

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

DATE: September 22, 2009  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Veterans Service Office Conference Room - Ground Floor - Courthouse - Marinette

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Nast called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. APPROVE VSC MEETING MINUTES**

Motion: Commissioner Reilley / Chairperson Nast to approve the minutes of June 8, 2009 as printed with no additions or corrections. Motion carried, all voting aye.

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

Commissioner Reilley, past President of the Wisconsin State Association of County Veterans Service Commissions (WSACVSC), reported on the September 11, 2009 annual meeting of the WSACVSC held in Waupaca, WI. Topics covered included a Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, a competitive grant program administered by the U.S. Dept. of Labor that focuses on placing homeless veterans into jobs. A judge also spoke on the new Waupaca County Veterans Court Initiative which seeks to understand the specific and unique needs of combat veterans who interface with the legal/judicial system of Waupaca County. Chairperson Nast discussed donations to Honor Flights, a program that flies WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to spend time at the WWII veterans memorial. Experiences viewing the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall in Marinette this July were also discussed.

Bill Kowalski, County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), reported on aid to needy veterans, DAV Van Transportation Program, compensation claim work, and upcoming training. To date in 2009, of fourteen applications for aid to needy veterans, six were county funded for a total of \$1,063.25. A balance of \$1,686.75 remains. Other requests were denied and/or referred to financial counseling, state Veterans Assistance Programs, and other sources.

Care of veterans graves and billings from municipalities for such care was discussed. Chairperson Seefeldt requested information on the cost of such care. CVSO Kowalski noted that Marinette County is obligated to pay for care of veterans graves and tombstones except where suitable care is otherwise provided, primarily grave sites with perpetual care. The amount of expense charged the county for care cannot exceed the charge made for the care of other graves in the same cemetery. Costs billed to Marinette County to date in 2009 average between \$4.25 and \$4.50 annually per grave site, and total \$1,951.98.

The M&M DAV Van Program transported 317 veterans through August 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.

Kowalski reported on the types of compensation cases that are being worked on. A successful case was discussed concerning a severely wounded Vietnam veteran who finally received what he deserved. Concerning education benefits it appears beginning with the 2010 semester Wisconsin veterans eligible for Post 9-11 GI Bill will not be able to utilize the Wisconsin GI-Bill. CVSO Kowalski and Prog. Asst. Steffen will soon be attending state training in Wisconsin Dells necessary to maintain NACVSO and WDVA accreditation, respectively. The conference training schedule was distributed.

**4. ADJOURN**

The next VSC meeting may be scheduled for early December. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Kowalski, Veterans Service Officer and Executive Secretary to VSC