GREEN LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION January 12, 2021

The following are the open minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Green Lake County Veterans Service Commission held in the Veterans Service Office at the Government Center, Green Lake, WI, at 10:30 A.M. on January 12, 2021

Members present: Victor Shrock, Harley Reabe (County Board Chair, stand-in) and Jon Vandeyacht, Secretary.

<u>Certification of Open Meeting Law:</u> The requirements of the Open Meeting Law have been met.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Shrock.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

<u>Approval of Agenda:</u> After discussion, Shrock made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Reabe. All ayes. Motion carried.

<u>Action on Minutes:</u> After discussion, Shrock made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting. Second by Reabe. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appearances & Correspondence: Harley Reabe (County Board Chair) Donny Robinson (DAV Chapter commander) & Greg Palo (DAV Chapter Adjutant)

<u>Old Business:</u> Vandeyacht reported that Victor Shrock.... Was re-appointed as a Service Commissioner at the Dec. 2020 county board meeting.

Vandeyacht reported the 2021 WDVA transportation grant was submitted and should have been received. Based on lack of appointments within the VHA during Covid, there were few rides so the grant is expected to be small.

Vandeyacht reported that the Service commission aid/grant use during 2020 was minimal. With protections in place with certain utility/rent debts, the request for aid was only 3 Veterans families.

<u>New Business</u>: Vandeyacht reported that the 2021 Student Government Day will take not take place. The pandemic is still ongoing and it is in everyone's best interest that the event be postponed one more year.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2021 CVSO conferences are in the planning stage. The NACVSO (National CVSO Association) has their annual conference planed for Madison this year. He plans on attending but expects it to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Vandeyacht reported that the 2021 WDVA CVSO Grant is open for application and will be submitted before the end of the month. It is the same in years past at \$8,500 for the county.

Vandeyacht reported the 2021's Outreach plan will be the setting up of benefit tables at various Veterans Service Organizational events throughout the county. He will have a table set up similar to the county fair but with the intent of reaching Veterans to discuss their benefits or needs.

Service Office Report: Vandeyacht reported that 2020's contacts were significantly less than previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 4 months in which the VA didn't do any appointments in person other than life saving or deemed necessary. Combined with the safe at home order, the request for claims assistance was also limited. Contacts over the last 2 or 3 months have increased greatly.

Vandeyacht reported that, both himself and Robin attended the WICVSOA fall conference remotely. The training was required to maintain accreditation. They both also attended remote training from the national association for advance appeals training.

Vandeyacht reported that due to the increased price in fuel and groceries (CPI Index) that the COLA for 2021 is 1.3. It will average about \$22 per person on the median Disability and Social Security of \$1,500/month.

Financial Report: After discussion, Shrock made a motion to approve the Financial Report as submitted. Second by Reabe All ayes. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Date: The date for the next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 10:30

<u>Adjournment</u>: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M. on a motion by Shrock. Second by Reabe. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Jon D. Vandeyacht Secretary, Veterans Service Commission