

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

Committee: Veteran's Service Committee

Date: Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Place: County Board Room #107

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and read the agenda.

### **Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence POW/MIA**

All those in attendance recited the pledge and observed a moment of silence for POW/MIA.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Chaney, Marvin, Bocek, Alsteen & Skallerud

Others Present: VSO Robert Koplien

### **Approve Agenda**

Motion by Marvin to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Skallerud, all present voting AYE.

Motion carried

### **Approve minutes of prior meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

Motion carried

### **Recognition of the recently fallen.**

VSO reads off list of twelve fallen veterans since last meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### **VAMC Town Hall Wabeno Post 44**

VSO reports that on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. he assisted the Iron Mountain VAMC with a presentation on VA Healthcare, update on PACT Act and listened to any comments and concerns. VSO states that the Oconto County Veteran Service Officer Ron Christensen was also in attendance to assist. VSO reports that sixteen veterans / dependents were in attendance.

### **Office Advertising Update**

VSO reports that he's purchased numerous office advertising items through the WDVA supplemental grant. VSO states that these items of pens, shopping bags, cups & golf towels help in spreading the word to those that don't know that there's an office available to eligible veterans and dependents.

Additionally, VSO reports that on September 10th he attended a Veterans Golf outing in Laona and personally handed out approximately ninety office personalized golf towels to each veteran in attendance.

### **Courthouse Square WWII Memorial Project Update**

VSO reports that the project is moving forward & he's been informed the project organizer and funder Earl Cummings Jr. is working directly with Jeff Krueger. VSO states that Mr Krueger has worked out logistics in regards to shipping and the memorial statue will be stored this winter locally at Mr Krueger's shop. VSO additionally states that they hope the project will be completed before Memorial Day 2025 which is earlier than anticipated.

### **Forest County by The Numbers**

VSO provides a list of 2023 overall numbers and statistics to each committee and commission member in attendance. 829 The number of living veterans, or widows/widowers receiving Federal VA benefits in Forest County, as of 2023.

\$5.82 million: The amount of compensation and pension benefits that the Forest County Veterans Service Office facilitated in 2023 from the federal Veterans Administration alone.

421: The number of Forest County veterans who, in 2023 used the VA health care.

\$8.21 million: The value of VA medical benefits utilized by Forest County Veterans in 2023.

\$105,836 – The amount of property tax credit refunded to severely service-connected Forest County veterans and widows (65 filers) of for fiscal year 2023.

236 – The amount of fiscal year VA Guaranteed home loans in Forest County.

Forest County CVSO Office received 549 veteran related phone calls & emails with 274 office visits in 2023. VSO references are National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics & WI Department of Revenue.

### **Public Comments**

VSO advises that the American Legion Post 94 is doing a recruitment day this Saturday October

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Motion by Marvin to adjourn, seconded by Skallerud, all present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.