

# Gratiot County

## Department of Veterans Affairs

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Rodolfo R. Diaz-Pons, Director POB 68 125 E. Newark St. Ithaca, MI 48847 (989) 875-5258/FAX-5209

January 6, 2015

RE: Nominations for a Vacancy on the Gratiot County Veterans' Committee

Commanders  
Veterans Service Organizations

Dear Post Commander,

There is one vacancy on the Gratiot County Veterans' Committee that need to be filled as soon as possible. The position is open to veterans who are residents of Gratiot County "and who have served honorably on active duty in the United States armed forces or who served actively in the United States armed forces in a war or received an armed forces campaign or service medal." Candidates should also have "demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in public service, business, or finance." The nominee will complete the remainder of a term ending 7/31/16 at which time the veteran will be eligible to be re-appointed to a full four year term.

The purpose of the Gratiot County Veterans Committee is to provide oversight to the Gratiot County Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans' Committee meets six times per year: February, April, June, August, October, and December. Each member of the commission is reimbursed \$50.00 per meeting plus mileage (per meeting).

If you have a veteran, or veterans, who would be willing to commit themselves to this worthy undertaking, please submit a letter on your post letterhead nominating that person or persons as soon as possible. Please specify the veteran's qualifications and provide a DD214 with your submission. Also have the nominee prepare a brief resume for consideration in the selection process. To be considered, all candidates must have a Letter of Recommendation from a Veterans Service Organization within the county. Therefore your Post may be approached by non-members asking for a Letter of Recommendation.

It is noteworthy that the most recent changes to Act 192 of 1953 eliminated the requirement that members represent any particular wars. As such, your post should consider all qualified veterans for nomination, regardless of dates of service. Nonetheless, since the retiring incumbent is a World War II veteran, priority consideration will be given to any nominees who served in World War II.

If you, or a prospective nominee, have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rodolfo R. Diaz-Pons  
Lieutenant Colonel, USA- Retired  
Director

Encl: Act 192 of 1953

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**Act 192 of 1953**

AN ACT to create a county department of veterans' affairs in certain counties, and to prescribe its powers and duties; and to transfer the powers and duties of the soldiers' relief commission in such counties.

**History:** 1953, Act 192, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

**35.621 County department of veterans' affairs; creation; administration; committee; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; vacancies.**

Sec. 1. The county board of commissioners may create a county department of veterans' affairs. The department shall be under the administration of a committee of 3 to 5 veterans, appointed by the county board of commissioners, who shall be residents of the county and who have served honorably on active duty in the United States armed forces or who served actively in the United States armed forces in a war or received an armed forces campaign or service medal, to be appointed upon the recommendation of the posts of each chartered veterans' organization within the county. Each member appointed shall have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in public service, business, or finance. If an opening on a committee of veterans occurs, the county board of commissioners shall provide notice of that opening to 1 or more newspapers within the county and to veteran service organizations within the county. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law of this state to the contrary, a member of the board of commissioners of a county shall be eligible for appointment. Members appointed by the board of commissioners shall be appointed for a term of 4 years each. However, the terms for members first appointed shall be staggered so that not more than 2 vacancies are scheduled to occur in a single year. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired terms.

**History:** 1953, Act 192, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953;—Am. 1958, Act 156, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958;—Am. 1968, Act 204, Imd. Eff. June 24, 1968;—Am. 1973, Act 153, Imd. Eff. Dec. 6, 1973;—Am. 1996, Act 108, Imd. Eff. Mar. 5, 1996;—Am. 2004, Act 11, Imd. Eff. Feb. 26, 2004;—Am. 2012, Act 235, Imd. Eff. June 29, 2012.

**35.622 Soldiers' relief commission; abolition, transfer of powers and duties to county department of veterans' affairs.**

Sec. 2. In any county in which the board of supervisors adopts the provisions of this act, section 2 of the act creating the soldiers' relief commission created under the provisions of Act No. 214 of the Public Acts of 1899, as amended, being section 35.22 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, is hereby declared to be inoperative and the powers and duties of commission are hereby transferred to the county department of veterans' affairs created under the provisions of this act, and wherever soldiers' relief commission is used in Act No. 214 of the Public Acts of 1899, as amended, and Act No. 235 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended, being sections 35.801 to 35.804 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, it shall mean the county department of veterans' affairs herein created.

**History:** 1953, Act 192, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953;—Am. 1958, Act 156, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958.

**35.623 Administrative committee of county department; selection of officers, expenses; veterans' service officer, appointment; offices.**

Sec. 3. The committee shall select a chairman and a secretary. The committee is authorized to incur such expense as shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act within the budget set up by the board of supervisors. The members of the committee shall be entitled to receive the same per diem and mileage in attending meetings as members of the board of supervisors. The committee shall appoint a veterans' service officer and such other employees as shall be necessary from time to time to carry out the provisions of this act. In the selection of the veterans' service officer hereby authorized, the committee shall consult with and request the assistance of any association or council of organized veterans in such county, and any recommendation from such association or council of veterans as to the personnel to be appointed by said committee under the provisions of this act, while not binding on said committee, shall be given the greatest consideration. The board of supervisors shall furnish, equip and maintain reasonably adequate office facilities for the county department of veterans' affairs.

**History:** 1953, Act 192, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953.

**35.624 County department; powers and duties.**

Sec. 4. The county department of veterans' affairs shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as

shall be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act and any and all other benefits to which veterans may be entitled as prescribed by the county department of veterans' affairs.

**History:** 1953, Act 192, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953.

# Gratiot County Department of Veterans Affairs

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Rodolfo R. Diaz-Pons, Director

125 E. Newark St. Ithaca, MI 48847

(989) 875-5258/FAX-5209

November 4, 2014

RE: Resignation from Gratiot County Veterans Committee

TO: Director, Gratiot County Department of Veterans Affairs  
P.O. Box 68  
Ithaca, MI 48847

Dear Director,

As we discussed at the last Veterans' Committee meeting, I hereby resign as a member of the Gratiot County Veterans' Committee. My resignation is effective with the appointment of my replacement. I will continue to attend meetings, as able, until my replacement has been appointed by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners.

I has been a privilege to serve as the World War II representative on the committee.

Please keep me informed on the progress of appointing my replacement.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Howard Comstock  
Gratiot County Veterans' Committee  
World War II Representative