

**RESOLUTION NO.** 40-16

**SYNOPSIS:** Express desire to the Wisconsin State Legislature to preserve the current statutory requirement for each Wisconsin county to employ a County Veterans Service Officer and that each of these County Veterans Service Officers, as well as any Assistant County Veterans Service Officers, be a veteran.

**INTRODUCED BY: Executive Committee**

**To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:**

**WHEREAS**, each of the 72 counties within Wisconsin are required to have a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) and many, due to workload, also have an assistant CVSO, both of whom must be veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, that these individuals provide an invaluable service to the veterans of their respective communities, especially in rural counties with limited services for veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, 95% of veteran claims in Wisconsin originate in a county Veterans Service Office as a result of personal contact with these veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, through the efforts of the State's CVSOs, Wisconsin veterans have realized more than \$2.5 billion in well-deserved federal benefits as a result of their service; and

**WHEREAS**, the CVSO Grant was created in 1973 to assist counties in providing Veterans Services and allowing CVSOs to utilize these funds for anything as long as it was for the benefit of veterans and did not go to another department or the county GP funds; and

**WHEREAS**, current rules concerning CVSO grants have had a negative impact on the ability of rural counties to support their veteran populations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Columbia County joins other counties, in, vigorously opposing any efforts to make CVSOs optional, to consolidate or regionalize these positions, to integrate them within other county departments, and to remove the requirement that they be filled by veterans, while simultaneously supporting efforts to reinstitute CVSO grants as they were originally formulated and to form a task force to objectively study and seek long term resolutions to actual hurdles to veteran's outreach and delivery, so as to enhance the current access and advocacy system for Wisconsin's veterans who have sacrificed so much for our state and our country.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all of Columbia County's State Senators and Assembly Representatives, to the Wisconsin Counties Association, and to the President of the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer Association.

FISCAL NOTE: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

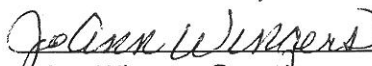
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Kirk Konkel



James E. Foley



JoAnn Wingers, Secretary



Mary Cupery, Vice Chair



Vern E. Gove, Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA  
CERTIFIED COPY

I certify that this is a true and exact copy  
of the original of which I am legal custodian  
for the County Clerk of Columbia County.

Signed by



County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk

11.17.16

Date