



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, October 27, 2025 – 10:00 am
Winnebago Co Health Department Board Room

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

Present: Commissioners Dave Peterson, Steve Bosma, Troy Thompson and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Mary Lou Kleveland

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

The September monthly meeting minutes were reviewed. Thompson motioned, seconded by Bosma to approve the September minutes. All in favor. September minutes are approved.

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: VSO shared the statistics for September 2025 for Winnebago County. VSO noted that September had been an extremely busy month in all areas. VSO also gave the Commissioners a copy of the 3rd quarter report for the VA office which was submitted to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on October 14, 2025.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – VSO attended the Home Base Iowa dedication ceremonies for both Rake and Thompson in September. At these events, VSO shared about the services that her office provides to veterans in the county. VSO also had a chance to interact with county and state leaders.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report for Approval - The Commissioners and VSO reviewed the expenditures for September 2025. Thompson expressed concern that there was not enough in the budget to cover the Workmen's Compensation line item for VSO. VSO advised that she would discuss this concern with Auditor Karla Weiss. VSO also noted a mistake in the expenditure report. The copy paper expenditure was mistakenly (VSO error) placed under the line item for office equipment and furniture instead of under office supplies. VSO will request that Deputy Auditory Kris Oswald correct the mistake in the October expenditure report. Other line items were discussed to ensure that the budget could be maintained during the remainder of the fiscal year. Thompson motioned and Peterson seconded to approve the expenditures for September. All in favor. The September expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. IDVA (Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs) Fall Training for VSO and Commissioners – VSO shared the disappointing experience she had at the IDVA Fall School in October. VSO stated that Commandant Todd Jacobus strongly expressed his dissatisfaction with the overall performance of VSOs in Iowa compared to the rest of the country. He shared that he plans to introduce legislation that would greatly impact VSOs in Iowa. This VSO feels that his proposed legislative changes are very negative to the role of VSO. VSO also shared that the training topics and speakers were only minimally practical to the daily job that VSO does. VSO expressed her concerns about the training on the evaluation form given by IDVA at the end of the training. None of the Winnebago County Commissioners were able to attend the IDVA Commissioner

training. Commandant Jacobus was unhappy with the counties that did not have any Commissioners in attendance at the training. VSO stated at the fall training that elections had been held for the executive board of Iowa Association of County Veteran Services

- b. Update on Upcoming Veterans Day events – VSO stated that she had been invited to attend the Hy-Vee Breakfast for Veterans on November 11th. The breakfast is free and runs from 6 am to 11 am. VSO reported that she planned to attend the breakfast as it would be a good way to meet new veterans and to share information with the veterans in attendance. VSO will then go to the Winnebago Industries program for their employees who are veterans. VSO will have a table there with information and will be able to talk to the veterans in attendance.

5. **New Business**

- a. Commissioner Re-Appointments –VSO stated that she had discussed Commissioner re-appointments with Auditor Karla Weiss. Karla stated that the Board of Supervisors automatically re-appoints the Commissioners on December 31, 2025 for a new three-year term when that Commissioner's term is expiring. VSO asked all three Commissioners if they wished to continue in their role as a Commissioner and all stated that they wanted to continue in this role.
- b. KIOW Ads – VSO stated that she had recorded two different ads encouraging new veterans and veterans who had not been in the office for a while to call and schedule an appointment with VSO. VSO stated that she had also recorded a Veterans Day ad. The ads will be run twice a day each morning from October 27th to November 26th. The Veterans Day ad will run in addition to the other two ads from November 4th to November 11th.
- c. New & Emerging Information – VSO reported that the Board of Supervisors would be approving a proclamation for Operation Green Light which runs from November 4th-November 11th. The Courthouse will use green light bulbs on the exterior of the building to honor veterans for Veterans Day. VSO will be going to KLOW to do a Morning Conversation to discuss Operation Green Light.
- d. Financial Assistance Requests – There were no financial requests to report.
- e. Next Meeting Date: November 24, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse

Adjournment – Peterson motioned; Thompson seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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