

**VETERANS SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 7, 2018, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Room 207C, Douglas County Courthouse,**  
**1313 Belknap Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Marvin Finendale.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Marvin Finendale, Dennis Dalbec (left at 2:05 p.m.), Eual Moore, Glen Erickson, Clint Mattson. Absent – Mary Lou Bergman, Jill Fortin. Others present – Brian Erickson, Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Moore, second Erickson, to approve minutes from the April 5, 2018, meeting. Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL:**

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORT – VETERAN OUTREACH AND RECOVERY PROGRAM:** 14.75% increase in veteran contact since 2017; Douglas County has the highest veteran population in the northwest region. Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) specializes in veteran assistance with homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse and will benefit veterans to be located close.

**VETERANS OFFICE MODIFICATION STATUS:** Part of reception area to be converted to office space to allow VORP to operate in Douglas County; anticipated move-in date of July 1, 2018.

**VETERAN EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:** Refer to last agenda item (same topic).

**VETERAN NEEDS/CARE CENTER:** Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs considering placement of a facility in Wisconsin, in a Minnesota border city; Douglas County is a potential location. Letter of support to be drafted by B. Erickson and brought back to committee for input; letter will be referred to Health and Human Services Committee.

**VETERAN EXPO REVIEW:** More vendors than previous years; over 200 visitors in attendance. Visitors dropped significantly after speakers were done; to consider shortening length of expo.

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND ACTIVITIES:** Summer kick-off event held at Bong Center. Over 800 people attended with anticipation of only 300. Museum visits were the highest of the year at over 250. Enough donations were received to pay for event, with approximately \$500 left over for the Bong Center. More volunteers, food, parking areas and dunk tank to be reviewed for next year.

**MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE IDENTIFICATION:** If there are no markers on grave or name isn't on list, it's impossible to know if individual is a veteran; flags are placed where veterans are known.

**VETERANS OCTOBER FESTIVAL PLANNING:** Moose Lodge willing to hold event. Event to be a new concept instead of Veterans Ball; will be a fundraiser and include an auction.

**INCARCERATED VETERANS NOTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE:** Pamphlet of information created to distribute to Douglas County inmates. Veteran Affairs mental health representative held sessions with jail, sheriff and police department personnel discussing post-traumatic stress disorder, and other veteran mental health needs.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Acceptance of donations; tiny homes (homeless veterans); October festival; veterans needs/care.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Mattson, second Moore, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Jo Lundgren, Committee Clerk