

Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting



Monday, July 17, 2023 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Courthouse

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

Veteran Service Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers for June 2023 - Mary Lou shared the statistics for June. The activities for the VA office remain consistent. Mary Lou also presented the quarterly report for April-June and asked for their signatures on the report. Mary Lou will submit the quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors on July 18th.
 - b. County Outreach Efforts – KIOW ads were discussed in detail. Troy Thompson offered his assistance in writing the copy for the ads and producing the ads. The Commissioners feel that the ads should be run regularly and that the ads should run on the weekends to reach the most people and to have the most impact. The ads should also be submitted to KIOW to run as PSAs. Thompson also suggested that the ads could be run prior to halftime for sporting events, especially for the upcoming football season. Sixty second ads will also possibly be produced to share more detailed information on the services that the Winnebago County VA office offers. Thompson and Kleveland will try and work on the ads at the end of August.
 - c. Review June Monthly Expenditure Report and Approval of Report -The expenditures for June were reviewed. Bosma motioned and Thompson seconded to approve the June expenditures. All in favor. Thompson and Bosma signed off on the approved expenditure report.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. New policy regarding federal claims through Winn Co VA – Mary Lou presented the Winnebago County Representative Agreement to Bosma and Thompson for review. Bosma and Thompson suggested a change in the name of the agreement to make it more positive and to better explain the purpose of the agreement. The agreement will be called Winnebago County Claim Success Agreement. The Commissioners also did not like the use of the word “fail” in one of the paragraphs. The Commissioners asked Mary Lou to tweak the agreement and bring it back to the August meeting for another review and potential approval.
 - b. Re-appointment of Troy Thompson as Commissioner – On July 3rd, the Board of Supervisors appointed Troy Thompson as a Commissioner serving 2023-2026.

c. Fuel assistance/gas cards – Mary Lou still needs to follow up with Randy Broesder at Farmer’s Co-Op to see if it is possible for Winnebago Co VA to purchase gas cards to provide for veterans in need.

5. New Business – VA New and Emerging Information

- a. VA New and Emerging Information – Mary Lou advised that the VSOs for both Hancock County and Cerro Gordo County have resigned. After discussion with Chris Oliver, VSO for Wright Co, the surrounding counties, including Winnebago, will likely get calls from veterans from Hancock and Cerro Gordo. The veterans from the surrounding counties will complete an Intent to File with other counties and then will be advised to connect with the VSO in their county once a new VSO has been hired.
- b. Transportation policy – current need for veteran– Mary Lou advised that she had a veteran that needed transported to Des Moines for surgery and that VA was unable to provide transportation for her. She has no one else to take her to Des Moines for the surgery but has been able to arrange transportation to bring her back to Forest City. Mary Lou asked if the Commissioners thought that Winnebago County VA should develop a transportation policy. Bosma and Thompson suggested developing a transportation team. The individuals on the team would need to sign a confidentiality agreement, show proof of adequate automobile insurance and have a vehicle that is in good working order. Veterans in need of transportation will also need to provide advance notice of several weeks in requesting help with transportation. Mary Lou should begin to develop a transportation policy and should refer to Dan Green’s (VSO for Kossuth Co) transportation policy as a guide. The transportation policy will then need to be presented at a future Commissioners’ meeting for approval.

Next Meeting Date: August 28, 2023 @ 10 am at the Winnebago County Court House.
Adjournment – Thompson motioned; Bosma seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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