

MINUTES (corrected 1/4/2010)
Veterans Service Commission (VSC) - Marinette County, WI

DATE: November 10, 2009
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Veterans Service Office Conference Room - Ground Floor - Courthouse - Marinette

MEMBERS PRESENT: Duffy Nast, Chairperson; Jerry Reilley, Member; Harold Simon, Member; and Bill Kowalski, Executive Secretary
ABSENT & EXCUSED: N/A
OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Nast called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

2. APPROVE VSC MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Reilley / Commissioner Simon to approve the minutes of September 22, 2009 as printed with no additions or corrections. Motion carried, all voting aye.

3. VSC MEMBER & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Chairperson Nast led a discussion on the Northeast Wisconsin "Old Glory Honor Flight" program whose mission is to fly our WWII veterans to see the monuments that stand in their honor in Washington D.C. The American Legion Post 39 of Marinette is donating monies to send one of their deserving members to see the World War II memorial. A brochure on the Honor Flight program was distributed.

Bill Kowalski, County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), reported on aid to needy veterans, DAV Van Transportation Program, compensation claim work, and recent training. To date in 2009, of eighteen applications for aid to needy veterans, eight were county funded for a total of \$1393.36. A balance of \$1,356.65 remains. Other requests were denied and/or referred to other sources.

A recent expenditure of \$128.87 to the City of Marinette for Care of Veterans Graves was discussed. The monies helped fund repair of a civil war grave in Woodlawn Cemetery. A dedication ceremony in recognition of Civil War and other veterans was held October 17th at Woodlawn

The M&M DAV Van Program transported 387 veterans through October 2009 to / from Iron Mountain VAMC for medical care or to / from Crivitz to connect with an Iron Mountain VAMC Shuttle Bus that travels bi-weekly to Milwaukee VAMC for veterans needing specialized care. A Summary of Work was distributed showing DAV van usage and Veterans Service Commission expenditures. It was also noted that Menominee County DAV Chapter 25 and Marinette County Veterans Service Office are working together to purchase a new DAV van for next spring (2010 Ford Explorer Control Trac® 4-Wheel Drive 7-passenger SUV) with \$14,600 local donations and \$11,953 grant from The Columbia Trust DAV National Service Foundation. An exceptionally large donation from Marinette DAV Chapter 42 was duly noted and appreciated.

CVSO Kowalski reported on types of compensation cases that are being worked on. VA has approved three new Agent Orange presumptive illnesses - B cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease, and Ischemic Heart disease. Several claims for these illnesses have already been prepared and sent to the Milwaukee VA Regional Office. Adjudication will be delayed while VA writes the final rules.

CVSO Kowalski and Program Assistant Steffen attended state training at Wisconsin Dells in September and maintained NACVSO & WDVA and WDVA accreditation, respectively. Steffen's WDVA accreditation improves service to veterans, enabling her to communicate with VA directly on many cases where the veteran cannot be present. The conference training schedule was discussed.

4. ELECTION OF VSC OFFICERS FOR 2010

Jerry Reilley was elected VSC Chairperson for 2010.

5. ADJOURN

The next VSC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2010. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Kowalski, Veterans Service Officer and Executive Secretary to VSC