

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission  
November 12, 2025

The meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room.

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Mike Male

Michael Stigers

Absent:

Bruce Jeffries

Robin Housley

Minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting were read. Commissioner Stigers made the motion to accept, Commissioner Howsare seconded. Approved by all present.

November reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Discussion regarding the appreciation event was held. Commissioners Male and Stigers will meet at the Durant Locker to pick up the pork loins at 7:45 Saturday morning. The Administrator asked that the Commissioners be there no later than 8:30 Saturday morning as the event starts at 9 and we will have people there early.

The Administrator has ordered 15 dozen cookies from the bakery and will pick those up on Saturday morning.

New business: The Administrator gave an update on fall school and elections. The new Association President is Jim Jones, Plymouth County he is the former 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice from the Administrator's term. There were only 2 uncontested races for positions this time.

The Commandant was not happy that there were counties that didn't have Commissioners attend their training. He said it was disappointing. Cedar County didn't have anyone in attendance at the IDVA training, however we have had full participation in 2 virtual trainings put on by the Association which is more than they would have received at the IDVA's fall training. The state only had 120 Commissioners in attendance and we had that for our spring training then another 100 for fall that was given virtually.

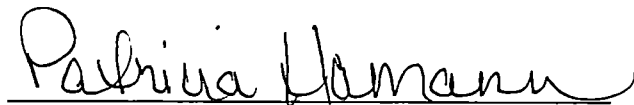
The Commandant also proceeded to tell the counties that the state will be stepping in due to the state's ranking only being 44<sup>th</sup> nationwide for Veteran's benefits. They are introducing legislation to make changes to the code and introducing new legislation to change how the counties are currently operating.

There was talk of a statewide data base so that the state can monitor productivity of each county.

This would be a direct violation of federal and county HIPAA as there is no release for county Veteran information to be shared statewide with other counties not entitled to see personal data. The Administrator pointed that out to the Commandant who disagreed. The Administrator did check with our HIPAA Compliance Officer and she also had concerns about confidentiality statewide not only county but federal information as each one would need specific releases.

The regular meeting was motioned for adjournment at 5:15 p.m. by Commissioner Howsare, seconded by Commissioner Stigers, approved by all in attendance. The Commission will be going down to the basement to assist in setting up for Saturday's event.

The Commission finished setting up at 5:45 and left the building.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Hamann", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and connected, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator