

Cerro Gordo County Veteran Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, April 24, 2023, 9:00 am

Commissioner attendance: Jessica Reith, Cecil Foell, Richard Ochoa, Daryl Johnson and Cindy Davis. Other representative Maria Bilharz (Director CVSO), Paul Beatty (CVSO)

1. Meeting called to order by Richard Ochoa at 9:05 a.m.
2. Approval of previous months minutes. Daryl Johnson made a motion to approve the February minutes, second by Richard Ochoa with the change to the date of the minutes from January to March. Motion passed.
3. Signing of bills. Bills that were signed included: phone, KCMR Vets Tribute, SALT Forum, TAG – T-shirts and pens, postage, office supplies, Grave markers. Cindy Davis made a motion to approve the bills; second by Cecil Foell. Motion passed.
4. What's New in the Office:

Home Base Iowa Update

Maria Bilharz stated her office has asked for the Home Base Iowa Resolution to be signed by the Cerro Gordo County Supervisor's, and to be put on the agenda. This is tentatively set for Monday, April 24 for the resolution to be signed.

Once signed, the VA office will collaborate with the Supervisors on what could be included to the incentive package. VA office staff met with each Supervisor on Thursday April 20th. Supervisors are leaning with a monetary incentive option to be used as a down deposit on a home, and/or a utility hook up. Not to exceed \$500 per veteran to see how this first year goes. This can be changed at any time, but the resolution acknowledging we are evolving as Home Base Iowa County is key.

The VA office will verify with the Supervisor's what their expectations are of our VA office managing the program. Supervisors have agreed that the monetary funds to plenish the program will be accommodated by them. A revenue and expense line item for any income donations and funds from the Supervisor's has been created.

Two donations have been received from the VA office to help fund the program was from the Clear Lake Lion's Club \$250 and \$100 from the Rockwell Lion's Club.

April Tree Donation

The VA office was advised by the nursery on the tree order that trees should arrive the week of April 24th but have not been given a specific date yet. Weather delayed the arrival times for the trees. The trees were paid for and was less than \$800 this year, which ended up being less than last year's bill. The cap was set at \$1,000 to spend. The trees are going to Ventura and Dougherty this year.

Spring IACCVSO Training

Spring Iowa Association of Commissioners and County Veterans Service Officers training took place in Des Moines April 10-13th. Paul and Maria attended this training. It was well rounded, and we have turned in our accreditation credits electronically to the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers who maintains our accreditation. The dues for the VA office are paid up to maintain our membership.

KCRM Radio

This past week the 1133rd Iowa National Guard Unit based out of Mason City has been in touch with KCRM radio about doing something for their men and women who are stationed in Poland. They have decided they are going to show support, gratitude, and appreciation to them with a very special boxes to Boots project. During the month of July, KCMR Radio they will be working with the 1133rd National Guard Unit based out of Mason City that is in Poland at this time. They want to provide Boxes to Boots. Plans are to provide each of the troops with their very own box of travel size personal care items, puzzle books and other items like that plus lots of ready to grab snacks. Each member of the 1133rd will receive their very own box. The VA office has agreed to be an underwriter of Boxes for Boots for the 113rd National Guard members. The VA office will be included in 40 messages, community posters, our very own poster, and special Boxes to Boots logo, an on-air announcer mentions us as a sponsor on KCMR 97.9 FM, and in their social media posts. The VA office has opted in to provide twenty individual boxes for \$400.

5. Public Comments – There were no public comments
6. Next meeting scheduled for May 22nd, 2023 - 9:00 am
7. Adjourn – Daryl Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cecil Foell. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Davis