

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

DATE: March 14th, 2024 @ 9:30 AM
LOCATION: J.P. Coughlin Building

PRESENT:	Jeff Bucholtz	Francis Mathe	Jon Plypiv	Roy Rogers
	Duane Canon	Jim Meinke	Jerry Schultz	Tom Snider
	Bill Christianson	Marissa Mielke	Dave Steinert	Lydia Wilz
	Richard Daseke	Joe Miller	Diane Steinert	Guest: Jane Eiting
	Patti Julius	Randy Miller	Paul Rhyner	

1. Call To Order:

Jeff Bucholtz called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Jeff Bucholtz led pledge of allegiance and moment of silence

3. Roll Call/Introductions:

Introductions were made: This was skipped due to the amount of info that needed to be discussed.

Guest Speaker's: Jane Eiting, LCSW with Caregiver Support Program

Caregiver Support started around 2007 due to the number of veterans who needed this type of care coming home from Iraq. There are two different programs under the Caregiver Support Program: Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) and Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). All veterans are eligible for PGCSS but there are eligibility requirements for PCAFC.

Each of the programs have four core elements: Education and Support, Collaboration and Support, Outreach, Resources and Referrals.

They offer numerous of types of supports for the caregivers. They offer S.A.V.E training which helps the caregiver understand suicide prevention. They offer Skills Training so that the caregiver understands how to take care of the veterans specific medical need. They can send supportive messages, and they offer counseling to the caregiver.

There are numerous of programs within the Caregiver Support Program to help continue coaching, offer peer support, and respite care to help reduce burnout and relieve stress (roughly 6 hours a week).

Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274 Caregiver Supporters should call this number if they need help finding additional resources

For more information go to [www.caregiver .va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

4. Old Business:

- Military Veterans Museum: They are looking for volunteers!
- Still fundraising for the education center.

5. New Business and VA Updates:

Jeff detailed the following handouts:

- Jeff touched on the Tri-County Mission: Possible Symposium with numerous of updates.
- VA Health Care has an expansion of Health Care Eligibility for Toxic Exposed Veterans. Please spread the word about this at your posts. This helped eliminate some of the barriers of the five year window the VA has on enrollment.

- Fox Valley Veterans Council is looking for additional Volunteers to assist with their case management. If you are interested in doing this, please contact them via their contact info on their website.
- DAV Chapter 17 is looking for drivers for the transportation program
- Safe Storage of Firearms: live today store it away. This program provides free storage for firearms for veterans who are in crisis.

6. Local Community Updates:

- 40&8 and VFW Post 2126 is preparing for their flag initiative. They will begin going into schools starting in March to explain what the flag means. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact one of these posts.
- There is talk about having a Monument put up for Persian Gulf and Global War on Terrorism (Neenah/Menasha). The City Cemetery is open to having this, but the financial burden is falling on the surviving spouse who is spear heading this initiative. Twin City is looking at helping, but we are putting feelers out should any of the local veteran organizations be willing to donate. The spouse is not asking for donations, our Office is the one looking to see if there is any interest.
- Winnebago County Veterans Services Office is continuing their outreach with Winneconne and started outreach in Omro. We will be alternating sites each month.

7. Upcoming Events:

- Omro Post 234 is having Monday Night BINGO on the 3rd Monday of the month. There is FREE Parking!
- Mission: Possible is being hosted May 10th-11th by Calumet, Outagamie, & Winnebago County Veterans Service Office
- MVPA-HA is coming to Oshkosh WI. This is their 49th International Convention and is most likely a one time thing for this area. This is a huge event.
- March is Veteran Suicide Awareness Month. 04/20/2024 there will be a 2.2 mile ruck march/walk.
- 04/20/2024 the Omro AL Auxiliary is hosting their annual craft show. They are accepting vendors.
- Lucky Dogz is hosting their annual car show on 05/27/2024
- Post 33 says to have your taste buds ready on 04/04-04/06 as they will be hosting their first brat fry for the season!

Please see our Winnebago County Veterans Service Office Website for more upcoming events

8. Next Meeting Time, Date and Place:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held April 11th, 2024 @ 9:30 AM, at the James Coughlin Building; Meeting Room A. We will have a guest speaker at this meeting: Cheri Paulson with Little Charlotte's Rescue

Any new information the office has received will be distributed and discussed. Participation in this meeting is encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia Wilz

Deputy Director