

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

DATE: April 13th, 2023 @ 9:30 AM
LOCATION: J.P. Coughlin Building

PRESENT:	Jeff Bucholtz	Jim Hoyman	Dave Mix	David Steinert
	Duane Canon	Patti Julius	Jon Pylypiv	Diane Steinert
	Richard Daseke	Jim Meinke	Scott Scouronski	Lydia Wilz
	Michael Dart	Marissa Mielke	Paul Rhyner	Guests: Tracy Rosinski
	David Felton	Joe Miller	Tom Snider	Debra Williams

1. Call To Order:

Jeff Bucholtz called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Jeff Bucholtz led pledge of allegiance and moment of silence.

3. Roll Call/Introductions:

Introductions were skipped:

Guest Speaker's:

Tracy Rosinski & Deb Williams with ProMedica:

PROMEDICA provides home health care (skilled care), palliative care, hospice care, and emotional/spiritual support. They will meet the veterans needs at where they are: home, assisted living, nursing home. Their focus is to create a care plan that will improve their quality of life; they will meet the individual's needs. They have a whole care team, nurses, social workers, bereavement counselors, pastors, volunteers... The PROMEDICA Team is trained to help their veterans die healed. They have the desire to help unburden the veteran. They also want to help the spouse be the spouse during this time, and not just the caretaker. They also offer bereavement counseling for 13 months after the loved one passes away.

PROMEDICA does have a contract with the VA. This means that the VA will cover the cost if the veteran is enrolled in VA Health Care.

The financial benefits that are available by utilizing PROMEDICA are numerous, and is definitely worth the time looking into.

PACT ACT:

Jeff discussed how the PACT ACT is slow going because of the huge influx of claims that have been submitted. He also brought up that a lot of these disabilities have been coming back with a 0% rating. Hypertension is one of the disabilities that have been coming back rated at 0%. This is OK!!! We can get secondary conditions off of ANY primary condition even if the primary condition is only rated at 0%.

Also, the VA is sending out letters to veterans and spouses who have been denied previously because the PACT ACT expanded the contaminated areas. If you hear of veterans or their surviving spouses questioning the legitimacy of the letter, please assure them that it is from the VA and that they should contact us to help file a claim.

Health Care had a 5 year window for veterans who came home from deployment. If that window was missed, they base eligibility for VA Health Care off of income. The PACT ACT opened up this window BRIEFLY!!! **This window closes October 2023. PLEASE SPREAD THIS WITH YOUR POST!!!!**

Burn Pits: what they are referring too is typically Gulf War Era Veterans. The Burn Pits for Vietnam Veterans are not presumptive conditions. We understand that is mentioned under the PACT ACT, but the PACT ACT, when referring to Burn Pits, is focused on Gulf War Era Veterans.

Camp Lejeune Justice ACT: There are times that we believe that Lawyers are necessary for certain claims. If a veteran who served at Camp Lejeune is diagnosed with a **presumptive** condition, then file a claim with the your CVSO via the VA, not an attorney. You cannot do a claim with the VA for a **presumptive** condition and then turn around and get a cash settlement from the government via an attorney. But, if your spouse or children were stationed there with you while at Lejeune, then they should definitely reach out and contact an attorney to help them with their lawsuit if they have any of the conditions they believe may have been caused by the toxic water.

4. Old Business:

- Military Veterans Museum: They are looking for volunteers!

5. New Business:

Roundtable of events:

2023 Meetings will be hosted at the same time: 9:30 am on the second Thursday of the month.

*****THE MEETING IN JUNE WILL BE SKIPPED*****

6. VA Updates and Local Community Updates:

Jeff detailed the following handouts:

- Vets and Friends have moved locations and adjusted their meal hours. **PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**
- Military Open House & Career Fair for the Department of Corrections (DOC): April 19th, 2023
- Armed Forces Day is May 20th, 2023 at Isle of Valor. Ceremony starts at 11:00am
- Memorial Day Neenah/Menasha is May 29th, 2023. The ceremony starts at 8:00am
- Rent Smart Classes have their dates set! Please share this as it helps those who do not have the best credit get into an apartment.
- Innovation Accelerator for Veterans. These classes are to help veterans who are starting their own business. This is at Fox Valley Technical College.
- Everyday Tech Classes are being hosted at the Oshkosh Library. These are free classes to help individuals understand basic technology. The VA is going more towards the technology trend, so these classes may be helpful.
- Wis-MAC Program is a State run program that can help soldiers who are medically trained, transition into and educational pathway to help find employment or additional training in their medical field.
- Ron La Pointe recently published a new book: *Oshkosh Veterans of Foreign War*. If you are interested in purchasing this book it will be available locally at the following locations: Blue Moon Café, Camera Casino, Carmel Crisp, Jerry's Bar, Park N Print, Planet Perk, Oshkosh Military Veteran's Museum, and 2 Blondes on Main Street. You can also find the book on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
- FAMILY GAME NIGHT! This will begin in January and go through August. Every 4th Thursday of the month, the Marine Corps League will open their doors for this event, with the help of the DAV.
- Omro Post 234 is having Monday Night BINGO on the 3rd Monday of the month. There is FREE Parking!
- Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting is April 29th, 2023. More to follow!
- Dates of the Old Glory Flight: 04/19/2023, 06/07/2023, 07/28/2023 & 10/18/2023. **Pulling for Honor is on 09/16/2023.**
- Fox Valley Veterans Roundtable Consortium would like to see more of a presence from the Winneconne, Omro, Oshkosh area. **You must RSVP** if you would like to attend because they provide meals at these meetings. They only allow two from each post, otherwise it gets a little crowded.

- CVSO Act is back to square one. Please have your family and friends reach out to their local Senator on that committee to express their interest in seeing this get passed.

7. Upcoming Events:

- Omro Post is having their Annual Golf Outing on May 20th, 2023
- Omro Auxiliary is having their Craft Sale May 13th, 2023
- Memorial Day Service starts May 25th, 2023 @ Lakeview Memorial Park in the Chapel.
- Unit 33 Neenah Auxiliary Post is having their Poppy Distribution on May 27th & 28th. They also are having a Bake Sale at Lucky Dogz Car Show.
- Neenah American Legion Memorial Day Car Show May 29th, 2023
- Memorial Day Procession for Oshkosh, starts at 9:00am on May 29th, 2023

Please see our Winnebago County Veterans Service Office Website for more upcoming events

8. Next Meeting Time, Date and Place:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held May 11th, 2023 @ 9:30 AM, at the James Coughlin Building; Meeting Room A. We will have a few guest speaker at this meeting:

- Max Wellness Pain Relief
- Jason Turner: Salute The Troops

Any new information the office has received will be distributed and discussed. Participation in this meeting is encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lydia Wilz