

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2025

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Department of Veteran Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Jim Shogren called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The Veterans Board had a quorum and normal business was conducted.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brooks Partridge, Dr. Frederick Ludwig, Jim Shogren, Robert Savoie, Damon Lieurance

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Miller

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Robert Savoie, supported by Brooks Partridge, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Monthly Report

The office has been open for thirty (30) days from September 29, 2025 – October 28, 2025. There were approximately fifty-six (56) visits to the office. Our office received and placed approximately two hundred ninety (290) phone calls during this period. John conducted several home visits with veterans that were unable to make into the office. There was an outreach at the on Drummond Island. The outreach event arranged by Together with Veterans, Jim Yates. Several Veterans were in attendance and there are plans for more events in the future. We did have a few Veterans come into the office after the event. Together with Veterans is planning possible future events may happen in DeTour and / or Sault Ste. Marie. The UP Veterans Cemetery Committee met again this month. The MVAA has determined that Marquette County would be the best place for a Veterans Cemetery in the UP. The committee has submitted three (4) possible locations of land. One submission was for Dickenson County. The DAV transportation program is going well. I spoke with Dave Spencer of the DAV and the DAV is doing a flower drive to raise more money for the transportation vehicle. It will be October 31st through November 2nd at Pat's Foods and Walmart. There is one MVFT application awaiting a decision from the State Board and we do not have any more applications in the process.

The VA published expenditure numbers for FY2024. The breakdown of these numbers for Chippewa Count is as follows;

Total funds distributed: \$25,331,633.00

Total Funds for C&P's: \$23,706,068.00

Total Funds for DIC's: \$1,606,019.00

The total number of Veteran in Chippewa County has decreased since FY2023. The total number of Veterans in FY2023 was 2774 and the FY2024 number is 2681. That is a loss of 93 Veterans from our county. We now have the 3rd largest Veteran population in the UP, with Marquette being 1st and Delta being 2nd. Marquette County actually had a Veteran growth of over a 1000 Veterans since FY2023. We no longer have grant funding for the CVTF. The MVAA changed the approved items that grant funds could be used. The grant is now only allowed for office equipment, training, and wages. If we would like to seek future funding we need to apply by March 2026.

Approval of the Minutes

The committee received and reviewed the September 30, 2025 committee minutes.

It was moved by Brooks Partridge, supported by Robert Savoie, to approve the September 30, 2025 minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Burials

One Burial Application was received in October totaling \$300.

Discussion was made to ensure that Act 235 of 1911 concerning Veterans' burial expenses and payment by the county be followed as written. The Veteran Service Officer will ensure that only applications that meet the criteria will be presented before the board. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Grave Markers

No grave marker funds were used in October 2025.
No action needed.

Food Assistance

Food assistance of \$0
No action needed.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) cross accreditation

To receive cross accreditation with the VVA a MOU would need to be signed. The MOU detailed the requirement that the VSO must meet to receive and maintain cross accreditation.

A review of the VVA MOU was completed by the Board Members and a general discussion was made concerning the qualification requirements. The requirements for the VSO are the same as the requirements of other service organizations, VFW & The American Legion. The Board Members agreed the cross accreditation would be good and the MOU was not overly binding. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Date of next committee meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

It was moved by Brooks Partridge, supported by Robert Savoie, to have the next meeting take place on November 25, 2025 at 4:00 pm. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

No Comments

Chairman Comments

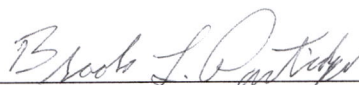
No comments

Adjourn

It was moved by Jim Shogren, supported by Brooks Partridge to adjourn. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.



John Miller, Recorder

Brooks Partridge, Secretary / Treasurer