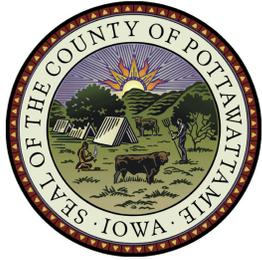


**Pottawattamie
County**



**Board of Supervisors
227 South 6th Street
Co. Bluffs, IA 51501
Phone: 712-328-5644
FAX: 712-328-5770
www.pottcounty.com**

**Lynn Leaders
Chairman**

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Lynn Grobe

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Loren T. Knauss

**Cindy Desantiago
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**Mona Rau
Board Secretary**

Press Release – For Immediate Release

February 3, 2014

Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs building bond referendum.

Contact: Loren Knauss, Pottawattamie County Supervisor
Loren.Knauss@pottcounty.com
712-328-5644

Pottawattamie County Supervisor Loren Knauss and the members of the Pottawattamie County Commission on Veteran Affairs have announced their support for the construction of a new Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs building. County Supervisor Knauss and Commission members Phil Jacobs, Robert Jorgensen, and Phil Killion are asking the voters of Pottawattamie County to join them in voting “yes” in the March 4, 2014 bond referendum to allow Pottawattamie County to construct a new Veteran Affairs building to enhance and expand the services the county provides to the estimated 8,032 veterans that live in our county.

Commission Chairman Phil Jacob announced, “We are committed to providing the best services to the veterans of our community. We have proposed the construction of a building that will allow us to expand our mission and meet the growing needs of our veterans for many years to come.”

The County Veteran Affairs department works with veterans to provide assistance in determining eligibility for county, state, and federal veteran benefits, and to assist veterans in obtaining federal benefits and needed local assistance and services. In 2013 there were 3,369 veteran client visits to the County Veteran Affairs department, including 349 new veteran clients. There has been a 32% increase in client visits from 2009 to 2013. It is estimated that these numbers will continue to increase each year.

The current Veteran Affairs department office is located on the ground floor of the Courthouse Annex building at 223 South 6th Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Annex and the Veteran Affairs office space, including restrooms, are not compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Most of the doors and restrooms in the Veteran Affairs office do not meet the minimum ADA standards, causing veterans needing the assistance of canes, walkers, and wheelchairs to have difficulty passing through them, and in some cases, wheelchairs are simply unable to pass through the doors. Many disabled veterans are unable to use the non-compliant stalls, toilets, and sinks. Staff and family must assist veterans with entering the bathrooms, or the veterans must be directed to use ADA compliant bathrooms in adjacent county buildings. Meeting ADA

standards and expanding office space to meet the current and future needs of the Veteran Affairs department has created the need for the construction of a new Veteran Affairs building.

County Supervisor Knauss states, “We are not just proposing the construction a new building for our Veteran Affairs department, we’re proposing a new and enhanced way of providing services to the veterans of Pottawattamie County through the development of new partnerships and the introduction of new services that will assist both veterans and their families. We’re currently developing the new partnerships and programs, now we need the space to make everything happen.”

The members of the Commission on Veteran Affairs and County Supervisor Knauss will be hosting three information meetings that will be open to the public to discuss the services that are provided by the Veteran Affairs department, and to discuss the proposed Veteran Affairs building and the March 4, 2014 bond referendum. The meetings will be held on:

- | | |
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| February 15, 2014 – 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM | Treynor Community Center
11 West Main Street
Treynor, Iowa |
| February 22, 2014 – 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM | Avoca American Legion Hall
112 North Elm Street
Avoca, Iowa |
| March 1, 2014 – 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM | The Center
714 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa |

Information about the Veteran Affairs department, the proposed Veteran Affairs building, and the March 4, 2014 bond referendum is available for review on the Pottawattamie County website, pottcounty.com, at the Board of Supervisors Office, and at each of the libraries in Pottawattamie County.