



## Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

**Monday, April 27, 2026 – 10:00 am**

**Winnebago Co Courthouse**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge**

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

**2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes**

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

**3. Veteran Services Officer Report**

- a. Monthly VA numbers: VSO shared the statistics for March 2026 for Winnebago County.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – VSO met with State Representative Henry Stone to discuss SF 2466. VSO had a Morning Conversation interview with KIOW to share about National Vietnam War Veterans Day which is observed in March.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval - The Commissioners and VSO reviewed the expenditures for March 2026. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to approve the expenditures for March. All in favor. The March expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

**4. Old Business**

- a. There was no old business to discuss.

**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. Quarterly Nursing Home Visits Due to a higher number of normal office visits in February and March and the ensuing workload, VSO did not have time to make quarterly nursing home visits. VSO will do her best to make visits during the second quarter of 2026.
- c. New & Emerging Information – Amended Senate File 2466 and update the majority of the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> 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: May 18, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month due to Memorial Day

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

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