

Veterans Service Commission  
Minutes of Meeting November 22, 2017

The meeting of the Dodge County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) was called to order by Chairperson Caine at 9:35 a.m., November 22, 2017 in room 253 of the Dodge County Administration building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

Pledge of Allegiance spoken.

Roll Call is conducted.

Members present: Chairperson Chester Caine (Lowell), Vice-Chairperson Robert Patrouille (Waupun)

Members absent: Dennis Johnson (Watertown) Arrived at (9:47 a.m.)

Others present: Andy Miller, Dodge County Veterans Service Officer & VSC Secretary

Adopted amended agenda, Motion by Patrouille, seconded by Caine.

Public Comment – Johnson asked about how the commission can get more in the papers and radio regarding what we do. CVSO will send press release to him and let know.

VSC elections were held. Patrouille motioned to nominate Caine for Chairperson, seconded by Johnson. Voted unanimously and approved. Caine motioned to nominate Patrouille for Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Johnson. Voted unanimously and approved.

It was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 VSC meeting.

The adopted VSC and VSO budgets were discussed. The budgeted amount is \$8,000 with \$4,000 balance applied. Questions were asked about flags and flag holders. After discussion it was determined to go with metal flag holders instead of the plastic. It was suggested by Johnson that cemeteries should leave the flag holder in, and that only flags should be pulled between holidays.

Communications were shared, a discussion about services occurred after Miller summarized for the commission the positive and negative communications that have been received by the office.

Upon a motion made by Patrouille, seconded by Johnson, and carried unanimously using a roll call vote, the VSC convened in closed session at 10:31 a.m. for the purpose of review of personal, financial, and medical history information over which the VSC has jurisdiction and exercises responsibility in accordance with Section 19.85(1) (f) of the Wisconsin Statutes, (Report of distribution of VSC funds were distributed and then collected from VSC members). Discussed VSC payments made.

Upon a motion made by Patrouille, seconded by Johnson, and carried, the VSC reconvened in open session at 10:54a.m.

Miller briefed the new WDVA and USDVA procedures and updates since last year. Items discussed were the new Decision Ready Claims and Direct Upload Tools for USDVA and the WI GI Bill and potential property tax credit changes proposed in the State Assembly. Tracking of medical supplies and equipment by the VSC consolidated for the county was suggested by Johnson.

Under agenda item of commission members matters not subject to adoption: Johnson asked about what funeral homes need educated on services available and procedure. Patrouille asked about state

grant money and CVSO gave brief on how it is reverted to a block grant and that there is no longer a need for filing for reimbursements. Johnson briefed about upcoming Watertown Military Show for 2018

Upon a motion made by Johnson, seconded by Patrouille, and carried by unanimous vote, the VSC adjourned at 11:22a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Miller  
Dodge County Veterans Service Commission Secretary

# 2017 Annual Report Dodge County Veterans Service Office

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DODGE COUNTY, WI

## Department Overview:

The Dodge County Veterans Service Office is submitting this report covering its activities for the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 for your information and consideration.

Chapter 45.80 of the Wis. Statutes provides for each county to have a County Veterans Service Officer and establishes duties of the Veterans Service Office.

All Dodge County resident veterans and eligible dependents may receive assistance through the services provided. This office provides information on veterans' service-connected disability compensation, nonservice-connected disability pension, vocational training, educational programs, home loan guaranties, life insurance, hospital and domiciliary care, healthcare, combat veteran readjustment counseling, long-term care/veterans' home residency, funeral/burial benefits, employment/job-search counseling, and death benefits to surviving dependents. Approximately 6,875 veterans have been identified as residents of Dodge County.

Chapter 45.81 of the Wis. Statutes provides for each county to have a County Veterans Service Commission consisting of three residents of the County who are veterans appointed for staggered three-year terms by the County Board Chairperson.

The Commission administers the Dodge County Veterans Relief Fund which provides short-term, temporary financial assistance to all resident veterans and their dependents. The Commission investigates claims for financial aid, determines eligibility, and authorizes financial assistance for applicant veterans and dependents. The Commission may delegate administrative duties to the County Veterans Service Officer, who serves as its Executive Secretary.

## Organization:

Veterans Service Office

Andy Miller – County Veterans Service Officer  
Traci Guse – Administrative Secretary III (.5 time)

Veterans Service Commission

Chester Caine – Chairperson (12/01/2019)  
Robert Patrouille – Vice Chairperson (12/01/2018)  
Dennis Johnson – Member (12/01/2020)

## Dodge County CVSO Statistical Performance:

Total Federal and State VA Expenditures in County	Dodge County Total CVSO Expenditure
\$35,408,960	\$108,498 (.09% of Total County Expenditures)

\* Numbers for VA Expenditures are based on Federal FY2016. USDVA releases expenditure data June of each year for the previous fiscal year.

<b>Dodge County Federal DVA Home Loan Guaranty Program</b>			
<b>Total Loans Closed FY2017/All Years</b>	<b>Average FY 2017 Loan Value</b>	<b>Total Loan Value For All Years</b>	<b>Total Active Loans</b>
94/3,348	\$185,087	\$253,894,282	521

**Important County Fiscal Impact Note:**

Dollars received by veterans through the Federal or State DVA and infused into a community by the veterans or family members may change hands three times; creating greater financial impact to the surrounding community and a subsequent increase in taxable revenue available to local government. As well, each dollar of VA medical care expenditure utilized by Dodge County veterans is a dollar potentially saved from their personal and/or insurance expense or, is a relief from the expense of utilizing Medicaid or Medical Assistance which can, as a result, provide additional financial savings benefits to local governments.

