

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

DATE: April 14, 2016 @ 9:30 AM
LOCATION: J.P. Coughlin Building
PRESENT: Joe Aulik Judy Steckbauer
John Hoeft Ron Griffin
Char Griffin Eric Estel
John Pagel Dale Witzke
Pat Mason Ed Mason
Richard Daseke Roy Rogers
Phil Moore John Butschli
David Girard Paul Baker
John Bjorklund Don Carpenter
Michael Dart George Gilles
Duane Canon Jim Romnek
Joe Maehl

1. Call to Order

Joe Aulik called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Joe led pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for those currently serving, POW's and MIA's.

3. Roll Call/Introductions

Roundtable introductions. Again routed new calendar of veterans' events and attendance sheet.

4. Old Business

MVM – Currently working on 32nd Red Arrow display. Ron Griffin spoke on the upcoming MVM Run slated for May 7. Registration 10-11:30 AM at the MVM. They have 13 events set up for May.

5. New Business

-Patriotic Council still looking for speaker for Memorial Day. They are currently working on the procession which honors the 25th Anniversary of Desert Storm so looking for speaker from that era. Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will be recognized. All organizations should get sheets of names into Chris Martel of those participating in procession. Also please provide the names of any deceased members or your organizations that participated in Desert Storm, Iraq or Afghanistan. If a veteran can't walk the procession route, MVM vehicles will be available.

-Cemetery flags will be put out during the next month or so.

-Armed Forces Day, May 21 at the Isle of Valor, Smith Park, 1:00 PM. They will be celebrating 25th Anniversary of the Persian Gulf War, 51 years since end of Vietnam War, Isle of Valor becoming a historical site as of 4/1/16 and the dedication of the monument that was moved from the public library last September. There will be speakers & music and a special tribute to the veterans we have lost.

6. Camo Quilt Project – Patricia Mason

Pat explained program and showed example of quilt. They are trying to get into all the skilled nursing care facilities, assisted living facilities, as well as homebound veterans in the Omro, Winneconne and Oshkosh area. If there are several veteran at a facility they will do a presentation of the quilts and do a flag folder ceremony. This really means a lot to these veterans. We should get her names of any veterans that would be eligible for a quilt. We should get her first name, first initial of last name and branch of service. Her contact information is (920)420-2691, patricia.knight@sbcglobal.net. The organization has distributed 638 so far.

7. Training Topic – VA Burial and Plot Internment Allowance

The VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount for an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. Joe detailed the specific eligibility criteria. The current or maximum

service-connected burial allowance is currently \$2000.00. If a veteran is buried in a National Cemetery, the VA may reimburse all of the costs of transporting the deceased remains. For a non-service-connected death in which the veteran died after 10/1/15, the VA will pay \$300.00 for burial allowance and \$747.00 for plot allowance. If passed away for 10/1/15, other payment rates apply. There are higher non service-connected death rates payable if the veteran was hospitalized by the VA at the time of his/her death. If a veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, the VA will pay burial and plot allowances and transportation expenses. If a veteran dies and their remains are unclaimed, the entity responsible for the burial of the veteran would be entitled to a \$300.00 burial allowance. An application needs to be done for this benefit. Joe also went over the VA Headstone Program, Bronze Flag Holders distributed by the office and other burial benefits such as the Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Handouts:

- VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) Fact Sheet distributed. If a veteran is 100% service connected and the dependents are enrolled in ChampVA, they can also participate in this program.
- The Dryhootch Family Resource Center provides family peer support, community & social activities & health and wellness. For more information contact Nina Nevins nina@dryhootch.org or (608)250-2540.
- Low vision Forum: Tuesday, April 19, 10 AM – 2:45 PM, ADRC of Brown County, 300 S. Adams St., Green Bay. To register go to www.wcblind.org and click on the “events” or call (800)783-5213.
- Easter Seals Camp Yellow Ribbon, August 14-18, 2016. Contact Bridget Mangan for more information at bridgetm@eastersealswise.com or (414)286-1844.
- Local School Boards in Wisconsin may award a high school diploma to veterans who left high school before receiving a high school diploma to join the military during a war period. There are other eligibility requirements. For more information, contact the Department of Public Instruction directly at (800)441-4563 or your local school district.
- WHEDA is offering a WHEDA Advantage Loan with exclusive nuances for qualified veterans. Available for a limited time, with limited funds, first come, first serve basis. To locate a WHEDA Preferred lender go to www.WHEDA.com and click on “Homeowners and Renters” or select “Find a WHEDA Lender”.
- Historic Corps Workforce for saving places. Join this 2016 veterans, students and youth crew for the restoration of forest lodge. If interested contact: Rebecca Curry rcurry@historiccorps.org or (303)893-4260 ext. 231.
- 17th Annual Ride to Benefit the Veterans at King, WI. Sunday, May 15th. Registration 9 AM o 10:30 AM. Ride leaves Harley-Davidson, 5322 Clairemont Dr., Appleton, WI at 11 AM and arrives at the Veterans Home at 12:15 PM. For more information contact Dennis Moore (920)788-0450 or www.foxvalleywihog.org.
- The Milwaukee Brewers are partnering with USO Wisconsin for a Hero of the Game 2016 (28 Brewers Home Games). Nominate yourself or another service member. Each winner receives 4 tickets, 1 parking pass and recognition at the game. Contact events@usowisconsin.org.
- On January 2, 2013 the Purple Herat Pass program began in Milwaukee County and has now expanded state-wide. This program allows the pass holder and 1 guest free admission year-round to state-wide attractions. List distributed. Joe is currently working with EAA and Air Venture to get added to this list.
- American Ride Free – all current and former military and first responders can learn to ride for free with Harley-Davidson Riding Academy. There is also an alternate offer where qualified participants will be eligible to receive a gift card in an amount equal to the value of a course offered at an authorized Motorcycle Safety Foundation or accredited riding school. <https://ridefree.harley-davidson.com/americanheroes/>
- Handout on Agent Orange Registry. Joe encouraged any Vietnam veteran that served in county to get on registry. Contact. Arlene Kasten (414)384-2000 ext. 42071. Completion of the registry does not influence medical care or potential compensation. There is no “test” to determine if you were exposed to AO. Websites to learn more about children of veterans exposed to AO are <http://covvha.net/> or <http://www.pubichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/children-birth-defects.asp>
- The Oshkosh Country Club thanks veterans for their service on Memorial Day, Monday May 30th. Dine in the clubhouse or veterans golf free. Call (920)231-1078 for tee times and (920)231-1076 for lunch reservations.
- Troutd Museum, Appleton Veterans art exhibit, May 16 – July 3.
- MVM Calendar
- 5/07/2016 – MVM Motorcycle Run, Starts from MVM 10:00 am.
- 5/07/2016 – Oshkosh Choraliars, Alberta Kimball Auditorium, Oshkosh 7:00 pm.
- 5/16/2016 – Neenah Club Presentation 12:15 pm.
- 5/19/2016 – WWII Living History Event, Pioneer Village, Saukville.
- 5/21/2016 – Watertown Military Show, Watertown 9:00 am.

5/25/2016 Board Meeting, Bethel Home 6:00 pm.
5/30/2016 – Memorial Day Parade, Neenah/Menasha, 9:00 am.
5/30/2016 – Memorial Day Procession, Oshkosh 9:00 am.
6/04/2016 – Bark in the Park, Stars and Stripes, Fox Valley Tech, Neenah
6/04-05/2016 – WWII Re-enactment event, Peoria, IL
6/14/2016 – Flag Day Parade, Appleton
6/22/2016 - Board Meeting, Bethel Home, 6:00 pm.
6/26/2016 – Central WI Auto Collectors, South Park, Oshkosh 9:00am to 4:00 pm.
6/29/2016 – MASH Blood Drive, Houdini Plaza, Appleton 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.
7/04/2016 – Independence Day Parade, Oshkosh 9:00 am and Omro 12:00 pm. & WWII Parade Winneconne.
7/08 – 10/2016 SubFest, Manitowoc
7/15 through 8/3 – “Bring Me Home Huey” Memorial Display MVM Grounds.
7/20/2016 – Board Meeting, Bethel Home 6:00 pm.
7/23/2016 – Mercury Marine fundraiser for MVM, Legion Hall Fond du Lac.
7/25 – 31/2016 EAA Air Venture – MVM Open all week.
To schedule a tour or event please contact Stu Tribbey, Outreach Committee Chair at 920-379-1180 or email tribbey70@gmail.com.

Joe stated that the regionalization idea will again be seen this fall in legislation. Very damaging to veterans. Also spoke on the budget shortfall in the area VA Medical Centers. The Milwaukee VAMC and other facilities will be cutting staff and services due to this.

Cemetery Project information will be put into an editable format and sent out to everyone asking for updates.

Veteran have to help veterans.

8. Next Meeting Time, Date and Place

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 12, 2016 @ 9:30 AM, James Coughlin Building, Meeting Room A. A different benefit will be covered each month and also any new information the office has received. Joe encouraged participation in this meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Steckbauer

