

MINUTES
Veterans Service Commission (VSC) - Marinette County, WI

DATE: Wednesday, January 12, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Veterans Service Office Conference Room - Ground Floor - Courthouse - Marinette

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harold Simon, Chairperson; Duffy Nast, Vice-Chair; Jerry Reilley, Member; and Bill Kowalski, Executive Secretary
ABSENT & EXCUSED: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Peshtigo Times

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. APPROVE VSC MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of November 16, 2010 were approved as read.

3. VSC MEMBER & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORTS/DISCUSSION, ACTION IF ANY

Commissioner Simon reported on problems a veteran had at the VA Medical Center scheduling needed surgery. Commissioner Nast brought up a veteran who he had referred to the Marinette CVSO for assistance. It was noted that this veteran had been assisted with a compensation claim for injury during service. The NE Wis. Honor Flight that transports WWII veterans to visit their memorial in Washington D.C. was also discussed.

Bill Kowalski, County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), reported on aid to needy veterans, DAV Van Transportation Program, compensation claim work, and training. In 2010, of twenty-five applications, eleven were county funded for a total of \$2,400.07, leaving a 2010 balance of \$349.93. Other requests were denied and/or referred to other sources. No additional monies were spent for care of veteran graves or indigent burials since the last VSC meeting in November (\$2,382.16 was spent in 2010 for care of graves and indigent burials). Printouts showing expenses incurred were distributed. Any personal identification details were blacked out. CVSO Kowalski also discussed and distributed a printout showing 2011 application for VSC funds that had been denied direct financial assistance. However, the veteran had been offered application assistance and transportation to one of the state's homeless programs for veterans.

The M&M DAV Van Program transported 512 vets in 2010 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 non-lapsing fund balance, and Veterans Service Commission expenditures. It was noted that a new DAV van will be received late next spring or early summer, a 2011 Ford Explorer all-wheel drive.

CVSO Kowalski reported that compensation cases for new Agent Orange presumptive heart diseases and other Agent Orange related claims continue to dominate the workload. Kowalski noted that Program Assistant Michelle Steffen, who is the first ever Marinette County Veterans support staff person to gain accreditation with WDVA (through WDVA training classes, USDVA Internet coursework, and testing), recently received a well deserved promotion.

4. ADJOURN

Motion: Commissioner Nast / Reilley to adjourn. Motion carried, all voting aye. The next VSC meeting is planned for sometime in April 2011. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

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