

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Department Fall Meetings

Friday, October 13, 2023

1:00 PM

MINUTES

Committee Chair Steve Krueger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a salute to the colors, the Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Steve Krueger, Chair
Steve Conto, Vice Chair
Ron Kuta, Member
Rich Ruland, Member
Dale Oatman, Member
Dan Jakubczyk, Hospital Chair
James Fialkowski, Department Service Officer, Consultant
Jeff Zwiers, Camp American Legion Committee Chair, Consultant
Dave Steinert, DEC Liaison
Karl Stuvengen, Department Commander, Ex Officio
Julie Muhle, Department Adjutant, Consultant

Excused:

Gary Meyer, Employment Chair
Julia Atkinson, Member
Tim Baranzky, Homeless Veterans Task Force Chair
Jeff Zwiers, Camp American Legion Committee Chair Consultant

Guests:

Jesse Miller
Zeno Franco
Kristyn Ertl did a presentation on Peer Mentors for the Posts.

Motion by Steve Conto, second by Rich Ruland to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dan Jakubczyk, second by Rich Ruland to recommend that this group conducts training at Midwinter Conference. Motion Carried.

Motion by Dan Jakubczyk, second by Rich Ruland to promote the Peer Mentor program. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Steve Conto reported that he is going to work on the Action Plan so the committee does not lose track of actions of previous meetings with Steve Krueger.

Steve reported that he paid for the OTH cremains expenses, he was looking for permission for reimbursement through the Terrance Sund Fund. The decision to use funds from the Terrance Sund Fund is not up to the VA&R committee.

Reports:

Cremated Remains – Steve Conto reviewed his report. He is going to bring information concerning the policy for use of the Terrance Sund Fund to the meeting at Mid-Winter.

Employment –The Department of WI needs a resolution for our own Employer of the Years. Steve Krueger and Gary Meyer are going to draft the resolution to be presented at Midwinter.

Homeless Vet – The group reviewed Tim Baranzky’s report. **Motion by Rich Ruland, second by Ron Kuta to approve the Homeless Vet report. Motion Carried.**

Hospital Report – Dan Jacubczyk reviewed his written report. **Motion by Steve Conto, second by Rich Ruland to approve the Hospital Report. Motion Carried.**

Department Service Office – James Fialkowski reported that there are 2 vacancies in the office. He has received 50 applications for these vacancies. He also reported that it is not too late to apply for the PACT Act, there is no deadline. Any questions about this should be directed to James.

Motion by Steve Conto, second by Rich Ruland to approve the Department Service Office Report. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Troops to Cops – the group reviewed the information about Troops to Cops that was referred to VA&R from the Legislative Committee.

Motion by Steve Conto, second by Rich Ruland supporting and pursuing the Troops to Cops Bill. Motion Carried.

Steve Krueger added that there is a Veterans group trying to get flag poles and flags at every cemetery in Wisconsin. Post should work with their districts to get donations to get the flags and poles funded. Greg Eirich added that this type of fundraising is also being done for wreaths at cemeteries.

Meeting adjourned per ritual at 2:38pm

Respectfully Submitted;

Steve Krueger
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Chair