

## VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2011

PRESENT: STAN KLINE, DALE WITZKE, JOE MAEHL, BOB WIPF, BOB WARNKE, ROBERT STONE AND JUDY STECKBAUER

ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

Stan Kline called the meeting to order and requested a motion for the acceptance of the meeting agenda. Joe Maehl so moved, second by Bob Wipf. All ayes, motion carried. Stan Kline called for Public Comments. As none, minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were read. Stan Kline requested motion for the acceptance of the meeting minutes as read. Bob Warnke so moved, second by Bob Wipf. All ayes, motion carried. Stan Kline requested motion for acceptance of the February 17, 2011 financial report. Dale Witzke so moved, second by Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried.

**Old Business:** Volunteer Mileage – nothing new but the issue has been brought up for discussion. Encourage veterans to contact their legislators regarding this issue.

Recap Veterans Recognition and Tribute Event – Robert was encouraged about the attendance this year and the event will continue. Issue of having at a different time of year again brought forward. Robert instructed to bring up this issue at the Council of Veteran Organizations for their suggestion and support of date for 2011. The intent of the event is not only to serve as recognition but also as a memorial to the departed. Explained change in philosophy on the Presidential Memorial Certificates. They are going directly to the family but the office is still keeping track of all requested. On the invitation to the families of the departed this next year, an RVSP for the event will be required. Suggestion made that a reminder call should go out to those that RSVP. Families participating will then receive a memorial certificate from Winnebago County.

**New Business:** January CVSO Report along with recap of 2009 vs. 2010 distributed. The drastic change in transportation figures was noted. Robert spoke on the changes to the program. There is some concern with the number of current transportation volunteers. Bob Wipf inquired how a person becomes a volunteer driver. Due to the current shortage in drivers, a request for a ride this past week could not be met. Robert explained issues and options with DAV. He will speak to the VISN12 medical director regarding doing the medical screenings for these volunteers. Bob Wipf will speak to the local DAV commander regarding this issue. Goal would be to try and get the DAV in Milwaukee to

still certify our drivers. Robert also emphasized that 7% of all Winnebago County veterans have come in for their first contact with the office in the last 2 years!

Robert Stone also spoke on the training he received on the legislative process and the crisis situation of the Veterans Trust Fund. Explained history of trust fund and some of the ways that funds are trying to be raised such as the tax check off box. Disbursements of WDVA benefits have drastically decreased over the last several years. Approximately \$63 million in benefits were received by WI veterans in 2008, \$21 million in 2009 and only \$5 million in 2010. The debt obligation exceeds the available funds. A resolution in support of the trust fund was distributed. Robert will speak to chairman of Judiciary & Public Safety committee regarding getting on the agenda for this issue in hopes that it will be supported and then forwarded on to the legislative committee. Operations of the WDVA museum, the funeral honors program as well as salaries of WDVA employees all come out of the trust fund, besides veterans' benefits. The annual CVSO grant is under scrutiny. Bob Wipf stated that preservation of the trust fund is the number 1 issue for the American Legion. Commissioners gave no recommendation on resolution.

Stan Kline requested motion to go into closed session. Dale Witzke so moved at 10:00 a.m., second by Joe Maehl. Roll Call – Stan Kline – aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Joe Maehl – aye, Bob Wipf – aye, Bob Warnke - aye. All ayes, motion carried. Convened in closed session for the purposes of acting on applications for financial, medical, social, or personal histories of such applicants which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or date, as provided in sec. 19.85 [1] [f], Wisconsin State Statutes.

Stan Kline requested motion to come out of closed session. Bob Wipf so moved at 10:30 a.m., second by Dale Witzke. Roll call – Stan Kline – aye, Dale Witzke – aye, Joe Maehl – aye, Bob Wipf – aye, Bob Warnke. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be on March 10, 2011, 9:30 AM, JP Coughlin Bldg. Meeting Room B, 625 County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Issue of the Council of Veteran Organizations as well as VSC meeting being on same date as the WDVA Board meetings. Discussion regarding moving to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month to avoid the conflict. Judy will check on meeting room availability and date change will also be discussed at March Council of Veteran Organization meeting.

Dale Witzke moved to adjourn, seconded by Joe Maehl. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer, Secretary

