

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 24, 2025

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 9:00 a.m. Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Norfolk Veterans' Home, 600 East Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, 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 & Joe Smith, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bill Crosier & Eric Martin, American Legion
Debra Wehrli & Dana Morris (present at 9:08 a.m.), AMVETS
David Ossian, & Joey Ossian Marine Corps League
Will Leavitt, Paralyzed Veterans of America
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Excused

Dave Nelson, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Staff Present

Matt Bauman, Administrator, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Josh Stafursky, Administrator, Lacey Moeller, Dodie Finkhaus, Angie Janssen, Elaine Wessendorf, Stephanie Eckert, Norfolk Veterans' Home
Dorin Vaipan, Administrator, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home
RJ Stavely, Administrator, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Charlene Sheltraw, Nicki Guretzky, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, David Pinney, Natalee Hart (by 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

Shuey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, July 24, 2025, as typed and distributed with the amendment that Board Member David Ossian was present and not Joey Ossian, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-0

County Veterans Service Officer Comments

Hansen, Madison CVSO, grateful for Pinney, the State Service Officer, who is stationed at the Norfolk Veterans' Home.

Dana Morris, AMVETS, Board Member present at 9:08 a.m.

Veterans Home Member Comments

Member of the Home stated that he had been a member now for 6 months and it is a really nice place. Glad to see all the Board members here at the Home. He stated any help the Board could do to help the members who have been having issues getting their wheelchairs repaired or replaced would be greatly appreciated.

Another member stated everything is good and stated he could not come up with anything negative to say.

Public Comments

No public comments

Veterans' Home Applications

The Board reviewed 125 applications. Smith made a motion to approve 113 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Executive Session

Sheets made a motion to go into executive session at 9:20 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, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Out of executive session: 11:12 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-5 Board Ratification – Sheets made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

D-1 Board Ratification – Sheets made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

F-2 Board Decision – Schissel made a motion to deny the application, seconded by J Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

G-2 Board Decision– D Ossian made a motion to approve the application counting the property, seconded by Leavitt. Voting yes: Sheets, Gill, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Walters, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Brown & Ossian Abstaining: Shuey Voting no: None. Motion passed: 14-1-0

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

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

R-2 Board Ratification – Sheets made a motion to approve the Board Ratification, seconded by D Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

S-3 Board Decision– D Ossian made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

S-4 Board Decision– D Ossian made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Smith. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

T-7 Board Decision– Shuey made a motion to approve the application counting the property as an asset, seconded by Crosier. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

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

W-10 Board Decision– Schissel made a motion to approve the application treating as a single person. If the spouse in the future wants to enter into one of the Nebraska State Veterans' Homes she would not be eligible, seconded by J Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Ossian & Ossian Voting No: Smith: None. Motion passed: 14-1

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

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

N– J Ossian made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of August 6th, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

O– Smith made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of October 24th, seconded by D Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

P– Leavitt made a motion to approve the 6-month provisional starting date of October 24th, seconded by J Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Q– Smith made a motion to support the involuntary discharge, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Guideline 2 – Member Contribution

Zimmerman stated that the increase for the Social Security Cost of Living Allowance will be 2.8% for 2026 and the weighted average of the Nursing & Medical Care services is 4.46%. Per the Board's Guideline using whichever is greater in determining the increase of the member's contribution to the cost of care.

Shuey made a motion to approve the Member Contribution for 2026 using the 4.46% increase, seconded by J Ossian. Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrl, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Veterans Home Administrators

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

- * Thank you for the gift of the new pergola out front, from the Norfolk Veterans' Home Foundation.
- * DHHS – 5-year licensing survey last week
- *Update on staffing
- *Volunteers that support the community are outstanding.

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

- *The USDVA Annual Survey and the Recognition Survey for newly renovated expansion of 30 skilled bed neighborhood should be anytime.
- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on Staffing

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

- *Tours of the facility
- *Staffing update
- *Agency free
- *Memorial outside of the facility update
- *Thank you to the Board and the Central Office for their support.

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

- *Census/Admissions
- *Update on projects
- *Renovating the members' rooms in the skilled neighborhood
- *Husker Tailgate Fun – the Husker Den
- *USDVA Annual Survey was completed
- *Update on Staffing

Secretary Comments

Hilgert stated the dates for 2026 Veterans' Homes Board Meetings have been given to all of you.

February 6, 2026 – the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

May 1, 2026 – the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

July 23, 2026 – the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

October 23, 2026 – the Norfolk Veterans' Home

- *Update on the USDVA on the durable medical equipment for veterans in the Homes.
- *Update on the NDVA budget
- *State Services Officers are now in all 4 Homes.

Board Member Comments

*Sheets stated very appreciative of the new State Service Officer at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home, who has only been on the job for 5 days has been working with him with a veteran that is in the Home and is doing a very impressive job.

*Liebsack – Marine veteran, who was a member here at the Home for over 30 years that passed away here at the Home, will be interred at the Omaha National Cemetery this weekend.

*Ossian stated for entertainment for the younger members, that generation like to do screen time and play video games.

Chairman Comments

Holloway stated he appreciates everyone at the table and the veterans' organizations. When it comes to the Homes and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, we have a very good steward to guide us through and see that everything operates smoothly and responsibly.

Next meeting is February 6, 2026, at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home at 9:00 a.m.

Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by D Ossian, Voting yes: Sheets, McBride, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Leavitt, Martin, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Smith, Ossian & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 15-0

Adjourned: 11:59 a.m.