteran's Service Committee & Commission Minutes**

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee & Commission

Date: Tuesday October 9th

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Forest County Board Room #107

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and read the agenda.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Papapetru, Thornton, Cundiff, Savard, Berg and Chaney.

Others Present: County Board Chair Tom Tallier & VSO Robert Koplien

### **Approve Agenda**

Motion by Berg to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Savard, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### **Approve Minutes of the Meeting**

Motion by Savard to approve minutes of the April 23rd, 2018 meeting, seconded by Thornton, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### **Social Media Facebook Page**

VSO explains that he has now started a Facebook Social Media page with the idea of getting new & old information out to veterans that typically don't read the standard newspaper. VSO reports that this page will be utilized primarily for news releases for VA benefit changes and breaking organization events. VSO explains that this will not be something of a question & answer page.

### **WI Veteran Green Alert**

VSO explains that on Mar 28, 2018 - Walker signed the 'Green Alert' Bill into law that day, making Wisconsin the first state to create an alert system for when veterans go missing. This notification is similar to the Amber Alert for children and the Silver Alert for missing senior citizens.

### **VA Peer support**

VSO introduces VA PEER SUPPORT Specialist Mark Mikolajczak who's based out of the Rhinelander CBOC VA Clinic. VSO explains that he has continual contact with local Forest county veterans in needs of consoling. VSO explains that Mr. Mikolajczak is very proactive and is a vital resource for veterans in need.

### **Forest County: By The Numbers 2017**

VSO explains hand out with all 2017 numbers in regards number of veterans living in Forest County 905, amount of compensation / pension benefits received \$5.16 Million, number of veterans using VA healthcare 512 to include the value amount of medical benefits utilized \$6.22 Million, and the amount of WI property tax refunded to severely service connected veterans /widows for fiscal year of 2017 \$109,266. VSO states all numbers are from the National Center for Veterans Analysis & WI Department of Revenue.

VSO also reports that as of this morning his office has had approximately 298 office visits & 464 phone calls since the first of the year.

#### **Office Updates**

VSO explains that recently he has been processing and submitting claim through an VA internet portal called DATA Dimensions 360. VSO explains that this is paperless process and it's a direct submittal into the VA Network. VSO explains that he's noticed that this has been reducing claim adjudication by a month or more therefore veterans are getting benefits quicker.

#### **Public Comments**

VFW (Laona) Commander Paul Thornton explains that open enrollment for Tricare recipients with dental & vision has begun and will end soon. Thornton explained that due to changes in that insurance coverage dental & vision will no longer be covered. Thornton advises that if you don't apply during the open enrollment period the benefit will no longer be available for the retiree. VSO explains in addition that Delta Dental & Met Life Dental Insurance is available with no waiting period and current Tricare recipients will be grandfathered in without waiting for times frames to pass for eligibility.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Motion by Savard to adjourn, seconded by Berg, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.