

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, Camp Dodge
7105 – NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50313-1824

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

Staff: Steve Lukan, Executive Director, IDVA
Mari Mielke, IDVA – Recording Secretary
Karl Lettow, IDVA PIO
Matt Peterson, IVH Commandant

Guests: Bruce Beeston, VVA
Gail Graham, Director, VAMC- Des Moines
Chad Nelson, SOS
Jerry Lahmann, VFW Post 4013
John Derner, American Legion
Brett McLain, Story Co. VA
Bruce Voigt, VARO Director
Mike Mortensen, Pres. IACCVSO
Dan Kuester, VAMC – Des Moines
Alyssa Flood, Bombshell Patriots
Mysty Stumbo, SOS
Mellissa Bierman, Chickasaw Co. CVSO
Bob Waugh, American Legion
Roger Elliott, VVA
Eddie Andrews, House VA Committee
Pat Sweeny, Polk Co. VA

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

APPROVED: Elizabeth Ledvina Date: 4-5-22
Elizabeth Ledvina, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

Call to Order:

Chairperson Ledvina called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Chairperson Ledvina led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Recording secretary took roll call: Commissioners Hyde and McMartin were absent.

Welcome/Introductions of Guests:

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

Presentations:

Maj. Chad Nelson from the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) gave a presentation of their annual request for funding from the Veterans Trust Fund for a total of \$62,500. This request is tabled for the time being to gather previous year's request of funds for comparisons.

VA Regional Office Update

Director Bruce Voigt gave an oral update to the Commission.

VA Medical Center – Des Moines Update

Director Gail Graham gave an oral update and announced that she will be retiring this year on March 31, 2022 after 5 ½ yrs. here in Des Moines' VAMC.

Veterans Home Update

IVH Commandant Matt Peterson gave an oral update to the Commission.

Camp Dodge Office Update

Steve Lukan, Executive Director at IDVA gave an oral update to the Commission.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Whitmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6th, 2021 quarterly meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Van Horn. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wattnem made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7th, 2021 Trust Fund meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Cressler made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4th, 2021 Trust Fund meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Lloyd. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wattnem made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021 Trust Fund meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Cressler. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Old Business

The Commission had discussion of the continual planning for the upcoming Veterans Day at the Capitol event scheduled for January 19, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. hosted by IDVA on behalf of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs.

Also, discussion of the Commission's 2022 Legislative Initiatives that will be presented to the House and Senate VA committee members at the event.

New Business

Jerry Lahmann with the VFW Post 4013 gave a presentation on their request of the Veterans Project Assistance program to fund \$18,785 for the post building roof repairs. The request is tabled for more discussion among the Commission members to evaluate the costs of this request.

Alyssa Flood of the Bombshell Patriots gave a presentation on their request of the Veterans Project Assistance program to help fund the 2022 Bombshell Patriots Woman Veterans Conference in the amount of \$15,000.

After discussion the Commission unanimously agreed that they would consider this request after they have received the itemized expenditures of funds from the 2021 Conference that the Commission supported with \$10,000 in funds.

Maj. Chad Nelson with the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) gave an overview of their funding request from the Veterans Trust Fund requesting \$62,500 for their annual funding for the topic's discussed on the Budget Summary. After the presentation the Commission discussed that they were going to table the request pending getting an annual report from SOS for last year's itemized expenditures.

All three project requests will be discussed at the February 3rd Trust Fund Conference Call meeting.

Public Comment

None

Next Commission meeting

Next quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Iowa Veterans Home in Whitehill Auditorium in Marshalltown, IA.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.