

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
June 10, 2026

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

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Robin Housley

Bruce Jeffries

Michael Stigers

Absent Commissioner Male

Guest: Bryan Schroeder

Minutes of the May 13, 2026 meeting were read. Commissioner Stigers made the motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Housley seconded the motion to approve. Approved by all present.

June reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: The legislative session is over but there are still many questions about the disabled Veterans Homestead program. It used to have a 40 acre limit on property in the country however the language was changed. It may now only be .5 acre with the house that is tax free. We are waiting on further clarification from the state on this issue.

The Administrator shared the VAMC agenda for tomorrow's CALM training put on by the VHA staff and about the tour of the facility.

New business: Bryan Schroeder was interviewed for the Commission member vacancy. The current Commission members asked questions, briefed him on things happening in the office and with the state in an effort to give transparency. Bryan said he was interested in the position and would be happy to serve.

Commissioner Jeffries made the motion to send a letter of recommendation of appointment to the Board of Supervisors for Bryan Schroeder. His term will commence on July 1, 2026 and be for 3 years if approved by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Stigers seconded the motion. All those present voted unanimously for the appointment.

The Administrator thanked the Commission for pushing the Administrator to go in person to national training versus virtual. Five states were chosen to speak with Deputy Secretary Paul Lawrence for 20 minutes each. It was an amazing opportunity to share with Deputy Lawrence what is happening in rural

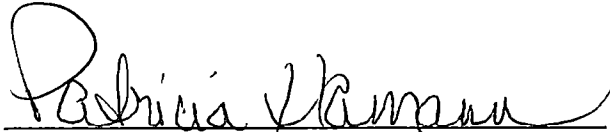
communities and we asked that the CVSO Act be funded. It was passed two years ago by congress but has yet to be funded. We also discussed the awful contracted exams and having Veterans drive 4 hours one way to an appointment.

The Administrator shared the monthly reports from the Regional Office. Our overall total went up 3 recipients in the amount of over \$18,000 a month more. That was a significant rise in money. We are now at \$660,365 per month coming in from VA federal funds.

A letter was shared with the Commission from Commandant Jacobus on the breakdown of requirements that IDVA is implementing. Discussion was held.

The Administrator updated the Commission on the purchases. The hats and popcorn maker are the only things left to purchase. There is a quote coming for the hats and it looks like it will cost \$15 per hat, we are looking at 200 so that would cost \$3000. That would almost spend what we have left. We will use the rest, along with the county outreach dollars to purchase the popcorn popper and supplies.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment at 5:33 p.m. by Commissioner Howsare, seconded by Commissioner Housley, approved by all in attendance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Hamann', written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator