

**OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION
MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
February 28th, 2020
Ardmore Veterans Center
1015 S. Commerce Street
Ardmore, OK 73401**

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING:

The Oklahoma Veterans Commission held a regular meeting on **Friday, February 28, 2020**, at 10:00 AM at the Ardmore Veterans Center, 1015 S. Commerce Street, Ardmore, OK 73401. A Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State's Office on September 11, 2019.

AGENDA:

Friday, February 28th, 2020 10:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

II. DETETERMINATION OF QUORUM

a. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

The clerk called the roll and the roll is as follows:

Ball - Absent

Costilow - Present

Jackson - Present

Lasser - Present

LeDay – Late-10:31AM

Richey - Present

Secor - Present

Smithson - Present

Van Schuyver – Present

Commissioners Present: 7

Commissioners Absent: 1

Commissioners late: 1

b. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The clerk notified the Chairman that there was a quorum

The Chairman declared a quorum

III. INVOCATION

Commissioner Richey led the Invocation

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Smithson led the Pledge of Allegiance

V. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS

The Chairman welcomed the visitors and guests to the meeting and requested that they introduce themselves to the Commission.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SIGN-IN FOR OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman notified the gallery that any individual who wished to speak during Public Comment would need to sign in on the sheet provided.

VII. OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION

a. DISCUSSION OF AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31st, 2020 OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING.

i. Action

Commissioner Lasser made the motion to approve the January 31st meeting minutes.

Commissioner Jackson provided the second.

The clerk called the vote and the vote is as follows:

Ball - Absent

Costilow - Aye

Jackson - Aye

Lasser - Aye

LeDay – Not present for the vote

Richey - Abstain

Secor - Aye

Smithson - Aye

Van Schuyver – Aye

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 1

Motion carries

b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TRAVEL OF COMMISSIONERS SINCE PRIOR REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 31st, 2020.

i. Written Travel Reports Filed by Commissioners

The Chairman requested that the Commissioners submit their written travel claims to the clerk.

ii. Presentation of Summary Travel Reports by Commissioners in Lieu of Written Reports

The following Commissioners verbally provided travel information to the Commission:

Ball – Absent

Costilow – Reported travel to the Talihina Veterans Center. He stated that he was very impressed with how clean the center was, and the everyday actions of the staff.

Jackson – Reported travel to the Sulphur and Ardmore facilities. He stated that everything seems to be going very well.

Lasser – Had nothing to report

LeDay – Was not present for the report.

Richey – Had nothing to report

Secor – Reported travel to the Lawton Veterans Center. He stated that he felt Lawton was doing very well.

Smithson – Had nothing to report

Van Schuyver – Reported travel to each of the seven Veterans homes at least twice, with several more visits to the Norman Veterans Center. He stated that he did brief the Director of Homes on a few matters that had already been addressed. He stated that the Law Enforcement room at Ardmore had been set up and was ready to go. The Chairman stated that he would like to see these rooms dedicated and named after fallen officers from the state of Oklahoma.

c. LARRY VAN SCHUYVER, CHAIRMAN, OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION, REPORT AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:

i. Discussion of Consent Docket and Agenda/Meeting Format

The Chairman stated that he would like to propose that a change with the current meeting format take place. He stated that in the current format, the quarterly meetings run up to 8 hours in length. He stated that in some cases, Central Office staff are waiting an entire workday to brief the Commission on their slides. He stated that he would rather have the information one week in advance, and then reach out to the individual staff throughout the week to answer questions regarding their presentations. Any questions would then be addressed as answered during the quarterly meetings. The Commission agreed that providing a highlight sheet from each department would be a good course of action. There were no objections to adopting this new process. Commissioner Secor stated that he would still like to have a printable copy.

VIII. OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MILITARY

a. BEN ROBINSON, CABINET SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR STITT, REPORT WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:

i. Report from Monthly Cabinet Meeting

The Secretary was not able to attend the Commission meeting due to a prior commitment.

The Chairman stated that the Secretary had passed on to him that the Governor has insisted on five named to be submitted from the service organizations regarding their nominations for open Commission seats. He stated that the organizations could note their preferences in numbered order, but that a full list would be required.

The Director stated that he will be meeting with the Governor on Tuesday to discuss the upcoming appointments.

IX. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

a. JOEL KINTSEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:

i. Travel Report

The Director reported travel to Washington DC. He stated that he has returned last evening. He stated that he was permitted to visit Capitol Hill to visit with our Senators and Representatives. He stated that he was able to visit with the new

Representative from Tulsa, as well as Senator Jim Inhofe and Senator James Lankford. The Director stated that he felt those encounters went well.

ii. Update on Special Meeting for Pilot Program

The Director stated that the tentative date for this meeting would be April 23rd, 2020.

The Director also stated that there would be a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce in Sallisaw on April 22nd, 2020. He stated that the Commission as well as ODVA leaders had been invited, and he would like the Commission to attend. He requested that if the Commission would like to attend, to please notify the clerk to assess if a need for a special meeting posting is required.

iii. Discussion of Strategic Planning Meeting

The Director stated that this is tentatively scheduled for June. He requested that the Commission communicate their availability to the clerk and or the Deputy Director in order to ensure the highest possible attendance.

