



A G E N D A

VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
301 Centennial Mall South 4th Floor
Lincoln, Nebraska
May 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call to Order and Roll Call - *Chairman*
3. Entry of Public Notice in the Omaha World Herald and on the Nebraska.gov calendar into Record and statement regarding the Open Meeting Act
4. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2021 – *Chairman*
 - Motion to approve the minutes: Action to be taken
5. Public Comment Period
6. Discuss and Review Nebraska Veterans' Aid Program: Action to be taken
 - a. In consideration, NDVA recommends food maximums are adjusted to match the maximum allocation for SNAP.
 - b. In consideration, NDVA recommends an increase of NVA maximum allocation for phone bills to \$100.00, to align more closely with the average costs of cell phone bills for families of veterans.
 - c. In consideration, NDVA recommends retention of the current \$5,000.00 maximum per application for medical expenses. However, it is recommended that the cumulative allowance maximum over a five-year period is increased to \$15,000.00 from \$7,500.00.
 - d. In consideration, NDVA recommends retention of the \$4,500.00 maximum allowance for hearing aids and recommends a five-year timeframe for the allowance. After five years have passed, replacement hearing aids may again be considered.
 - e. In consideration, NDVA recommends the limit for pharmacy expenses for a veteran/eligible dependent of a veteran is increased to \$1,000.00 over a five-year period.
 - f. In consideration, NDVA recommends an increase in maximum allowance to \$1,800.00 for temporary dentures and \$4,000.00 for permanent dentures. NDVA further recommends that the maximum allowance for dental expenses be raised from \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 within a five-year period.
 - g. In consideration, NDVA recommends the maximum allowance for vision remain at \$500.00, further recommending that the five-year period is reduced to a two-year period.
 - h. In consideration, NDVA recommends that the maximum allowance for cremation be increased from \$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00 with an increase in the maximum for a casket burial from \$5,600.00 to \$6,400.00. NDVA further recommends that a plot allowance may be included in the

total maximum allowance. No change is recommended for opening and closing expense maximums.

- i. In consideration, NDVA recommends an increase to \$5,000.00 for the cumulative maximum allowance over a three-year period for repairs to privately-owned vehicles.
- j. In consideration, NDVA recommends the addition of internet as a category for NVA with a maximum allowance of \$70.00 per month.
- k. In consideration NDVA recommends application process of requiring 3 months of financial information verse 6 months of financial information.
- l. In consideration, NVA changes approved by VAC during this meeting to become effective July 1, 2022.

7. Election of Officer: Action to be taken

8. Updates on Department Programs since October 7, 2021 – John Hilgert and Levi Bennett

Adjourn – *Chairman*

Prepared by: JH/cls
John Hilgert
Director

As of: May 2, 2022