



Winnebago County Veterans Affairs Commissioners Board Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2026 – 10:00 am

Winnebago Co Courthouse

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge

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

2. Review and Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

3. Veteran Services Officer Report

- a. Monthly VA numbers: VSO shared the statistics for July 2026 for Winnebago County.
- b. County Outreach Efforts – There were no outreach events in July 2026.
- c. Review Monthly Expenditure Report & State Allocation Grant Expenditures & Approval of Reports - The Commissioners and VSO reviewed the regular and state grant allocation expenditures for July 2026. Thompson motioned and Bosma seconded to approve the expenditures for July. All in favor. The July expenditure report was approved and the Commissioners signed off on the report.

4. Old Business

- a. There was no old business to discuss.

5. New Business

- a. VSO & Commissioner Training with Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) – VSO gave each Commissioner a new training plan from IDVA. The plan included the dates for Commissioner training which will now be offered in October & April. The trainings are the same but offer more flexibility in the hopes that more Commissioners will be able to attend. VSO stated that when she receives information regarding the time and location of the October training that she will communicate the information to the Commissioners. VSO stated that they may receive an email from IDVA with the information as well.
- b. Review of updated Financial Assistance Policy with possible approval of changes – VSO and Commissioners reviewed the policy and made changes. The policy will be approved later. VSO will give a copy of the revised policy to the Commissioners at the September meeting.
- c. New & Emerging Information– Status of claims processing with VA – VSO shared that the VA has reduced their backlog of claims, but it appears that the reduction was accomplished with many denials of claims and mistakes with the decisions. Consequently, the Higher-Level Review (HLR) appeal process has now seen a 100% increase in HLR requests. VSO advised that the backlog of HLRs will cause very lengthy delays for decisions on appeals.
- d. Financial Assistance Request(s) with possible closed session – There were no requests for financial assistance. However, Bosma shared that there is an organization called Mission 22 which is out of Buffalo Center. The contact person is Martha Beenken. Mission 22 recently held their 8th annual run, and the money raised from the run will be kept in Winnebago Co to help Winnebago

County veterans. Their primary mission is to prevent veteran suicide. VSO advised that she would reach out to Martha so that VSO will be able to potentially refer veterans in need of assistance to Mission 22.

- e. Next Meeting Date: September 28, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Winnebago County Courthouse.

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

veterans@winnebagocountyiowa.gov

641.585.5736 office

641.585.5737 fax