

Minutes of Veterans Affairs Commission
April 8, 2026

The meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room.

Members present were:

Shelly Howsare

Mike Male

Robin Housley

Bruce Jeffries

Absent: Michael Stigers

Minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting were read. Commissioner Housley made the motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Howsare seconded. Approved by all present.

April reports were reviewed. Reports were approved.

Old business: Discussion was held regarding the legislation passed through House Appropriations. This bill poses significant changes to delivery of services to Veterans. It also will give up local Commission and Board of Supervisor oversight and control. There have been multiple amendments filed since appropriations so the bill may change yet. We are hoping that it doesn't make the House floor for debate.

New business: The Commission discussed the upcoming vacancy. Commissioner Howsare has confirmed she would like to serve another term. Discussion was held on what the Commission is looking for. They would like to see a Vietnam Veteran potentially fill the spot. Discussion then went to the fact that it could be harder to find. Other options were discussed. The Administrator will look into possibilities and report back to the Commission in May. Interviews would then need to be in June for appointment in July.

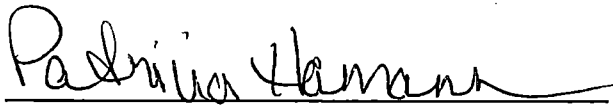
The Administrator presented the Commission with some options of outreach items. There were multiple items shared and discussed. They decided on: grocery totes, tape measures, sticky pads, patriotic folders (like we currently have), quick series books; 300 of the Benefits for Veterans and 100 for Survivors, pill boxes like we've had before, insulated tumblers, popcorn machine and caps for Veterans.

Discussion was also held on outreach events. How often should we do an event? The Administrator suggested we start with 1 time every 3 months. Just something where we offer different speakers and it is in the early afternoon. Popcorn could be served and we will come up with a slogan for the events. The Administrator brought up the fact of doing possible popcorn at the July 4th parade, maybe race events at the fairgrounds or just to have a table there.

Discussion will continue on what options the Commission has. The Administrator will speak with the Board of Supervisors to make sure that the popcorn machine isn't an issue and that popcorn will be shared with the public during the weeks when made. It helps get the word out about the office regardless who stops by just like any other event we attend.

No News Releases were shared and the numbers from the Regional Office have not be shared yet for the month of March.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment at 5:37 p.m. by Commissioner Howsare, seconded by Commissioner Housley, approved by all in attendance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Hamann". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Patricia Hamann, Administrator