

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES May 9, 2025

The Veterans' Advisory Commission met at 10:00 a.m., May 9, 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
James Foster
Rob Ford
David Pinney
Bradley Musick

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 Liebsack to forego the reading of the minutes and approve them as all members had been mailed the minutes from November 6, 2024

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

Public Comment Period

None

Discuss and Review Nebraska Veterans’ Aid Program: Action to be taken.

Bennett went through the recommendations on changes to expand the Nebraska Veterans’ Aid Fund.

a. NDVA recommends considering adding Cremation with service - \$5,000.00 maximum.

Motion: Cada made a motion to approve the cremation with service - \$5,000.00 maximum, seconded by Stramel.

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

b. NDVA recommends adding to the Funeral Expense the maximum allowable amount for a Headstone - \$600.00 maximum.

Motion: Cada made a motion to approve the maximum allowable amount for Headstone - \$600.00 maximum, seconded by Stramel.

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

For clarification adding on the Guiding Principles to be included while considering requests for assistance.

* 3 most recent three bank statements will be required with all NVA applications

* incarcerated veterans that release from incarcerations alone does not make a veteran ineligible for NVA.

Introduction of State Service Officer candidates

Pinney, stationed at the Norfolk Veterans’ Home & Musick stationed at the State Service Office 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 10:22 a.m.
Motion:	Moved by Cada, Seconded by Stramel
Action:	Voting Yes: Iossi, Cada, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None Motion Passes 5-0
	Out of executive session to regular session 10:34 a.m.

Approval of the hire of the Veterans’ Affairs Service Officer

Motion to approve the appointment of David Pinney as new State Service Officer

Motion: Moved by Cada to approve David Pinney, Seconded by Winchell

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

Motion to approve the appointment of Bradley Musick as new State Service Officer

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

Election of Officers

Motion: Cada made a motion for John Iossi to be Chairman, seconded by Stramel.
Action: Voting Yes: Cada, Iossi, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0
Motion: Iossi made a motion for Jim Cada to be Secretary, seconded by Winchell
Action: Voting Yes: Cada, Iossi, Liebsack, Winchell & Stramel Voting No: None
Motion Passed 5-0

Reports

Administration Reports - John Hilgert and Levi Bennett

*Hilgert gave an update on the Nebraska Resource Center at Offutt. Big thanks to the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce paying the rent for the 2nd year and the contributions from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the University of Nebraska.

*Working with HHS on how many veterans are on Medicaid, to contact them and try to get them service connection or pension.

*Bennett gave update and overview on Central Office programs –

*Working with Incarcerated Veterans that will be getting released.

*Updates on the Veterans Aid Fund, LB419 that is in final reading will allow State Services Officers to do NVAs. Update on Vets Get Pets Program and Waiver of Tuition.

*Hilgert updates

*July 12th at 10:00 a.m. is the dedication for the Grand Island Cemetery.

*Alliance State Cemetery

*State Veterans Home

*Staffing

*State Service Office – continue outreach throughout the State

*Bennett - Other save the dates

*Veterans Mission of Mercy - Dental Clinic – September 26-27th

*Women Veterans Symposium – September 19-21st

*Hilgert introduced Rob Ford, the Military Affairs Liaison for the Commission of Military & Veterans Affairs.

*Thanked Holden & Madeline for all the work with the WWII medal and setting up the ceremonies. Hilgert & Governor Pillen along with the Mayors and Veterans Organizations across the state on presenting the medal to our WWII veterans.

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

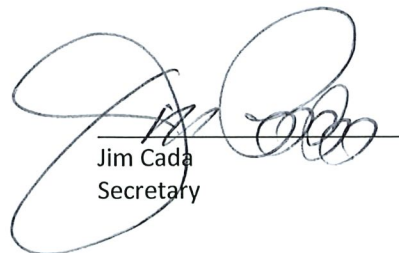
Motion Passes 5 -0

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Iossi
Chairman



Jim Cada
Secretary