

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Continued

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Could Not Determine

OLD /UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Budget Presentation BOS on schedule for January 23, 2024: (Peggy) – VSO budget presentation went well.
- Spring School Update: (Peggy) At present, only Andrew Dewey is going, but two hotel rooms have been booked in case more decide to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Meeting with Chamber of Commerce (Holly & Peggy) – Peggy Becker reported that the focus of the meeting was on employment. The Chamber offered to meet with the VSO but the targeted demographic are young people just entering the workforce. Advertising may not serve veterans in our area. Our membership has not been advantageous.
- CPR/First Aid Training (Peggy) – Class will be offered in the VSO on March 13, from 8:30-12. All staff and Commissioners are invited, but attendance is not mandatory.
- Agenda Template Changes/Rearrangement: (Peggy) – The proposed changes will make for easier reading. Reports will be moved to the top (budget, facility, website usage, etc), The format can be adapted later, as necessary.
- Office Status Report (Peggy)
 - Teams – The office has been using Teams more. There has been issues with meeting attendees on teams being able to hear everyone. The Commissioners/VSO Staff now have a team. MPR usage is now labelled on that calendar. All posts will be sent to email inboxes. All commission meeting documents will be uploaded. Mick Gutttau reported that he has been impressed with quality of information available on teams during this trial period. Office will fully transition to Teams beginning July 1, 2024.
 - Production/Claims Status Update – The spreadsheet caseworkers are using was created by the previous director and Sam Pettit, Caseworker, has modified and updated the tracking system. Currently, 3 Caseworkers have 50 pending claims. Numbers will fluctuate as time progresses and data tracked is not veteran unique but is service based. Commissioners questioned if the information being tracked included out of county veterans and if there is additional labor that will negatively affect county citizens’ tax dollars. Peggy Becker reported that the additional work is negligible as staff regularly try to refer clients back to their county of origin.
- Donna Barry – The Republican Committee Convention meeting at IWCC will have a pantry donation of canned goods as well as a monetary donation.

Public Comment (3-minute limit) – Brad Powell reported that he has been mentoring new veterans in the Veteran Court system and their team has been working well. Peggy Becker reported that she has reached out to the attorney and it has been determined that VSO personnel cannot assist as previously expected.

Mick Gutttau, speaking not as a Commissioner but as a client, commented on the professionalism of his caseworker in processing his claim and keeping him apprised of each step. He appreciates the thoroughness and professionalism of VSO office personnel.

***CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A)February ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
0 Request for Assistance***

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING March 11, 2024