

Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System

VAVS MINUTES

Wednesday: July 26th, 2023

1:30 – 3:00

Welcome – The meeting started with an endurance test. Members waited in 105 (heat index) heat before gaining entrance to the building! CDCE Specialists Cynthia Pommells and Heather Shelley graciously provided water to those waiting outside.

Once inside and cooled down, Interim CDCE Chief Jon Boothe welcomed VAVS Members and VA Staff.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll call. Jon highlighted the Volunteer Appreciation Banquets in Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island. The 1950's Rock and Roll Themed events were well planned and well attended. He noted how nice it was to get everyone together face-to-face and formally thank our amazing volunteers.

Jon recognized the July 5th "Cookie Day success made possible by Iowa American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary # 2503, Military Order of the Purple Heart #260, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists and the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (clowns and all!).

Jon then gave a CDCE Update, which included:

- Dispatch office opened.
- New Program Support Positions (PSA's) have been hired. One PSA will run the dispatch office and the second will provide support to volunteers on shift.
- On-line scheduler is active.
- Front desk hours expanded from 8 am to 4 pm to 7 am to 5 pm.
- Volunteer Programs/Recruitment has been successful.
 - Cookie baking program is back.
- Volunteer Engagement Team-third meeting was held. They have generated many ideas to improve customer service to our Veteran Patient and have also made many suggestions to improving the environment for volunteers.

Stand Down-CDCE Specialist Cynthia Pommells and Mental Health Special Programs Director Kerry Miller Loos presented the needs for the Stand Down that will be held in November at UNO. (Needs list attached)

Discussion:

Ann Crawford noted the American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Iowa purchased medals for the Creative Arts Festival Award Winners. but had heard no mention of a recognition event. CDCE committed to helping coordinate an event. Details will follow.

Dick Ryba asked about items that still have value but are thrown out by the medical center when remodeling occurs. He wanted to know why those items aren't donated vs. throwing them away. Jon said he will communicate the policy during the next meeting.

Francis Durham.....gave a testimony of his experience as a patient at the VA. He noted the great personalized care he received. It appeared most could relate to his words as everyone in the room gave applause.

Jennifer shared the updated plans for making the donation process more transparent by better communicating how earmarked funds are used and what their specific needs are. We look forward to sharing these needs with your Organizations.

Finally, CDCE asked that members send ideas regarding improvement of the meeting. CDCE wants to know what members find most valuable and assure it is being provided.

Future VAVS Meetings (4th Wednesday of the Month):

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – VAVS Committee Members

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – VAVS Committee Members

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – VAVS Committee Members

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 – VAVS Committee Members

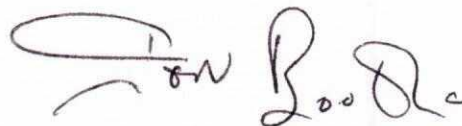
JENNY ROSENBALM, MOL, BS, RHIA

Associate Director



JON BOOTHE,

Acting Chief, CDCE



Attachment Roster

Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Omaha, NE 68105
VAVS Committee Meeting, Cumulative Attendance Record - FY 2023

JENNY ROSENBALM, MOL, BS, RHIA
 Associate Director

JON BOOTHE
 Acting Chief, CDCE

	AJR Month	Certification Expires					
			Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	
Air Force Association							
David Skilton	N/A	Unk	Rep	A	A	A	A
American Legion							
Vacant (Iowa) *							
American Legion Auxiliary							
Jean Brown (Iowa)	NOV	Ind	Rep	P	A	P	A
Ann Crawford (Iowa)		Ind	Rep	P	P	P	P
Paula Pillen (Nebraska)		Pending	Rep	P	P	P	E
Trish Schnack				P	P	P	P
Donna Smith (Vet Home)		Unk		A	A	A	A
American Red Cross							
Louis Wagner	APR	Ind	Rep	E	P	P	A
Kevin Zuroski		Ind	Dep	P	A	A	E
AMVETS Auxiliary							
Vacant (Nebraska) *	SEP						
Janice Holtz (Iowa)		Unk	Rep	A	A	E	E
Combat Vet Motorcycle Ass'c							
Kurt Busch	N/A	N/A	H	P	A	A	E
Daughters of Union Vets Civil War							
Bonnie Burdine (Nebraska)	JAN	Ind	Rep	A	A	A	A
Sue Mize (Iowa)		Ind	Rep	A	A	A	P
Disabled American Veterans							
Kari Bealer (Nebraska)	APR	Ind	Rep	X	X	P	P
Vacant (Nebraska)		Ind	Dep	X	X	X	X
Vacant (Iowa) *				X	X	X	X

Elks	AJR Due	Certification Expires		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
Richard Klinger	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P	P	P
Mia Newell		Ind	Dep	P	P	A	P

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Martha Didamo	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P	P	E
Rita Gardner *		PENDING	Rep	P	P	E	E

Military Order of the Cootie

Gary Steckelberg	FEB	Ind	Dep	P	P	P	E
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Military Order of the Cootie Aux

Marcia Jones	SEP	Ind	Rep	P	P	P	P
Dorothy Steckelberg		Ind	Dep	P	P	P	E
Janice Davis		Ind	Dep	P	P	P	P

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Jerry Eledge		Unk	Dep	P	A	P	P
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Military Order of the Purple Heart Aux

Barbara Counihan	OCT	Unk	Rep	P	P	E	P
Linda Eledge		PENDING	Hon	P	A	P	P

Nat'l Masonic Services Assc

Anthony Johnson	JAN	Ind	Rep	E	A	E	E
Jess H. Winn II		Ind	Rep	A	A	A	A

Nat'l Soc Daughters of American Rev

Ann Cox	OCT	Unk	Rep	P	P	P	P
Marta Dempsey		Unk	Dep	P	E	P	P
Karen Fitzgibbons		Unk	Dep	P	P	E	P
Glenda Irish		Unk	Dep	P	P	E	P

Nat'l Soc Col Dames of XVII Century

Vacant	N/A	Ind	Rep	X	X	X	X
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AJR Month	Certification Expires	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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Nat'l Soc U.S. Daughters of 1812

Sandra Spicer	JAN	Unk	Rep	E	A	A	A
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Sons of American Legion

Doug Washburn	JAN	Ind	Rep	P	P	P	P
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The Salvation Army

Stephanie Sawka	MAR	Ind	Rep	P	P	E	P
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Veterans of Foreign Wars

Richard "Dick" Ryba (Iowa)	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P	A	P
Francis Durham		Ind	Rep	P	P	E	P

Veterans of Foreign Wars Aux

Paulette Marquez (Nebraska)	NOV	Ind	Rep	A	P	E	A
(Vacant) (Nebraska) *				X	X	X	X
Nora Clark (Iowa)		Ind	Dep	P	A	E	E
Marilyn Robinson (Iowa)		Ind	Dep	A	P	A	A

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

Thomas Brown	MAY	Ind	Rep	P	P	P	P
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P	PRESENT
A	ABSENT
*	NO CERTIFICATION
E	EXCUSED
Ind	INDEFINITELY
////	REP REPLACED
N/A	No meeting COVID-19 Pandemic

R	Representative
D	Deputy Representative
AR	Associate Representative
DA	Deputy Associate Representative
H	Honorary Representative
Unk	UNKNOWN

3 consecutive unexcused absences will result in termination of Rep/Dep status

*** Need formal appointment in writing**