

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS
Meeting of July 20, 2016
Wisconsin Veterans Home at King
N2665 County Rd. QQ, King, WI 54946

Members

Tim Thiers, AMVETS
Oscar Castaneda, American GI Forum(Excused)
Paul Fisk, American Legion
Vacant, American Red Cross
Paul Fine, ANU
Gary Traynor, Blinded Veterans Assoc.
Colin Moten, CVSOA
Larry Hill, DAV
Peter Gilbert, JWV
Phillip Landgraf, MCL
Roger Fetterly, MOAA
William Lobeck, MOPH
William Sims, NABV
Annette Epnnett-Murphy, NCUSA
John Recklies, PLAV
Dale Nelson, PVA
Lester Bischoff, TREA
Elizabeth Benn, UWV
Mike Furgal, VFW
Steve House, VVA
Rich Peters, VVAW(excused)
William May, WACVO
Bill Hustad (excused)
Inactive, Am. Ex-POWs
Inactive, USSVWWII
Inactive, CWV

Others Present (not all inclusive)

Rich Hasse, Columbia County CVSO
Steve Dykes, Adams County CVSO
Bill Rosenau, Waushara County CVSO
Phil Moore, MOPH
Jon Lidonne, Outagamie County CVSO
Russ Alsteen, NCUSA
Rock Larson, Wood County CVSO
Katelyn Ferral, Capital Times
John Gaedke, Board Chair
John Townsend, Board Member
Cathy Gorst, Board Member
Carl Krueger, Board Member

WDVA Present

Shari McCann, King ESA
Mary Grace Biesek, King Marketing Specialist
Angie Reindl, CO ESA

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance and introductions

The meeting of the Council on Veterans Programs was called to order by Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Benn. Roll called; quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Certification of notice of meeting

The meeting was certified as being properly noticed.

3. Action on minutes of February 15, 2016 COVP meeting

It was moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2016 minutes with the addition of noting the discussion related to the issue of transportation.

4. Elections

Mr. Fetterly nominated Elizabeth Benn for Council Chair. Nomination was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Mr. Fetterly nominated Phil Landgraf as Council Vice-Chair. Nomination was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Mr. Fetterly nominated Steve House as the Council Secretary. Nomination was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

5. Executive Order #189 discussion (Attachment #1)

All Council communications should go through the department Executive Staff Assistant, so that the department has copies for open record purposes.

6. Legislative Updates

Mr. Fetterly provided a copy of bills that were introduced in the 2015-2016 legislative session. It is possible that bills that were not passed could be revived in the next session.

7. Council Members' matters not subject to adoption

Mr. May requested an updated copy of the status of the department's strategic plan.

Mr. Landgraf requested an update on the department's response to the letter regarding the ANV grants.

Mr. Landgraf/Mr. Fetterly requested that the department provide a status update of actions related ACT 386 – Establishing the Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative.

Mr. Moten suggests suicide prevention initiatives and benefit advertising for future meeting agenda items.

Mr. Gilbert suggests that the council discuss the new federally approved driver's license requirements. A non-federally approved license could prevent access to military installations, VA facilities, flights, etc.

Mr. Fetterly suggests that the council discuss meeting frequency to insure the council can be effective with providing advice to the department.

Mr. Furgal suggests the council meet in October to review and discuss the proposed department budget.

Mr. Traynor requested that any material to be distributed at a meeting be sent to the WDVA ESA prior to the meeting, so he has time to use his adaptive equipment to review the material prior to the meeting.

Mr. Fisk recommends the first 2017 meeting take place in March after the Governor introduces his budget, but before the Joint Finance Committee starts their work on the budget.

Mr. Hill suggests sharing of all veteran related resolutions in order to form a concentrated effort.

Mr. May brought up Peter Gilbert's suggestion from the last meeting that council members meet with legislators and addressing transportation as an issue. He suggested that previous minutes be reviewed for creation of future meeting agendas, to insure things don't fall through the cracks.

Mr. May brought up the issue of the turnover in council members and how it may affect committee members. Suggested that this be a future topic of discussion.

Mr. Fine suggested that mics be used, so all members can be clearly heard. He also suggested use of the "Old Business" "New Business" agenda format for future meetings to insure unfinished business from previous meetings is included on future agendas.

8. Public Comment

Russ Alsteen, former council representative from the Navy Clubs of the U.S.A., shared successes from his time on the council, and encouraged the current members to focus on cooperation and communication.

Mr. Steve Dykes, Adams County Veterans Service Officer shares that he has a document that contains information about transportation options available to veterans. He will share the information with WDVA ESA for distribution to council members.

9. Future Meetings

Mr. Gilberts suggests an early October meeting due to conflicts at the end of October. Council members suggest an October 12th, 11:00 AM meeting at Union Grove.

10. Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

Elizabeth Benn
Chair

Attachments:

1. Executive Order #189
2. Legislative Update Information



EXECUTIVE ORDER #189

**Relating to Promoting Open and Transparent Government Through
Implementation of Best Practices and Performance Dashboards**

WHEREAS, our American republic was founded as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, based on the idea that the people, not the government, are the primary source of sovereignty to whom all government officials are accountable; and

WHEREAS, the first line of the preamble to the Wisconsin Constitution emphasizes this truth, that our Constitution was established not by the government, but by "We, the People of Wisconsin," in order to form a government that serves the people and protects their freedom; and

WHEREAS, the current version of Wisconsin's Public Records Law was adopted in 1981, as a tool for the people to access information about the affairs of government and about the official acts of those who exercise delegated sovereignty as the people's representatives; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has enjoyed a long history of open and transparent government; and

WHEREAS, more can always be done to improve public access and effective processing of public records requests, particularly in the areas of customer service, tracking of requests, clarity as to costs, and regular training for all state employees; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order seeks to advance best practices across state agencies to go above and beyond the requirements of the Public Records Law and promote easier, fairer, and broader access to public records; and

WHEREAS, the use of Performance Dashboards by state agencies will further promote transparency on each agency's goals and performance; and

WHEREAS, I have proclaimed March 13th – 19th, 2016, as Sunshine Week in the State of Wisconsin, and I encourage all state agencies to continue to improve their performance beyond the measures directed in this Executive Order;

NOW THEREFORE, I, SCOTT WALKER, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby:

1. Direct that each state agency, including each department, board, council, and commission, shall:
 - a. Increase the quality of its customer service in fulfilling public records requests, by responding to requests promptly, updating requesters on the status of their requests, tracking all requests, and facilitating access to electronic records whenever practicable. Specifically, each agency shall:

- i. Fulfill any small and straightforward request within 10 business days of receipt whenever it is practicable to do so.
 - ii. Publicize a primary email address to which public records requests may be emailed to the agency, and send an acknowledgment within the next business day following receipt of any request sent to the agency at that email address.
 - iii. When a requester asks for an update on the status of his or her request, respond to the requester within 5 business days.
 - iv. Allocate sufficient staff resources to create a tracking system to track the agency's public records requests, to ensure that each request is given regular attention and fulfilled as soon as it is practicable to do so, regardless of the order in which each request is received.
 - v. When requested and whenever practicable, provide electronic copies of records that already exist in an electronic format, without charging reproduction fees on a per-page basis for providing such copies.
 - vi. When clarification of a request is needed, make every effort to communicate with the requester to understand what the requester is asking for, to avoid the delays that requesters may experience due to inefficiencies created by miscommunication.
 - vii. When withholding records or redacting information from records in the response to a request, give the requester a written explanation of the specific reasons for doing so, including specific citations to the legal authority relied upon for each kind of record withheld or information redacted.
- b. Provide public records resources and regular training for all employees and members of all boards, councils, and commissions attached to the agency. Specifically, each agency shall:
- i. Ensure that there are designated staff resources within each agency that are available to employees of the agency and to members of attached boards, councils, and commissions who may have questions about their public records responsibilities.
 - ii. Provide public records training to all employees of the agency and all members of attached boards, councils and commissions, both as part of the orientation provided to new members and employees and as part of regularly scheduled refresher trainings on an ongoing basis.
 - iii. Provide regular training for all supervisors on the requirements for retaining the records of former employees who have left state service or have transferred to new positions.
- c. Update the agency's public records notice posted under section 19.34(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and any notices of attached boards, councils, and commissions, to adequately clarify that:
- i. The agency will not charge for the cost of reviewing records for possible redaction or removal of confidential information, in compliance with the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling in *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel v. City of Milwaukee*, 2012 WI 65, 341 Wis. 2d 607.
 - ii. Any hourly charge imposed for staff time necessary to locate records will be billed at the hourly rate of salary and benefits for the lowest-paid employee capable of performing the task and will not be billed unless the total cost of locating records is \$50 or more.

iii. Reproduction costs will not be charged on a per-page basis if the agency provides electronic copies of records that already existed in electronic format.

d. Provide to the Department of Administration a report listing:

- i. The public records custodian(s) designated under section 19.33 of the Wisconsin Statutes as having responsibility for fulfilling the agency's duties under the Public Records Law; and
- ii. The records and forms officer(s) designated under sections 15.04(1)(j) and 16.61(2)(bm) of the Wisconsin Statutes as having responsibility for ensuring compliance with all records and forms management laws.

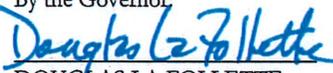
Each agency shall submit a revised report to the Department of Administration within 30 days of any changes in the above positions.

2. Direct the Department of Administration to work with all cabinet agencies to assess their performance under this Executive Order.
3. Direct the Department of Administration to include a notice on its website affirming contractors' public records responsibilities under section 19.36(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Department of Administration is further directed to ensure that these responsibilities are addressed in the State's standard contract terms and conditions.
4. Direct each cabinet agency to develop dashboards that report on each agency's performance on core agency functions for the citizens of Wisconsin to review. Agencies are encouraged to actively engage stakeholders in discussions about the agency's performance. Agencies are further directed to update those dashboards on a quarterly basis in an effort to attain continuous performance improvement and to actively share the outcomes with agency staff. Each agency's dashboard will be made viewable to the general public online.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this eleventh day of March in the year two thousand sixteen.


