

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
May 13, 2026

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

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Mike Male

Robin Housley

Bruce Jeffries

Michael Stigers

Minutes of the April 8, 2026 meeting were read. Commissioner Housley made the motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Stigers motioned to approve. Approved by all present.

May reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Discussion was held regarding the legislation. The bill SF2466 failed to pass. Even though it made it through multiple levels, it did not make it out of caucus in the house, therefore did not get to the house floor for debate or vote. This was a huge win for counties and Veterans. This bill was not advantageous to the Veterans we served and our voices were loud and heard. We will be working with all entities to provide a new bill that addresses the concerns of hours, requirement of data bases and transparency in reports given.

The way the \$10,000 is being used also needs to be updated so that it can't be used on regular office expenses. It should be used on outreach, hours or training. No more funding of regular office phone or office supplies not for outreach.

Discussion on the upcoming vacancy. The Commission had discussion on potential candidates. Commissioner Male will be gone during the June meeting but stated he trusted the opinion of the Commissioners regarding the potential candidate selection. The Administrator will reach out to a potential candidate to see if they are interested.

Outreach items were discussed. The Administrator is waiting for the credit card limit to be increased as there are a lot of expenses on there right now and those need to be paid in order to continue to purchase items. So far the bags and post it notes have been purchased.

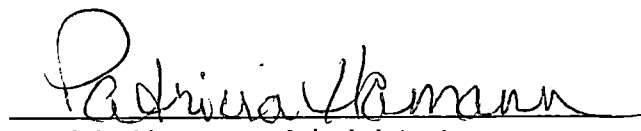
New business: The Administrator asked Commissioner Stigers to give a run down of the District 1 VFW event that was held and an incident that took place regarding an email from over a year ago. He was confronted by a Auxiliary member there regarding his interest in being the Junior Vice for the VFW state.

The Administrator then stated that it created an uncomfortable setting for the presentation. The Administrator was approached by 2 Veterans and an Auxiliary member with questions regarding some benefits. The Administrator is following up with the Veterans as they had claim questions that couldn't be answered at that time.

The VAMC in Iowa City is holding an event on June 11, 2026 and the Administrator asked if anyone would be interested in attending. Commissioners Howsare and Jeffries would like to attend. The Administrator will RSVP for the 3 of them. District 1 will also have their annual meeting following that event at the Johnson County office.

The Administrator shared the VAMC's "Beacon" newsletter with the Commission and the March RO reports on numbers for March.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment at 5:15 p.m. by Commissioner Stigers, seconded by Commissioner Howsare, approved by all in attendance.



Patricia Hamann, Administrator