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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

# VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES
# May 1, 2026

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 1, 2026, at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E 56th, Kearney, NE.

**Board Members Present**
Gregory Holloway (Chairman) & Dennis Schissel, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mike Sheets, 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, AMVETS
Tom Brown & Joey Ossian, Marine Corps League
Will Leavitt, Paralyzed Veterans of America
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Excused**
Charles Gill, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Dana Morris, AMVETS
Dave Nelson, Paralyzed Veterans of America

**Staff Present**
Matt Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Josh Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans' Home
Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, Lance McKenney, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home
RJ Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Charlene Sheltraw, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, Levi Bennett, Natalee Hart (via-teleconference), Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Entering of the 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 outside the entrance of the room.

**Minutes**
Schissel made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, February 6, 2026, as typed and distributed seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**County Veterans Service Officer Comments**
Starkey stated thank you for everything you do. He commented that the largest complaint in the past he was told was about the food and now everyone talks about how great the food and staff are.

**Veterans Home Member Comments**
None

**Public Comments**
No public comments

**Veterans' Home Applications**
The Board reviewed 88 applications. Smith made a motion to approve 75 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**Executive Session**
Sheets made a motion to go into executive session at 9:17 a.m. 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 Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Out of executive session: 11:35 a.m.

**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**

**A-3** Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to disapprove the application, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**B-8** Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to disapprove the application, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**B-10** Board Decision – Shuey made a motion to approve the application counting the life estate as an asset, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**H-2** Board Decision– Schissel made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Walters. Voting yes: Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Abstaining: Sheets Voting no: None. Motion passed: 12-1-0

**H-5** Board Decision - Sheets made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Reese. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**M-2** Board Decision– Shuey made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**M-4** Board Ratification – Sheets made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**M-12** Board Decision– Sheets made a motion to approve the application with a 6-month provisional start date of May 1, 2026, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Brown & Ossian Voting no: Smith. Motion passed: 12-1

**R-4** Board Decision– Sheets made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**U-1** Board Decision– Sheets made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**W-4** Board Decision – Sheets made a motion to approve application and disapprove request to prioritize the applicant, seconded by Wehrli. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**W-5** Board Decision – Schissel made a motion approve application contingent upon successfully completing Veterans Treatment Court, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**W-8** Board Decision – Walters made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

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

**N**– Smith made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**O**– Sheets made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of May 1, 2026, seconded by Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Member requested to write off his debt to the Veterans' Home. Schissel made a motion to disapprove the request to write off the debt and to negotiate a good faith payment plan with the member, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**Veterans Home Administrators**

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

*Admissions/Census
*Annual USDVA survey
*Staffing Update
*Agency free

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

*Thanked Holloway for coming out and speaking on Vietnam Veterans Day Program
*Update on projects
*Admissions
*Annual USDVA survey in May
*Update on Staffing

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

*Annual USDVA survey - deficiency free
*November will be 25th Anniversary for the Norfolk Veterans' Home
*Admissions
*Census

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

*Update on projects
*Census/Admissions

**Secretary Comments**

Hilgert gave updates.

*State Service Officers in the Homes
*July 24th, Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Medal Recognition Ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda, in Lincoln. Hoping to have help from the Veterans Organizations and others to have ceremonies throughout Nebraska and to contact NDVA if interested in doing a Korean Medal Ceremony.

**Board Member Comments**

None

**Chairman Comments**

Holloway thanked Joe Smith for his service to the Veterans' Homes Board. Appreciate everyone working together.

Next meeting is July 23, 2026, at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home at 8:00 a.m. (MT)

Adjourned: 12:16 p.m..