

## **VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**(February 26, 2015)**

The bi-monthly Veterans Service Commission Meeting was held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in the County Board room located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Richland County Court House at 10:00 a.m.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Sebranek called the meeting to order.

***Pledge of Allegiance:*** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Sebranek.

Commission members present: Chairman Sebranek and Commissioners Donald Seep, Dave Bee, and James Deitelhoff. Excused: Commissioner Buford (Jr.) Marshall. Citizens present: None.

***Approve Agenda and Posting:*** Motion made by Commissioner Deitelhoff to approve the posting and agenda and seconded by Commissioner Seep. Motion carried.

***Approve Minutes from December Meeting:*** Motion made by Commissioner Seep to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2014 meeting and seconded by Commissioner Deitelhoff. Motion carried.

***Welcome New Commissioner:*** The Commission welcomed Mr. David Bee as the newest member.

***Welcome Assistant County Veteran Service Officer:*** The Commissioners welcomed Peggy Adank as the new Assistant Veteran Service Officer.

***Letter of Intent to Retire from the CVSO:*** CVSO Kramer presented her letter of intent to retire to the Commissioners with her last day of employment as April 17, 2015. Motion by Commissioner Dietlehoff to reluctantly accept Ms. Kramer's letter of retirement and forward the letter and ask to advertise the position to the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting on March 3, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Bee. Motion carried.

***Discuss increasing work hours for the Assistant CVSO:*** CVSO Kramer discussed with the commissioners the possibility the new assistant's hours be increased to full time to allow more time for training since the CVSO is leaving fairly soon. It was also discussed to leave the assistant at full time after the departure of the CVSO until such time a new CVSO/Department Head is in place. The assistant's hours will then be revisited at that time. A motion was made by Commissioner Deitelhoff to forward the request to Finance and Personnel Committee to increase the Assistant CVSO's hours to full time to allow for training and after the departure of the CVSO until a new CVSO/Department Head is in place. The hours of the Assistant CVSO will be revisited at that time. Seconded by Commissioner Bee. Motion carried. The request will be presented at the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting on March 3, 2015.

***Claims Updates:*** An Iraq Army Veteran's claim for service connected compensation for PTSD, anxiety disorder with depressive mood was denied. However, a stressor possibly occurred and could be credible for the purpose to establish treatment at the VA but veteran did not report for scheduled VA exam. Therefore, evidence to support claim was not available – claim denied. Remains at 0% service connected for right rotator cuff strain and bilateral cataracts. A Gulf War USMC Veteran was granted service connected compensation at 10% for tinnitus, 0% for right ear hearing loss, 0% for right foot injury, denied service connected compensation for left ear hearing loss, right knee injury, and loss of memory. Overall rated at 10% effective 06/25/2013 and will receive retro pay in the amount of