**Dodge County CVS0 2017 Office Activity Data:**

**Office Communication for 2017**

E-Mail	1,950
Phone	1,861
FAX	248
Outgoing Mail	162
Incoming Mail	75
Other	123
Office Visits	663
Home Visits	26

**Federal DVA Applications in 2017**

Disability Compensation	149
VA Pension	18
Survivor's Pension	16
Dependency Claims	24
Other	258
<b>Total Federal Applications:</b>	<b>465</b>

**WI DVA Applications for 2017**

Basic Eligibility	29
ANV (Assistance/Health)	1
Prop Tax Credit Eligibility	10
WI GI Bill	33
Vet Ed	0
Driver License Identifier	68
License Fee Waiver	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>150</b>

**Veteran Deaths in 2017**

January	9
February	11
March	10
April	6
May	11
June	9
July	12
August	2
September	7
October	8
November	12
December	11
<b>Total:</b>	<b>108</b>

**Dodge County Veterans Service Commission  
2017 Financial Assistant Grant Breakdown**

Purpose	Amount
Food & Groceries	\$800.00
Transportation	\$500.00
Medical/Dental	\$732.41
Fuel & Utilities	\$700.07
Shelter	\$5,091.00
Other Direct Relief	\$372.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,195.41</b>

**Summary:**

As a CVSO, it is important to maintain a working knowledge of state and federal benefits that pertain to veterans and their family members. All service officers are accredited with the USDVA through a service organization and CVSOs are no exception to this rule. Since my appointment, I have obtained and maintained accreditation through six different veteran service organizations. In addition to initial training, we are required to complete CEUs each year in the areas of compensation, pension, death benefits, appeals, and others. I was elected to represent the southeast region on the CVSO Association of Wisconsin's Executive Committee in October of 2015 and served in that capacity until September 2017. I continue to serve as the chair of the Association's IT committee.

Slowly, but surely, progress continues to move forward towards becoming paperless with both the VA and WDVA when filing claims. There will continue to be some amount of paper and postage costs for as long as original signatures are required, however. The cost to our budget for postal services has decreased by more than 10% nearly every year.

The CVSO office has approximately 800 remaining deceased paper files that will be scanned and converted to electronic format as time permits.

The CVSO office email distribution list has continued to grow and periodic emails are disseminated through the group. The CVSO Facebook page has also been successful in contacting and staying in-touch with veterans of all ages who are technically savvy or connected to social networking.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andy Miller  
Dodge County Veterans Service Officer

## FY17 Status of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Expenditures in Dodge County, WI (Annually based on Sep 30 Population Information)

Year	Veteran Population	Veterans Receiving C & P(1.)	C & P Expenditures	Education & Voc. Rehab	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients(2.)
FY14	7,084	924	\$13,210,000	\$1,577,000	\$391,000	\$14,380,000	1,720
FY15	6,979	907	\$13,224,000	\$1,569,000	\$426,000	\$16,919,000	1,764
FY16	5,901	912	\$14,711,000	\$1,810,000	\$725,000	\$17,508,000	1,851
FY17	5,749	1,044	\$14,983,000	\$1,326,000	\$447,000	\$20,446,000	1,876
Change	-152	+132	+\$272,000	-\$484,000	-\$278,000	+\$2,938,000	+25

**NOTES:**

1. C &P = Compensation and Pension
2. Unique Patients = Number of total Dodge County Veterans utilizing VA Healthcare.
3. USDVA fiscal year runs from Oct 1 – Sep 30.
4. Does not include Home Loan Guaranty money which is not a true expenditure, but a guaranty allowing veterans an easier loan process.

Year	Total VA Expenditures In Dodge County
FY14	\$26,074,000
FY15	\$32,138,000
FY16	\$34,754,000
FY17	\$37,203,000
Change	+\$2,449,000

Data extracted from:  
 Compensation and Pension by County reports –  
<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Report.asp>

Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) Reports –  
<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>

## FY17 Status of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Expenditures in Dodge County, WI

Year	Assistance for Needy Veterans Grant	WI GI Bill Tuition Remission (1)	Retraining Grant	Vet Ed Grant	Property Tax Credit (2)	CVSO Grant
FY14	\$4,060	(51 students) \$196,452	\$0	\$0	(98 eligible) \$289,492	\$13,000
FY15	\$582	(82 students) \$315,864	\$0	\$0	(90 eligible) \$253,445	\$13,000
FY16	\$1,827	(96 students) \$369,792	\$0	\$0	(96 eligible) \$270,341	\$13,000
FY17	\$0	(101 students) \$389,052			(96 eligible) \$269,679	\$13,000
Change	-\$1,827	+\$19,260	\$0	\$0	-\$662	\$0

### NOTES:

1. Tuition Remission values are estimates based on equivalent full time, Wisconsin Technical College rate of \$128.40 per credit. Students could attend UW schools at a higher rate. Not a true expenditure, no money is issued, only debt remitted.
2. Property Tax Credit values for FY14 are estimates based on average property tax for Dodge County of \$2,954.00/year per single family home. FY15-17 amounts are actual rates based on report from WI DOR. Veterans receiving VA disability compensation at the 100% rate receive a full refund of their property tax from the state.
3. WDVA Fiscal Year runs July 1 – Jun 30.

Year	Total Estimated WDVA Expenditures In Dodge County
FY14	\$503,004
FY15	\$582,891
FY16	\$654,960
FY17	\$671,731
Change	+\$16,771

Data extracted from:

Wisconsin Veterans Benefits and Application Tracking System (VBATS) –

<https://services.dva.state.wi.us>