

Meeting - Veteran's Service Committee & Commission Minutes

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee & Commission

Date: Tuesday April 6th 2021

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, Chaney & Berg

Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

Approve Agenda

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

Motion carried

Approve Minutes of the Meeting

Motion by Bocek, to approve minutes of the Wednesday November 18th 2020 meeting, seconded by Papapetru, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

Vietnam Presumptive Conditions Update

VSO reports that on Saturday, January 1, 2021, the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act was passed into law (Public Law 116-283). VSO states that the new law adds three diseases presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents, such as Agent Orange, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. VSO states the current list of presumptive conditions will be updated to include the following three statutory presumptive diseases: Parkinsonism, Bladder Cancer, and Hypothyroidism.

Vietnam War Dates Update

VSO reports on January 5, 2021, the President signed the "Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020" (Public Law 116-315). Several amendments in the Public Law are relevant to the Compensation and Pension programs. VSO states that this law revises the definition of the Vietnam era as beginning on November 1, 1955 instead of February 28, 1961, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. VSO reports that this provision does not impact the Compensation program directly, it does potentially expand eligibility to nonservice-connected pension for Veterans who may have served in Vietnam beginning on November 1, 1955.

VA Suspend Debt Collection

VSO reports VA suspends debt collections through September 2021

VSO states that the Veterans Affairs has decided extend their suspension of debt collection on benefits overpayments and medical co-pays through September. VSO explains that the VA had paused those debt repayments in April 2020, in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Covid 19 Pandemic Updates

VSO reports that all enrolled veterans are eligible to receive the Moderna Covid- 19 vaccine > Iron Mountain Oscar G Johnson Medical Center is asking enrolled veterans to call 906-774-3300 and then dial extension 33115 between hours 1:30 and 4:30 Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment at the desired locations of Iron Mountain VAMC or Rhinelander CBOC.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, Motion by Berg to adjourn, seconded by Chaney, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.