

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

DATE: November 10, 2021 @ 9:30 AM
LOCATION: J.P. Coughlin Building
PRESENT:

Jeff Bucholtz	Judy Steckbauer	Jared Tierney
Duane Canon	Dave Steinert	Paul Rhyner
Dan White	Ron Griffin	John Hoeft
Richard Daseke	Marissa Mielke	Richard Martin Jr.
Dave Mix	Patti Julius	Michael Dart
Cindy Grunert	Roy Rogers	Mark Mennen
Pete Hennes	Jerry Schultz	Corey Smith
Mark Nielsen	Tim Patterson	

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. Happy Birthday to the Marine Corp. Also thanked all the veterans in attendance for what they have done for the veterans of Winnebago County. A lot of assistance and dedication besides the many hours doing military funeral honors.

3. Roll Call/Introductions

Roundtable introductions. Some new faces which is fantastic.

-Quilts for Valor – Cindy Grunert. Thanked everyone for their services. This is a national organization covering veterans and the military with comfort. 2,856,000 have been distributed to veterans. Several different beautiful quilts were shown that will be given to veterans. She travels to where ever they are presented. First quilt was presented in 2013 at Walter Reed to an Iraq veteran who lost his legs. All volunteers. All it takes is to request. All 10,000 volunteers are very passionate. They are all over the country. Label on each quilt with who made and date awarded. All washable, 100% cotton. Can go on website to nominate. Criteria is that you were touched by war in some way and have an honorable discharge. Very rewarding to her. They are meant to be used, not stored. Do give a pillow case for storage with though. Many veterans open up to family after being thanked for their service by the quilt. She even receives notifications when those presented have passed. She is very passionate about this and quilts are stitched with love. Phone: 920-540-0392 or cgrunert@new.rr.com, www.QOVF.org

-Lutheran Social Services – Jared Tierney, Make the Ride Happen. Volunteer driver program to fill transportation gaps for appointments. Also works with DAV to fill gaps. Other than appointment they also provide rides to employment – helps people that do not have their own transportation. They reimburse mileage to the drivers. This reimbursement can be transferred to a VSO. Bolster people to be active in the community. Commitment is centered around the volunteer. Program can not run without volunteers. They do not want to duplicate services.

4. Old Business, MVM –Dan White (Lead Docent) Several activities still in November but nothing in December. Will have gun raffle tickets available at the meeting next month and also

available for purchase at the MVM. He will post posters also. Some displays have been switched, so encouraged everyone to come into see.

5. New Business

Roundtable of events.

-If you hear of anyone that needs help during the holidays, encouraged to contact our offices because organizations are contacting us for names.

-Vets & Friends, veterans coffee house, food pantry & museum. 2508 N. Richmond St. Appleton, WI. 920-475-0777 (Jack)

-Mark Nielsen spoke on the senate & assembly bill for 70, 80 & 90% service connected veterans receiving a property tax credit. Currently only for 100% service connected veterans. Also spoke on Federal CVSO Act.

-December 7, Pearl Harbor at Elks Lodge, Oshkosh. Doors open at 7:15.

-Casket flags are having a backlog.

-VA has opened services to homeless veterans even in not utilizing VA health care. Also, discharge does not need to be honorable.

-Office starting outreach at Winneconne AL Post for rural areas of county. Staff member will be there 1 day/month and we will see how it goes.

6. VA Updates

Jeff detailed handouts.

-Desert Veterans of Wisconsin Recipient Request Form distributed. They are requesting for Christmas assistance.

-Country Haven Farm Project is underway to provide a great Northwoods retreat for WI veterans and their Families. Contact: Vickie Frank, 920-203-8692, VFRANK1968@GMAIL.COM

-VA extend presumptive period for Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026 for chronic disabilities rated 10% or more resulting from undiagnosed illnesses.

-Manderfield's is asking that you round up your purchase to the nearest dollar. Each month they will match your donations and send a check to the Old Glory Honor Flight.

-Operation Waverly Assisting Homeless Veterans. The Oshkosh DAV Auxiliary, Oshkosh Public Museum and Ms. Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000, have launched this as a component of the White Christmas exhibition. They will be collecting items to benefit the Day By Day Warming Shelter in Oshkosh. They are teaming up to make a difference to veterans! For additional information contact Tammy at the Museum, 920-236-5763 or

tmalewski@ci.oshkosh.wi.us.

-Flyer for Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build distributed. They provide homeownership, critical home repairs, employment and volunteer engagement opportunities for U.S. veterans, military service members and their families.

Next Meeting Time, Date and Place

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held December 9, 2021 @ 9:30 AM, James Coughlin Building, Meeting Room A. A different benefit will be covered each month and also any new information the office has received. Participation in this meeting encouraged. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Steckbauer