

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

DATE: January 5, 2009  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: C314 Co. Bd. Conf. Room – Third Floor – Courthouse - Marinette

MEMBERS PRESENT: Duffy Nast, Chairperson; Jerry Reilley, Member; Harold Simon, Member; and Bill Kowalski, Executive Secretary.  
OTHERS PRESENT: Peshtigo Times; Connie Seefeldt, Chairperson, Personnel & Veterans Service Committee

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Simon called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**2. ELECTION OF VSC OFFICERS**

Duffy Nast was unanimously elected VSC Chairperson for 2009, and assumed the duties from former 2008 Chairperson, Harold Simon.

**3. APPROVE VSC MEETING MINUTES**

Motion: Commissioner Simon / Commissioner Reilley to approve the minutes of September 16, 2008 as printed with no additions or corrections. Motion carried, all voting aye.

**4. VSC MEMBER & VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Reilley, past President of the Wisconsin State Association of County Veterans Service Commissions (WSACVSC), further reported on the September 12, 2008 Annual Meeting of WSACVSC. A new organization dedicated to military family assistance was discussed. The volunteer group has chapters in several key Wisconsin cities and helps service members and their families returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other duty stations. Commissioner Reilley continues to chair the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Bill Kowalski, County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), reported on aid to needy veterans, DAV Van Transportation Program, compensation claim work, and recent training. Cases of aid to needy veterans were discussed. In 2008 the entire \$2,750 budgeted amount was expended. There were 38 requests for aid, 18 requests were granted using county funding, with others referred to state homeless veterans programs, other sources, or were denied. Over \$1,000 remained unspent in the budget for care of veterans' graves and indigent burials or headstones.

The M&M DAV Van Transportation Program transported 601 veterans in 2008 to/from Iron Mountain VAMC for medical care or to/from Crivitz to connect with an Iron Mountain based VA Shuttle Bus that travels bi-weekly to Milwaukee VAMC for veterans who need specialized medical care. CVSO Kowalski reported that a cost-saving proposal to perform the day-to-day operation of the DAV Van Program started last Friday at the beginning of this year. The program has been computerized and will be run 'in-house' primarily by the Veterans Service Office Program Assistant. A Summary of Work was distributed which showed DAV Van Program usage and Veterans Service Commission expenditures through the end of 2008.

Kowalski briefly reported on the large amount of compensation and pension cases that were completed and ongoing, recent presentations to numerous veterans groups and at UW-Marquette, and WDVA accreditation training at Waupaca that Program Assistant Michelle Steffen had successfully completed through testing. Kowalski also reported that Traumatic Brain Injury cases are increasing in number and that the first Marinette County claim had been filed for the newly approved service presumptive compensation benefit for ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease. And a more liberal state law goes into effect in 2009 for 100% service connected disabled veterans to be reimbursed property taxes.

**5. ADJOURN**

The next VSC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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

*approved  
6-8-09*