

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 14, 2025

The Veterans' Advisory Commission met at 10:00 a.m., November 14, 2025, at the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, 301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska, in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advanced publicized notice.

In compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 84-1411, printed notice of this meeting was sent to each member of the Commission. Notice of the meeting was on the Nebraska.gov Public Meeting Calendar, NDVA calendar, news & events. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the published notice. As a courtesy, emails are sent to the Veterans' Homes Board, Veterans' Council, and the County Veterans Service Officers. The Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Statute 84-1407 through 84-1415) was posted at the entrance of the NDVA Conference Room.

Commissioners Present:

John Iossi, Chairman
Jim Cada, Secretary
John Liebsack
Daniel Stramel
Ron Winchell

NDVA Staff Present:

John Hilgert, Director
Levi Bennett, Deputy Director
Charlene Sheltraw
Holden Armstrong
Jenifer Acierno
Nicole Zimmermann
Joe Conroy
Rin Lais
James Foster
Rob Ford
Ashley Augustine
Brian Stoltenberg
Alexander Driscoll
Christopher Baer (by zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

The Commission was convened at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, 301 Centennial Mall South 4th Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska. Attendance is noted above.

Entering of Public Notice of Meeting

Sheltraw announced that the public notice of the meeting appeared as noted above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Cada made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Winchell to forego the reading of the minutes and approve them as all members had been mailed the minutes from May 9, 2025

Action: Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passes 5-0

Public Comment Period

None

Introduction of State Service Officer candidates

Stoltenberg, stationed at the Central Office, Augustine, stationed at the Central Nebraska Veterans’ Home, Driscoll, stationed at the Central Office and Baer, stationed at the Western Nebraska Veterans’ Home gave a few comments about themselves.

Executive Session

Business to be conducted in Executive Session – to discuss the personnel action regarding the appointment of State Service Officers. In compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 84-410

	Motion to close to executive session 10:10 a.m.
Motion:	Moved by Cada, Seconded by Winchell
Action:	Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None Motion Passes 5-0
	Out of executive session to regular session 10:31 a.m.

Approval of the hire of the Veterans’ Affairs Service Officer

Motion to approve the appointment of Ashley Augustine as new State Service Officer

Motion: Moved by Cada to approve Ashley Augustine, Seconded by Stramel
Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0

Motion to approve the appointment of Brian Stoltenberg as new State Service Officer

Motion: Moved by Cada to approve Brian Stoltenberg, Seconded by Winchell
Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0

Motion to approve the appointment of Alexander Driscoll as new State Service Officer

Motion: Moved by Cada to approve Alexander Driscoll, Seconded by Stramel
Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0

Motion to approve the appointment of Christopher Baer as new State Service Officer

Motion: Moved by Cada to approve Christopher Baer, Seconded by Winchell
Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0

Reports

Administration Reports - John Hilgert and Levi Bennett

*Hilgert gave an update on the Mid-Biennium Budget

*Now we have State Service Officers in all 4 Homes working with the members for any benefits they maybe eligible for.

*Working with Incarcerated Veterans that will be getting released.

*Working with DHHS on the veterans receiving Medicaid to get them service connection or pension.

*Update on the Nebraska Resource Center at Offutt. Thanks again to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce for their contribution on paying the rent for the Resource Center at Offutt.

*Bennett gave updates on the NDVA Central Office and State Service Office programs:

*Update on the Veterans Aid Fund (NVA). State Service Officers, per State Statute, can do NVA's along with the CVSO's and the Post Service Officers.

*Updates on the Veterans Homes, Vets Get Pets Program, Reservist Tuition Credit, Waiver of Tuition, Outreach events, Justice involved veterans and the incarcerated veterans by facility .

* Rob Ford, Military Affairs Liaison, gave update on the Nebraska Commission on Military & Veterans' Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Iossi asked if anyone had any further business to discuss - none.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Moved by Cada, Seconded by Stramel

Action: Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None

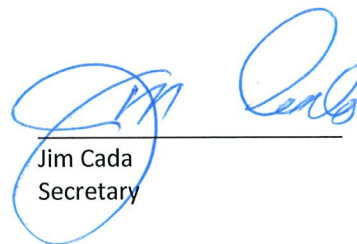
Motion Passes 5 -0

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Iossi
Chairman



Jim Cada
Secretary