Commissioner Secor suggested the second week of June.

iv. Legislative Update & Review of Bills

The Director presented a slide of Legislation and current Bills that the agency was tracking.

An electronic copy of this presentation is attached to these recorded minutes.

b. **SARAH LANE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

i. Travel Report

The Deputy Director stated that she had traveled to the Norman facility twice. She stated that she had a trip to the Claremore facility scheduled, but that it had been canceled due to weather.

The Deputy Director stated that one of the visits to Norman was to attend a presentation for the National Guard Officer Candidate Class. She stated that they do a research project each year where in they study the lives of Veterans. Four Veterans from the Norman Veterans Center were selected for this project this year.

She stated the second trip to Norman was more of a community outreach project initiated by her Daughter. Her Daughter, as well as a group of friends had put together homemade Valentine's Day cards under the "Valentine's for Vets" project and had presented them to the Veterans of the Norman facility.

The Deputy Director stated that she had also traveled to Washington DC, but to attend a different event than the Director had previously spoken about. She was there to attend the SAMHSA Policy Academy, which was an extension of the Governors Suicide Prevention Challenge.

The Deputy Director stated that the Director and her were also included in a tour of the Pentagon while in DC.

ii. SAMHSA Policy Academy

The Deputy Director stated this was an amazing gathering of individuals. She stated that their team was seventeen members strong, comprised of individuals from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health, Active Duty Clinical Psychologist, two members of the National Guard, a Federal Legislative Liaison, at least two federal VA employees, education and workforce representatives, as well as others.

She stated that the three main components which would be touched on in more detail at a later time were: Identification, Transitions, and Safety Planning.

The Chairman called for a break at 11:05AM

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 11:12AM

iii. Recognition of Ardmore Long Tenured Employees

A presentation of recognition took place. The Director, Deputy Director, and State Director of Homes recognized eighteen members of the Ardmore staff for longevity of twenty years or more of service to the State of Oklahoma.

An electronic copy of this presentation is attached to these recorded minutes.

c. **MARSHA HUDDLESTON, ADMINISTRATOR, ARDMORE VETERANS CENTER, REPORT WITH POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

- i. Administrator Acknowledgements
- ii. Overtime
- iii. Vacancies
- iv. GALT
- v. Workers Compensation Update
- vi. Census
- vii. Average Occupancy
- viii. Total Days of Care

An electronic copy of this presentation is attached to these recorded minutes.

X. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall hear public comments limited to only matters that are listed on the current meeting Agenda. Topics that are outside the scope of the present agenda will not be recognized. Individuals requesting to speak are required to sign-in onsite at the meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. Speakers must provide the speaker's name, address, email or phone number, and the subject on which they wish to speak. Open public comments are limited to not more than five minutes per person. The Board Chairman may interrupt and/or terminate any presentation during public comment which is disruptive to the meeting or does not conform to the procedures outlined under this section. The Board Chairman reserves and retains the right to interrupt, terminate, or postpone public comments as necessary to effectuate the management of the public meeting.

There were no Public Comments

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Pursuant to 25 O.S. § 311, “New Business” shall mean any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting (twenty-four hours prior to the meeting).

The Chairman announced (*out of Agenda order*) that Representative Harden, who was in attendance, had been nominated and awarded Representative of the Year for the Southwest region by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Chairman stated that he had been informed this morning at 8:30AM.

Representative Harden requested permission to address the Commission. The Chairman approved. He stated that he just wanted to inform the Commission that he had a Veteran stop by his office who was having some issues with the Federal VA. He stated that he has reached out to the Director while he was in Washington, and that the response was immediate. He stated that Randy Reynolds was sent to his office at the request of the Director to assist the Veteran, and his needs were promptly met. Representative Harden stated that he wanted the Commission to know what great things were taking place behind the scenes.

XII. CARRYOVER TOPICS DEFERRED TO A FUTURE AGENDA

None

There were no carryover topics

XIII. SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS BY THE OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.

Commissioner Secor would like to be updated on the status of “Veteran” being added to the new Real-ID.

Commissioner Richey would like to discuss if the Oklahoma Legislature will allow the Oklahoma Department of Health to pay for visiting Nurses for the Residents in our centers.

Chairman Van Schuyver would like to have a copy of the Resident Handbook available to all Commissioners. He requests that this be in an electronic form.

XIV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATE TO INCLUDE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

Friday, March 27th, 2020
10:00AM
Clinton Veterans Center
Clinton, Oklahoma

XV. ADJOURNMENT

a. CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Secor made the motion to adjourn
Commissioner Richey provided the second

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM

DISCLOSURE

A quorum of Commissions may remain present onsite at the Ardmore Veterans Center after the conclusion of the meeting to attend the law enforcement open house. It should be noted that there is no agenda, and no business will be conducted.