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**Claims Update Cont:** \$2,216.28 then \$133.17 per month after. An Afghanistan Iraq Army Veteran was granted service connected compensation for PTSD at 50%, and injury for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) at 10% was continued. Denied for flat feet and sleep apnea. Went from 10% to 60% service connected compensation effective 12/27/2013. Will receive a retro check in the amount of \$10,940.87 then \$1,059.09 per month after. An Afghanistan Army Veteran was granted service connected compensation for migraines at 30%, tinnitus at 10% , and broken right toe post residual at 0%. Denied for double hernia, bilateral hearing loss, and psychiatric disorder to include depression and insomnia. Overall granted 40% effective 08/13/2013. Will receive a retro check of \$9,812.20 then \$587.36 per month. Added dependent son to the award and now in the process of a Decision Review Officer Appeal for the hernia and psychiatric disorder to include depression and insomnia. A peacetime Army Veteran was granted 10% service connected compensation for tinnitus. Bilateral hearing loss was denied. Overall rated at 10% effective 03/11/2013 and will receive a retro check in the amount of \$2,603.28 the \$133.17 after. A Vietnam Combat Army Veteran's request to have an increase to the 10% service connected compensation already in place for coronary artery disease was denied. The 10% will remain and overall rated at 60% with other combined service connected disabilities. A Vietnam Army Veteran was granted service connected compensation at 0% for residual of a left broken foot. Denied for left knee injury. A Korea Army Veteran was denied service connected compensation for bilateral hearing loss and tinnitus due to no diagnosis due to refusing VA examination while wintering in Florida. Once veteran returns to Wisconsin in April will do a Decision Review Officer Reconsideration. Veteran was also denied compensation for flat feet not caused by or occurred in service. A Korea Army Veteran was granted 100% service connected compensation for bilateral hearing loss with loss of productive organ and denied compensation for tinnitus. Will receive a retro check in the amount of \$8,979.86 then \$3,010.96 per month with added \$104.13 per month for Code K-1 – loss of productive organ. Applied to add spouse to award, Property Tax Credit Program, and applied for \$10,000 life insurance policy. A Gulf War Air Force Veteran was granted service connected compensation for Crohn's Disease at 30%, scars at 20% effective 11/01/2014. Overall rated at 40% and will receive a retro check in the amount of \$2,339.62 then \$587.36 per month after. A Vietnam/Peacetime Army Veteran was granted 100% temporary service connected compensation for Ischemic Heart Disease effective 10/08/2014 – will be reduced to 30% after rehab on 02/01/2015. Will receive a retro check in the amount of \$9,079.65 then \$407.75 per month effective 02/01/2015. A Vietnam Army Veteran was granted 100% temporary service connected compensation for prostate cancer. Future examination is scheduled for 10/2015. Will receive a retro check in the amount of \$4,343.13 then \$1,447.71 per month till decision by VA to stay at 100% or reduce after October 2015 examination. A Peacetime Navy Veteran received his Statement of Case (SOC) after decision from Appeal Board on right knee condition, left foot and leg infection, bilateral hearing loss and tinnitus. All were denied by the Appeal Board as not caused by or incurred in service. A Vietnam Navy Veteran applied for compensation for bilateral hearing loss and tinnitus. A spouse of a Vietnam Army Veteran who passed away on 12/29/2013 applied for Death Pension. A Vietnam Army Combat Veteran applied for compensation for Adult Type II Diabetes. An Iraq/Afghanistan Army Veteran applied for reinstatement of 10% service connected back condition after being released from active duty. Also applied for compensation for bilateral hearing loss, tinnitus, irregular bowel condition, right foot injury, right knee torn ACL, upper chest congestion and an increase to the 10% service connected back condition. An Iraq Army Veteran applied for compensation for residuals of a broken right foot, recurring callus on the right foot – secondary to the broken right foot, bilateral hearing loss, tinnitus, and lower back pain. A Vietnam Combat Army Veteran applied for compensation for Adult Type II Diabetes, neuropathy in both feet, erectile dysfunction and enrolled into the VA Health Care System. A retired Air Force Iraq Veteran requested transfer of claim file from Philadelphia, PA to Milwaukee. Rated at 60% and requested additional compensation for degenerative disc disease and secondary

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**Claims Update Cont:** disabilities of stiffness and pain in both hands associated with the service connected cervical and low back strains. I also explained how Concurrent Receipt of VA Compensation and Military Retired Pay will work out with current service connected rating. This veteran has since moved to Monroe County and claim will now be transferred to that office.

**Veteran Service Office 2014 Budget year end numbers:** CVSO Kramer reported the end of the year numbers to the commission. Bottom lines were not over budgeted amounts set. Commissioner Deitelhoff made a motion to accept the 2014 Budget report, seconded by Commissioner Sebranek. Motion carried.

**Veteran Service Officer 2015 Budget:** CVSO Kramer reported on the 2015 budget. Budget is performing as expected at this time. Motion by Commissioner Deitelhoff to accept the report the 2015 Budget report, seconded by Commissioner Sebranek. Motion carried.

**Approval to apply for the CVSO Grant.:** Motion made by Commissioner Seep to apply for the CVSO Grant with approval from the County Board. Seconded by Commissioner Deitelhoff. Motion carried. The CVSO will now contact Corporate Council to draw up the resolution for applying for the grant to be presented at the next County Board Meeting in March.

**WDVA Accreditation Class in March 2015:** The new Assistant CVSO will be attending the State Accreditation Class from March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee. These classes run from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Motion by Commissioner Deitelhoff to recommend to the Finance and Personnel Committee that the Assistant CVSO be paid full time during this week rather than giving her the following week off to make up for the extra hours. Seconded by Commissioner Seep. Motion carried.

**Cost to send Assistant CVSO to National for Accreditation:** CVSO Kramer explained to the Commissioners the possible advantage of sending the Assistant to the National CVSO Conference in Appleton, WI the end of May 2015. She also explained the cost of \$400.00 for registration besides lodging, mileage and meals. Motion to disapprove sending the Assistant to the National CVSO Conference due to cost and budget restraints made by Commissioner Dietelhoff, seconded by Commissioner Seep. Motion carried.

**Transportation and Aid Vouchers:** There were no transportation or aid vouchers presented at this meeting therefore, the meeting did not go into closed session.

**Return to Open Session:** This meeting did not go into closed session therefore, no action to come back into open session needed.

**Next Commission Meeting:** The next meeting will convene on April 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Commissioner Seep to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bee. Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Kramer, CVSO  
Veterans Service Office