



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026 – 10:00 am

Winnebago Co Courthouse

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Commissioners Steve Bosma, Troy Thompson and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Mary Lou Kleveland; Absent: Dave Peterson

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

The February monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Thompson motioned, seconded by Bosma to approve the February minutes. All in favor. February minutes are approved.

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: VSO shared the statistics for February 2026 for Winnebago County.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – VSO attended The American Legion’s monthly meeting in February and shared information about benefits and the services her office provides. AJ Taylor from KIOW interviewed VSO regarding the proposed legislation in state legislature and how the legislation would impact veterans. AJ’s article was picked up by Radio Iowa which was great exposure for this office and for the legislation.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval - The Commissioners and VSO reviewed the expenditures for February 2026. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to approve the expenditures for February. All in favor. The February expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. Proposed Legislation SF 2466 Bill – Implications for Winnebago Co VA office – VSO advised that SF 2466 passed in the Senate but did not advance out of the house. The legislation was set to die for this legislative session, but different parties met to develop an amended bill with some compromises. Because some of the changes involved money, the bill was sent to the Appropriations committee.

5. New Business

- a. Purchase of grave medallions due to cost increase –VSO advised that she had used most of the budgeted amount for grave medallions on a recent order. Centec, the company from which VSO purchases, had a huge price increase on the medallions and rods effective 3/1/2026. VSO was able to purchase on 2/25/2026 at the lower price.
- b. Donation from Faith Lutheran Church – VSO advised that her office had been given a donation of \$250 from Faith Lutheran Church. The Commissioners stated that this money should be used for direct care to veterans. Thompson also suggested that VSO develop a newsletter once a year that would share the numbers of how donations have been used and how veterans are being served in Winnebago County from the previous fiscal year. Thompson thought that the Forest City Chamber of Commerce would be a good resource for businesses and organizations that should receive the newsletter. The newsletter would make the businesses and organizations aware that this office would greatly appreciate donations to serve veterans. Commissioners and VSO

discussed that sending the newsletter in November would be beneficial with Veterans Day events happening in the area.

- c. New & Emerging Information – VSO advised that the office would be closed for the majority of the week of April 13th due to surgery for the spouse of the VSO. VSO advised she would be working from home and forwarding her phone calls to her business cell. There will be a sign on the door as well as voicemail and email message about the office closure. VSO advised that February and March had been exceptionally busy in the office for VSO with many office visits, new veterans, claims, etc. VSO stated she is quite overwhelmed and feels buried with the work. VSO advised that she is communicating with veterans, especially regarding new claims, that VSO will not be able to complete their claim immediately. VSO and Commissioners also discussed the upcoming training in May with Iowa Association of Veteran Services. Commissioners stated that they want VSO to go to IDVA training as well as other training that is offered. They advised that VSO needs to go to the IDVA training once a year since it is offered in both the spring and fall.
- d. Financial Assistance Request(s) with possible closed session – There were two financial assistance requests. During the discussion about the requests, VSO pointed out that the current Winnebago Co VA policy for housing assistance is \$400. This policy was put into effect in 2020 and VSO stated that she felt the amount was too low based on significant cost of living increases since 2020. Thompson motioned to change the policy for housing assistance from \$400 to \$500. Bosma seconded. All in favor. Policy is changed to \$500 for one month of housing assistance. The requests were discussed in open session with no identifying information shared by VSO. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to approve the financial assistance requests. All in favor. Financial assistance in the amount of \$500 for each veteran for mortgage assistance is approved.
- e. Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse

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

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