



## **VETERANS' HOMES BOARD MEETING MINUTES** **July 23, 2026**

The Veterans' Homes Board was convened in session at 8:00 a.m. (MT) Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home, 1102 West 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 & Jeff Baker, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Bill Crosier, American Legion  
Debra Wehrli & Dana Morris, AMVETS  
Tom Brown & David Ossian, Marine Corps League  
John Hilgert (Secretary), Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

### **Excused**

Dave Nelson & Will Leavitt, Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Eric Martin, American Legion

### **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  
Levi Bennett, Charlene Sheltraw, Nancy Holmgren, Nicole Zimmermann, Chris Baer, Jenifer Acierno (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, May 1, 2026, as typed and distributed seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

### **County Veterans Service Officer Comments**

None

### **Veterans Home Member Comments**

Stavely, Administrator, introduced and honored the WNVH member who was awarded the 2026 Nebraska Assisted Living Resident of the Year by the Nebraska Health Care Association.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments

### **Veterans' Home Applications**

The Board reviewed 88 applications. Schissel made a motion to approve 85 of the applications that were not set aside for further discussion, seconded by Brown. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

### **Executive Session**

Sheets made a motion to go into executive session at 8:19 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 Gill. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

Out of executive session: 9:09 a.m.(MT)

Recess: 9:10 a.m. (MT)

Resumed: 9:28 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**

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

**D-4** Board Decision – Wehrli made a motion to approve the application treating as a single person. If estranged spouse applies to one of the State Veterans' Home, would be reviewed accordingly, seconded by Liebsack. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

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

**R-1** Board Decision - Gill made a motion to approve the application not counting the property as an asset, seconded by Baker. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

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

E– Ossian made a motion to approve the denial, seconded by Schissel. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

F– Sheets made a motion to approve the provisional doing a new assessment, seconded by Shuey. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**Establish a sub-committee of the Board for detailed review of the member contribution**

Baker made a motion to establish a sub-committee of the Board for detailed review of the member contribution, seconded by Sheets. Voting yes: Gill, Sheets, Morris, Wehrli, Reese, Shuey, Crosier, Holloway, Schissel, Liebsack, Baker, Brown & Ossian Voting no: None. Motion passed: 13-0

**Veterans Home Administrators**

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

- \*Thanked everyone for coming
- \*Census
- \*Annual USDVA survey
- \*Update on projects
- \*Update on Staffing
- \*Korean Coin ceremony with Governor Pillen

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

- \*Census
- \*Admissions
- \*Summer Activities
- \*Projects
- \*November will be 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Norfolk Veterans' Home
- \*Korean Coin ceremony with Governor Pillen

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

- \*Update on projects
- \*Census/Admissions
- \*Staffing

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

- \*Annual USDVA survey
- \*Staffing Update
- \*Activities/Events
- \*Events for the 250-year Anniversary
- \*Admissions/Census

### **Secretary Comments**

Hilgert gave updates.

- \*Budget

- \*Staffing

- \*Thanked everyone for all they do.

- \*July 24th, Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Medal Recognition Ceremony at the Memorial Stadium,

- \*Dental Clinic August 28th

### **Board Member Comments**

Baker stated they have Meta Glasses that they are giving to veterans who are blind or partially blind in August.

Brown stated that the reports that the Homes give for the meetings are beneficial for the Board Members to get the information out to their organizations.

### **Chairman Comments**

Holloway welcomed Baker to the Board and thanked everyone for coming.

Next meeting is October 23, 2026, at the Norfolk Veterans' Home at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned: 10:25 a.m. (MT)