

Greene County Veterans Affairs Commission

May 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Phone Conference due to Covid-19 Concerns and Courthouse Closure

Members Present: Michael Bierl, Bruce Chaffee, Barb Labate and Jerry Spaulding.

Public Comments – None.

Previous Minutes – Motion made by Spaulding, motion seconded, and carried to approve the April meeting minutes.

Expense/Budget Report – Reviewed by Bierl.

Approval of Bills –

IACCVSO, Annual Dues for 2020-2021 \$50.00
DataSpec – VetraSpec Veterans Computer Program Yearly Fees \$449.00
Central Iowa Publishing, Inc. – VA Office Still Open Ad \$45.00
Bee & Herald – VA Office Still Open April Ads \$118.50
Fareway Grocery Gift Cards - \$1675
Hy-Vee Grocery Gift Card - \$100
Commissioner pay – Chaffee \$30, Labate \$30, Spaulding \$30
Martin Flag Co. – Office Flag \$246.61
Shine On Design – 250 Key Chains & 500 Lapel Pins \$820.99

Motion made by Labate, seconded, and carried to approve presented bills.

Old Business

Floyd Brown Picture in Courthouse – Article to be distributed to media by Bierl. Ceremony set for May 22nd at 4:00.

Proposed Dinner/Talk for Veterans – Discussion on hold due to Covid-19.

Propose procedure for veteran photo displays – Word “eligible” changed to “considered”. Guidelines approved. Will add to Veterans Affairs Website when application form completed.

E-mail Newsletter – Ongoing process to set up group emails.

Commanders Call – Discussion on hold due to Covid-19.

Finalize Photo Dedication – Bierl will contact attorney and supervisor. Labate will contact Legion, family, and media.

New Business

Governor/State Approved Outreach Funds for COVID-19 – Governor has authorized funds from the \$10,000 grant to be used for Veteran assistance for food and basic necessities due to COVID-19. Grocery gift cards will be issued to needy veterans and their families. Gift card amount: \$75 for single, \$100 for couple, couple with children \$25 additional per child.

8 Singles	Total = \$600
3 Couples	Total = \$300
5 Couples with children	Total = \$875

Approval for funds for Grave Medallions – Bierl continuing to determine the number of grave medallions needed.

GDx (Federal Report on Counties Veterans Expenditures) – Bierl reviewed the funds spent by veterans within Greene County. Veteran population decreasing.

General Information – Bierl identified gaps in grave registrations and is working with funeral homes to obtain missing records and update the Veteran Graves information in the VetraSpec Database. Bierl will contact the VA Hospital and Greene County Medical Center to investigate policies regarding the veteran usage of Life Flight services.

Next Meeting Date – June 9th at 10:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:01.

Barb Labate, Secretary