

Meeting Minutes
Jackson County Veterans Affairs Commissioner Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Community Room, Jackson County Courthouse
201 W Platt Street, Maquoketa, Iowa

Commissioners Present: Chair John Pitlo, Secretary Stephen Norpel, Dorothy Wisted, Laura Eggers, Greg Stalker

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Member Present: Administrator Ruth Eltrich

Guests: None

The Zoom meeting was launched. The recording was started. Chair Pitlo called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken, commissioners present at roll call were Chair John Pitlo, Secretary Stephen Norpel, Dorothy Wisted, Laura Eggers, Greg Stalker

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026:

Motion by John Pitlo

Second by Greg Stalker

All yea: Pitlo, Stalker, Eggers, Norpel, Wisted

Administrator Eltrich provided the update on the February budget. 66.03% of the year is gone. 53.90% of the budget is used. Discussion followed regarding expenses and what items were purchased, including events. Eltrich pointed out what is left from the State Allocation Funds and that the state allocation funds totaling \$10,000 are included in the total county budget.

Eltrich discussed the February Activity Log. There was a general discussion on the breakdown of the specific forms that were filed by the Jackson County Veterans Affairs office, an explanation of the "intent to file" form was provided.

Eltrich discussed the February Interactions Report. February had 270 total interactions, including secretarial calls and walk-ins.

The county award report for February was provided. A total of 431 veterans and/or their eligible dependents received \$876,344.00 in benefits. Our office filed 63% of the claims open in Jackson County in February. A discussion followed regarding the survivor's pension and Medicaid.

A discussion followed regarding the commission and bylaws. There was discussion on whether a general discussion was needed before sending out correspondence coming from any member of the Commission.

Motion by Eggers any communication sent out in an official capacity by the Jackson County Veterans Affairs Commission must be discussed and approved at a meeting by a quorum of the commissioners before the communication is distributed. Motion by Eggers, seconded by Wisted, All yea: Pitlo, Stalker, Eggers, Norpel, Wisted

Motion by Eggers elections will be held every other year beginning in July 2026 for the positions of chairperson and secretary. Motion made by Eggers, seconded by Pitlo, All yea: Pitlo, Stalker, Eggers, Norpel, Wisted

Chair Pitlo discussed the columbarium adhesive plaques and other burial items that are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eltrich presented information regarding purchasing outreach items including tents and tables with state allocation funds.

Eltrich covered the topic of continuing education with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs training being held in April and the Iowa Association of County Veteran Services training happening in May. Eltrich will attend the IDVA training in April and Elliot will attend the IACVS training in May. Eltrich discussed the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers training in Reno, NV being closed for virtual attendance. Eltrich will attend the NACVSO conference in person.

Eltrich covered upcoming events in Jackson County.

Eggers discussed handing out a "pocket hug" at the April event in Bellevue. The pocket hug includes information on the Veterans Crisis Line along with a crocheted heart.

Eltrich shared the February Newspaper Article.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion by John Pitlo

Second by Greg Stalker

All yea: Pitlo, Stalker, Eggers, Norpel, Wisted

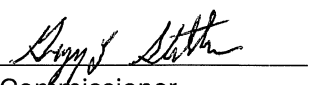
The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.


Commissioner

Commissioner


Commissioner

Commissioner


Commissioner


Administrator