SCOTT WALKER
Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

Veterans legislation Enacted into Law 2015-16 Session

ACT 21 Nonresident veterans and their spouses and children attending technical colleges are exempted from nonresident fees.

ACT 32 Highway maps published by DOT to include the location of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

ACT 55 Certain fees may be waived for applicants holding a military CDL.

ACT 55 Military funeral honors program eligibility extended to National Guard, Reserves and members of the Selective Service.

ACT 55 Budget provides \$500,000 to establish a jobs grant program for veterans in the Technical College System.

ACT 55 Grants to counties and tribes for improvement of services, revisions and expenses eligible for reimbursement specified.

ACT 55 The Department of Veterans Affairs may reimburse travel expenses of veterans appearing on behalf of the state.

ACT 55 Parent of an armed forces member who died while serving on active duty is eligible to be a resident of a Wisconsin Veterans Home.

ACT 98 Transfer of hunting, fishing, or trapping approval to a person with a disability permitted under certain conditions; transfer of a Class A bear license to a Purple Heart recipient or armed forces member on active duty permitted under certain conditions.

ACT 384 Official logotypes for Wisconsin veteran-owned businesses and disabled veteran-owned businesses.

ACT 385 Veterans employment and entrepreneurship grant program, veterans employment grants, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

ACT 386 Establishing the Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative.

ACT 261 Allows an unexpired veterans identification card issued by the veterans health administration of the federal department of veterans affairs as identification for voting purposes.

Veterans Legislation introduced in 2015-16 Session

2015 AB180/SB414

relating to: considering post-traumatic stress disorder as a mitigating factor in sentencing certain criminal offenders.

2015 AB44/SB20

relating to: transfer of certain fish and game approvals to persons with disabilities and the transfer of Class A bear licenses to persons awarded the Purple Heart or serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.

2015 AB181/SB186

Relating to: waiving operator's license fees for disabled veterans.

2015 AB 187/SB115

Relating to: an exemption for disabled veterans and recipients of the purple heart medal from the cumulative preference system for issuing wild turkey hunting licenses and tags.

2015 AB184/SB188

Relating to: the transfer of credits to University of Wisconsin System institutions.

2015 AB182/SB190

relating to: University of Wisconsin and technical college credits based on military training or experience.

2015 AB86/SB163

relating to: grants to technical college district boards and technical college faculty, staff, and students and making appropriations.

2015 AB186

relating to: resident fees for nonresident veterans and eligible spouses and children enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college.

2015 AB235/SB164

relating to: charging resident fees to nonresident veterans and their family members attending technical colleges.

2015 AB99/SB90

relating to: highway maps published by the Department of Transportation.

2015 SB38

relating to: expanding the eligibility of a veteran and an eligible unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit.

2015 AB98/SB89

relating to: highway maps published by the Department of Transportation.

2015 AB173

relating to: adding a Korean War Era member to the Council on Veterans Programs.

2015 AB281/SB207

relating to: awards of construction contracts to minority businesses and disabled veteran-owned businesses by the Department of Administration.

2015 AB707/SB575

relating to: official logotypes for Wisconsin veteran-owned businesses and disabled veteran-owned businesses.

2015 AB556/SB433

relating to: special registration plates that are military in nature.

2015 AB693/SB518

relating to: disposition of the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans and their dependents.

2015 AB851/SB636

relating to: making unemployed veterans eligible for the Transform Milwaukee Jobs and Transitional Jobs programs.

2015 AB 541/SB419

relating to: a veterans employment and entrepreneurship grant program, veteran employment grants, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

2015 AB544/SB394

relating to: requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a special wild turkey hunting program for certain disabled veterans.

2015 AB441/SB339

relating to: establishing the Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative.

2015 AB185/SB189

relating to: directing the governor to annually proclaim Veteran Education Awareness Week.

2015 AB235/SB164

relating to: charging resident fees to nonresident veterans and their family members attending technical colleges.

2015 AB 271/SB38

relating to: expanding the eligibility of a veteran and an eligible unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit.

2015 AB542/SB418

relating to: a nonprofit organization grant program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and making an appropriation.

2015 AB821/SB668

relating to: powers of officers and employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, powers of the Board of Veterans Affairs, employment of veterans regional coordinators and claims officers, and making appropriations.

2015 AB510/SB370

relating to: health care aid for certain veterans and their family members.

2015 AB938

relating to: admission of children of veterans to Milwaukee Public Schools.

2015 AB281/SB207

relating to: awards of construction contracts to minority businesses and disabled veteran-owned businesses by the Department of Administration.

2015 AB/336/SB 443

relating to: special registration plates that are military in nature.

2015 SB350

relating to: a requirement that all employers in this state grant a paid leave of absence on Veterans Day to employees who are veterans.

2015 AB974/SB768

relating to: a sales and use tax exemption for material used to construct a war memorial owned by a veterans organization.

END

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Updated July 19, 2016