

Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting



Monday, May 22, 2023 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Health Department Board Room

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge**
2. Present: Steve Bosma, Dave Peterson, Troy Thompson and Mary Lou Kleveland.
3. **Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes**
The April monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Thompson motioned, seconded by Bosma, to approve the April minutes. All in favor. April minutes were approved.

Veteran Service Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers for April 2023 - Mary Lou shared the statistics for April. The activities for the VA office remain consistent. There were a few questions about the numbers which Mary Lou answered.
 - b. County Outreach Efforts – Mary Lou will be attending the Buffalo Center Memorial Day program to increase exposure of this office.
 - c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval /Approval & Consideration of Future Purchases -The expenditures for April were reviewed. Thompson motioned and Peterson seconded to approve the April expenditures. All in favor. All three commissioners signed off on the expenditure report. Thompson noted that there was close to \$18,000 of the VA budget for FY 22-23 that needed to be spent by 6/30/2023. The Commissioners advised Mary Lou to determine needs for her office and then make those purchases. The Commissioners also asked Mary Lou to check into the cost of challenge coins that would say Winnebago County veteran.
4. **Old Business**
- Purchase of new laptop and cellphone - Mary Lou advised that the business cell phone would be arriving on 5/22/2023. The monthly cost of the cell phone will be \$40. Mary Lou plans to use it when she is at home or nursing home visits to get signatures. She will also use it for business calls when in the community as well as to text veterans (especially younger veterans who prefer text). Since there is money in the VA budget, Mary Lou will ask IT Director, Brody Hopp, to order the laptop and dock for the office as soon as possible. Mary Lou talked to Karla Weiss, Auditor, regarding the laptop purchase as it had been planned for in the new FY 23-24 budget. Thompson had wondered at the last meeting if the laptop purchase this fiscal year would require an amendment. Karla stated that no amendment was necessary and there were no issues with purchasing the laptop as long as there were sufficient funds in the VA budget.
5. **New Business – VA New and Emerging Information**
- a. VA New and Emerging Information – The VA office will be closed from 5/29-6/6 for vacation.
 - b. PSAs produced by the VA for local radio stations– Mary Lou advised that the VA had recorded a variety of PSAs sharing information about benefits for veterans. Mary Lou will send the recorded PSAs to K10W for them to possibly run.

- c. Donation of historical items- Mary Lou shared that a woman from Clear Lake donated many historical military items. Mary Lou wondered what should be done with these items so that they can be preserved and possibly displayed somewhere. Thompson advised that the Winnebago County Historical Society is inactive. He also advised that the items would likely be able to be preserved but not necessarily displayed. Thompson stated that there is the Boman Building at Heritage Park which is climate controlled. Veronica Maas has a key for the building. She could catalog the items and then they could be stored in the building at Heritage Park. Thompson stated that unfortunately, it is difficult to have a military museum at Heritage Park. The other option would be to check with the All Vets Center in Mason City to see if they are interested in displaying the items. Mary Lou will investigate these options.

Next Meeting Date: June 26, 2023 @ 10 am at the Winnebago County Court House.

Adjournment – Bosma motioned; Thompson seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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