

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 24, 2025

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 8:00 a.m.(MT), Thursday, July 24, 2025, at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home, 1102 West 42nd St. Scottsbluff, NE.

Board Members Present

Gregory Holloway (Chairman) & Dennis Schissel, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mike Sheets & Charles Gill, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Danny Reese & Jim Shuey, Disabled American Veterans
John Liebsack & Joe Smith, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bill Crosier & Judy Walters, American Legion
Debra Wehrli & Dana Morris, AMVETS
Tom Brown & David Ossian, Marine Corps League
Levi Bennett (Secretary), Deputy Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Excused

Will Leavitt and Dave Nelson, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Staff Present

Matt Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Josh Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans' Home
Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home
RJ Stavely, Administrator, Amber Klein, Elizabeth Stricker, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Charlene Sheltraw, Nicki Guretzky, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, Natalee Hart (by zoom), Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Entering of Public Notice into Record

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' Advisory Commission, Veterans' Council, and the County Veterans Service Officers. The Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1415) was posted at the entrance of the room.

Minutes

Sheets made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, May 2, 2025, as typed and distributed, seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

County Veterans Service Officer Comments

None

Veterans Home Member Comments

Member of the Home stated the Western Nebraska Veterans Home is the best home in the state of Nebraska.

Public Comments

Son of member, commented that if there was anything anyone on the Board could do assisting or have any contacts on helping the members at the Home to get USDVA referrals faster than 6 months for someone to see them. He stated they have contacted Senator Deb Fischer' office to let her know their concerns regarding getting referrals from the USDVA..

Veterans' Home Applications

The Board reviewed 76 applications. Smith made a motion to approve 71 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Shuey. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Voting abstain: (S8 only) Sheets Motion passed: 14-0 – Motion to abstain 1 on S-8 only - Sheets

Executive Session

Schissel made a motion to go into executive session at 8:18 a.m. (MT) to review requests by members or potential members, consider Veterans' Home applications that were held for further review, review prior approved applications which are unable to be served by the Home and review the report of debts 60 days and older. Closed session is to protect health information or personal information of individuals, and to protect the reputation of the person to be discussed and is in the public interest for protection of confidential health information. Seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

Out of executive session: 9:25 a.m. (MT)

Recess: 9:26 a.m. (MT)

Resumed: 9:39 a.m. (MT)

Presentations of Requests by Members, Potential Members or their Representatives

None

Appropriate action to be taken on Disposition of applications that were held for the Board's review

Board Consideration of Home Applications

H-2 Board Decision – Ossian made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Brown & Ossian Voting no: Smith. Motion passed: 13-1

M-7 Board Decision– Sheets made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Gill. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

M-8 Board Decision – Shuey made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Wehrli. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

S-12 Board Decision– Schissel made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Brown & Ossian Voting no: Smith Motion passed: 13-1

W-2 Board Ratification – Ossian made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

Report on prior approved application(s) and prior approved applications

G– Schissel made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Gill. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

H– Ossian made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Gill. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

I– Smith made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

J– Smith made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

Election of Officers

Schissel made a motion for Holloway as Chairman, seconded by Brown, Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

Gill made a motion for Sheets as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

Veterans Home Administrators

Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Thanked everyone for coming out to the Home
- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on projects
- *Renovating the members’ rooms in the skilled neighborhood
- *Activities
- *USDVA Annual Survey in June
- *Husker Tailgate Fun
- *Honor Wall with current and past members

Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans’ Home, gave an update on the Home.

- *Update on projects
- *Census/Admissions
- *Activities
- *Update on staffing

Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, gave an update on the Home.

*Update on Honor, the new addition domiciliary neighborhood and the update on the new skilled neighborhood that was the old domiciliary neighborhood.

*Census/Admissions

*Update on Projects

*USDVA Annual Survey may be in October

*Thanked all the Volunteers for what they do for the members

Vaipan, Administrator, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, gave an update on the Home.

*Staffing update

*Census/Admissions

*Activities

*Update on Projects

*Agency free

Secretary Comments

Bennett, Deputy Director reported on

*Grand Island Cemetery Dedication was on July 12th.

*Update on the Nebraska Resource Center at Offutt Air Force Base.

*3 of the Homes now has a State Service Officer stationed at the facility.

*Women Veterans Symposium will be September 19-21 in Kearney.

*Dental Clinic will be September 26-27 at the Army National Guard Titan Readiness Center, Yutan.

*Update on Legislature

Board Member Comments

*Sheets stated they will be able to donate the use of the wheelchairs for the Dental Clinic.

*Wehrli stated that she was at Offutt and there were several women veterans were not aware of the Women Symposium.

*Ossian asked if the State Service Officers that are stationed in the Homes will also be able to work with the veterans out in the community, Bennett stated yes but the focus will be the veterans that are in the Home.

*Sheets stated there is a lot of misinformation on the waiting list and the application process. They need to take back to our memberships and let them know there is misinformation on the State Veterans Homes and as Board members to help others know the facts.

*Ossian thanked the Central Office for the training this year. It was very informative. Prompts to the veterans' organizations on who they are sending to these meetings.

Chairman Comments

Holloway stated he appreciates the confidence the Board has in him and will do the best job he can for the veterans in the State of Nebraska.

Next meeting is October 24, 2025, at the Norfolk Veterans' Home at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: 10:35 a.m. (MT)