

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs  
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
Iowa Gold Star Military Museum  
7105 - NW 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Johnston, IA 50313-1824

**Present:** Elizabeth Ledvina, Chair  
Orene Cressler  
George Mosby  
Steve Hyde  
Darlene McMartin  
Kenny Lloyd  
Greg Paulline  
Gary Wattnem  
Carol Whitmore  
Mary Van Horn

**Recording Secretary:** Mari Mielke, IDVA - Recording Secretary

**Guests/ Presenters:** Patty Hamann, Cedar Count VA  
Jerry Hauser, American Legion  
Amy Muse, American Legion  
Jamie Johnson, Iowa City VAMC  
Hanna Hanson, H-WAVE  
Bruce Voigt, Director VARO  
Missy Miller, IDVA  
Kevin House, IDVA  
Chad Nelson, Iowa National Guard  
Eddie Andrews, IA House of Rep.

Brian Ring Sr. American Legion  
Doug Maccree, American Legion  
Dan Kuester, DSM - VAMC  
Julie Simon, IA Senate Dem. Caucus  
Mike Mortensen, Polk County VA  
Kristi Catrenich, VARO  
Brett McLain, Story County VA  
Leah Parker, Iowa National Guard  
Harrison Swift, Sen. Grassley's Office  
Karl Lettow

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE WHEN DATED AND SIGNED BY THE MEETING CHAIR**

**APPROVED:** Elizabeth Ledvina **Date:** 3/20/23  
Elizabeth Ledvina, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Ledvina called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

Chairperson Ledvina led the Pledge of Allegiance following the Call to Order.

**Roll Call:**

Recording Secretary took roll call; all but Commissioner Cressler were present at Roll Call. Commissioner Cressler joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

**Welcome/Introductions of Guests**

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

**Presentations**

Hanna Hanson with H-WAVE gave a presentation regarding the physical benefits of using Therapeutic Massage therapy for veterans.

**VA Regional Office Update**

Director Bruce Voigt from the VA Regional Office gave his final update to the Commission as he will be relocating and the Regional Office will have a new Director stepping in.

**VA Medical Centers Update**

Iowa City VAMC Jamie Johnson on behalf of Director Judith Johnson-Mekota gave an update for the Commission.

Des Moines VAMC Dan Kuester Public Affairs Officer gave an update on behalf of new Director Darwin Goodspeed who was unable to make the meeting because of a prior commitment.

Laurel Degelau, Volunteer Services Coordinator from the Iowa Veterans Home talked about requesting \$20,000 to build a concrete wall at IVH for creating a mural for all to see. Commissioner Ledvina told Laurel to contact Missy Miller from IDVA to help with a Veterans Project Request for receiving the funds from the Veterans License Plate Fund.

**Iowa Veterans Home and IDVA Merger Update**

Commandant Peterson from IVH and the current interim Executive Director at IDVA gave an oral update to the Commission regarding the merger and an update of admissions of 4-5 per month. Explained other priorities about recruitment and retention in detail. Talked about campus building improvements are ongoing. Also talked about the incentives going on at IVH for perfect attendance.

**Approval of Commission Minutes**

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve the quarterly Commission meeting of April 6<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Wattnem seconded the motion. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Van Horn made a motion to approve the Trust Fund meeting minutes of April 7<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Cressler made a motion to approve the Trust Fund meeting minutes of May 5<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Commissioner Hyde. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Whitmore made a motion to approve the Trust Fund meeting minutes of June 2<sup>nd</sup> and was seconded by Commissioner Van Horn. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

**Elections**

Commissioner Whitmore nominated Commissioner Ledvina to remain Chair, which she accepted. With no other nominations, Commissioner Wattnem seconded the nomination; nomination carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wattnem nominated Commissioner McMartin to remain as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, which she accepted. With no other nominations, Commissioner Van Horn seconded the nomination; nomination carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Ledvina nominated Commissioner Wattnem to remain 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, which he accepted. With no other nominations, Commissioner Cressler seconded the nomination; nomination carried; approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Commission meeting**

Next quarterly Commission meeting will be held at the Iowa Veterans Home on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.