

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
September 18, 2024

The meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room.
Members present were:

Robin Housley
Mike Male
Michael Stigers
Shelly Howsare
Bill VanWaes

Minutes of the August 14, 2024 meeting were read. Commissioner Housley made the motion to accept, Commissioner Howsare. Approved by all present.

✓ seconded

September reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Outreach items – the Administrator per the Commission's request got prices on some outreach items. Different items were presented and discussion was held. A motion by Commissioner Housley, seconded by Commissioner Male to purchase 500 bags, 1,000 pens and as many can coolers we can purchase with \$2500. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

The Administrator handed out reservation information and an agenda for their upcoming training on October 14th. The Administrator reminded them to track their mileage and receipts for supper on Sunday evening.

New business: The Administrator received an email from Iowa Select Farms again regarding the pork loins. Discussion was held and we will again apply. The Administrator will reach out to the VFW and VFW Auxiliary to ask if they would also apply for pork loins so that we have enough to give out.

The Commission decided on November 16th for a Veteran Appreciation event from 8:30-11:30 to be held in the large meeting room of the courthouse. The Administrator will reach out to the VBA, VAMC, Vet Center, and Honor Flight representatives. Commissioner Housley will check with the Cemetery regarding a possible representative from there and Commissioner Howsare will check about Iowa Workforce.

The Administrator would like to do a newsletter about the event to be sent out at the end of October with details about the event. Allocation funds will be used for that mailing.

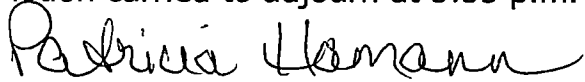
The Administrator presented the Commission with the latest numbers from the RO regarding compensation, pension and DIC. Our numbers increased and with 80 open claims currently, will hopefully continue to do so. There have been a lot

of errors in decisions regarding effective dates, and wrong regulations. This has created extra work as a new claim must be filed in order to get those corrected, which in turn means that the Veteran has to wait longer for their benefits.

Commissioner Male asked Commissioner Howsare to present Cedar County's numbers at the Cedar County district meeting in his absence since it is being held in West Branch. Commissioner Howsare will attend.

The Administrator has the shirts for the Commission for them to wear at their training in October and the outreach event in November. Distribution will be done after the meeting.

Next Commissioner meeting will be held on October 23, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
Motion made by Commissioner Housley, seconded by Commissioner Stigers.
Motion carried to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.



Patricia Hamann, Administrator