

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 2, 2025

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 2, 2025, at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E. 56th St, Kearney, NE.

Board Members Present

Gregory Holloway (Chairman) & Dennis Schissel, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mike Sheets & Tom McBride, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Danny Reese & Jim Shuey, Disabled American Veterans
John Liebsack & Jeff Baker, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bill Crosier & Eric Martin, American Legion
Debra Wehrli & Dana Morris, AMVETS
Tom Brown & Joey Ossian, Marine Corps League
Dave Nelson, Paralyzed Veterans of America
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Excused

Will Leavitt, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Staff Present

Matt Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Josh Stafursky, Administrator, Norfolk Veterans' Home
Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, Carrie Urwiller, Lance McKenney, Dave Kreutzer, Megan Gomez, Lynn delos Angeles, Stephanie Jensen, & Jessica Schrak, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home
RJ Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Levi Bennett, Charlene Sheltraw, Nicki Guretzky, Jenifer Acierno, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, Clarissa Hunt, & Gene Hogan, 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

Schissel made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, January 24th as typed and distributed, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the workshop, April 21st, as typed and distributed, seconded by McBride. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

County Veterans Service Officer Comments

None

Veterans Home Member Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Veterans' Home Applications

The Board reviewed 96 applications. Nelson made a motion to approve 91 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Executive Session

Schissel 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 Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Out of executive session: 10:06 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

G-1 Board Decision – Sheets made a motion to deny the application, seconded by Nelson. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

H-7 Board Ratification– Shuey made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

K-6 Board Decision – Sheets made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

O-3 Board Ratification– Baker made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

S-1 Board Decision – Shuey made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

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

F– Sheets made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Nelson. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Nelson, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Veterans Home Administrators

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

- *Memorial Committee – will be looking at new landscaping and supplying the flags
- *Census
- *Staffing update
- *USDVA Survey in March
- *Exploring options for redesigning the neighborhoods Charlie and the memory care neighborhood.

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

- *Census/Admissions
- *USDVA Survey expecting to be in May
- *Update on staffing
- *Update on projects
- *March celebrated the Home’s 50-year anniversary
- *Continuing with the planning and design on the bridge for the pond

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

- *USDVA Survey in March
- *Update on projects
- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on staffing
- *Greatly appreciate all the volunteers

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 staffing
- *Update on projects

Secretary Comments

- *Victory in Europe – ceremony for the WWII veterans at the capital on May 8th
- *July 12th at 10:00 a.m. is the Dedication of the State Cemetery in Grand Island
- *Staffing
- *Thanked the Board for their services to our Veterans Homes

Board Member Comments

*Baker asked to coordinate a time with Central Office and the Administrators of the Homes on coming to assess the fleet of vans in the next couple of months.

Chairman Comments

Welcome the new Board members and asked AMVETS to relay to Bernie the gratitude of his service that he has done for the Board all these years.

Next meeting July 24, 2025, at the Western Nebraska Veterans’ Home in Scottsbluff.

Adjourned: 10:46 a.m.