



Pottawattamie County Commission of Veterans Affairs
223 South 6th Street, Court House Annex
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
712-328-5797 FAX 712-328-5726
Monday –Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm closed
Avoca Court House Tuesdays 8:00 am – 4:30pm

Commissioners:
Philip Jacobs, Chairman
Phil Killion, Secretary
Robert Jorgensen, Member

Office Staff:
Darlene McMartin, B.S.W., Administrator
Peggy Becker, Case Worker III
Lori Swisher, Case Worker II
Pamela Wilke, Case Worker II
Suzanne Tanner, Receptionist

8/16/2013

Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
Loren Knauss, Liaison
Scott Belt, Chairman

This letter is being written to better outline what the Pottawattamie County Veterans Affairs Commission's intended direction and vision is for providing services through the Pottawattamie County Veterans Affairs office (PCVAO). Through the past two years this commission, along with Darlene McMartin (Administrator) and the office staff, have evaluated what the PCVAO is doing and could do to support the over 8,000 veterans in Pottawattamie County. The items that the office must do are outlined in Iowa Code 35.1. The Iowa Code does not limit counties from facilitating other services that assist our veterans with additional needs they may require.

This Commission and the PCVAO are dedicated to caring for the whole veteran not just a hand up if they happen to have fallen on hard times or need assistance with filing State or Federal compensation paper work. There are several areas that we feel we can assist in this endeavor through partnerships with other agencies to facilitate access to these services that do not have sufficient office space within Pottawattamie County. These services include but are not limited to: Vocational Rehab, Vet Center, Disabled American Veteran Van, Legal Assistance, Income Tax assistance, Workforce Job search (DVOP).

In order to realize our direction and vision for this office, we have some major structural road blocks that not only make current working conditions difficult for the employees of this office but impossible to facilitate additional services. Some of these structural road blocks are: disabled parking, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible rest rooms, hall ways and offices (at least 70% of the Veterans seen by this office are mobility challenged in some way), Confidential office space to use internet for job searches or meeting with other services, a classroom that is large enough to conduct training sessions covering budgeting, Job interviewing and reintegration into civilian society. This list is not complete by any means and continues to grow as the needs of our veteran population grows.

We invite all of the Board of Supervisors to one of our meetings (the second Thursday of each month) to discuss what our direction and vision for this office is in greater detail as it would require too many pages to describe it all in this letter.

Sincerely,

Phil Jacobs, Chairman