

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
September 16, 2025

The meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room.

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Bruce Jeffries

Robin Housley

Absent:

Mike Male - vacation

Michael Stigers - delayed

Minutes of the August 13, 2025 meeting were read. Commissioner Jeffries made the motion to accept, Commissioner Housley seconded. Approved by all present.

September reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: The allocation check has been received. Discussion was held. The Commission would like to get on the Board of Supervisors agenda on September 30th to discuss whether to accept or not accept the funds. The Administrator will let them know the time of that appointment on the agenda.

New business: The Administrator gave copies of the letter and agenda from IDVA for their annual training on October 13th. Discussion was held. None of the Commissioners in attendance were interested in attending this year.

The Administrator got the email regarding the pork loin giveaway. The Administrator asked what date and they agreed on November 15th from 9-11 a.m. The Administrator will invite the VAMC Hospital, VBA, Vet Center, Public Health and HomeBase Iowa/Workforce Development. Commissioner Housley will invite the Rock Island Arsenal also.

We will set up like we did last year and it will be an open house in the large meeting room of the courthouse. Discussion was had regarding where to store the pork loins. The Administrator will check with Family Foods and ask Michael to check with Jeff's market as an option also.

The Administrator had a virtual meeting with members of the state commission, IDVA and Rep. Collins and Rep Boden. Discussion over the code changes made last year and the training program by IDVA were the topics. The state feels that they should again teach ceu's to save money for the state.

The Administrator asked then why when the State Chair of the Commission was a CVSO they were not only the president of NACVSO, but attended for 25 years if

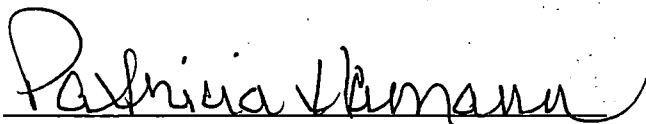
it isn't any good? The Commandant was also asked that same question as he attends national veterans affairs director's conference every year also. There was no answer given by either. Rep Boden didn't understand why the IDVA had anything to do with training federal benefits when they allotted us \$3,000 for that national training. More discussion will happen before legislative session.

The Administrator along with the IACVS legislative liaison, Michael Mortenson visited with Rep Kaufmann at the capital. Discussion was had over the numbers that Iowa has since the state has invested in Iowa's Veterans and the counties with the allocation funds. Rep Kaufmann was impressed with those numbers. Discussion continued with the legislative changes that were made and why. It was a good 45 minute visit with Rep Kaufmann.

The Administrator shared numbers for the state with the Commission. These are numbers for comparison from 2005 to 2024 which is the latest information we have. We have lost more than 83,000 Veterans in the state since 2005 but have increased compensation and pension to over 1 billion federal dollars coming in.

Commissioner Stigers joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m. The Commission took a break while waiting for the statewide Commission training to begin at 6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting after statewide training adjourned at 7:50 p.m., motion made by Commissioner Housley, seconded by Commissioner Howsare, approved by all in attendance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Hamann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator