VAC Quarters 2-3 Meeting Recap

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Joe Flemming
2. **Roll Call** – Jeff VanZuiden
3. **Quarterly Report** – Dane Shaffer
   a. Question - *How many veterans were penalized regarding the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption?*
   b. Answer - *VAC fixes the problem in conjunction with the Tax Assessors' Office. If you are having trouble, first contact the Tax Assessor at 217-753-6375 and ask for Roxy.*
4. **New Business**
   a. <u>Overview of our response to Covid-19.</u>
      i. Sangamon County Complex closed the doors on Monday, 03/16/20, continuing until 06/12/20.
      ii. The VAC complied with the County Government's orders, closing our doors from 3/16/20-6/12/20.
      iii. However, the VAC continued to service veterans remotely via phone, mail, email, fax, etc. Claims, funeral benefits, financial assistance, etc., continued as usual, albeit with no face-to-face contact (03/16/20-06/12/20).
      iv. Sangamon County Building resumed partial operations on 06/15/20 (Some County Offices continue to remain closed to the public)
      v. VAC resumed in-person service on 06/15/20
      vi. Until further notice, any visitor to the Sangamon County Complex must wear a face mask and will have his/her temperature taken by Court Security prior to admittance.
      vii. The VAC continues to advise avoiding coming into the office unless necessary. We are asking veterans to call in advance as we will continue to accomplish as many tasks as possible remotely to avoid potential spread of Covid-19 to our vulnerable veteran population.
      viii. Before state orders were in place, active communication between other VAC's across the state began and pro-active measures were taken before any rulings had been made by the County or State. We have always been ahead of the curve. NOTE: many VACs across the state closed their doors and worked from home. The Sangamon County VAC did not, we continued to physically staff the office approximately 90% of time during the shutdown so that we could more effectively service our veterans and their families (March 16-June12).
      ix. Our new full-time Office Clerk, Dwayne Fox (24 year Army Retiree) began work on 06/01/20. Dwayne will primarily be responsible for Coordinating DAV transportation, Financial Assistance, Community Resources, and preparing basic VA forms such as VA Healthcare Applications, Adding Dependents, etc.

b. Status of DAV vehicles
  i. Still no date for the Illiana Van for the Danville, Peoria, Decatur, etc., routes. We continue to ask for a status on a monthly basis. At this time, no one in the DAV leadership is able to provide us with an estimated delivery date.
  ii. Dale Smith has volunteered to assist in transporting the new vehicle from Kentucky to our location whenever such a time comes.
  iii. New Ford Flex from St. Louis DAV for the St. Louis Route.
c. Question – "Is there a separate Illinois only Veteran stimulus?" (Clarence Stowe)
  i. *As far as we are able to determine, no such program exists. However, be aware: there appears to be many scams going around the internet regarding such things. Never provide your financial information to anyone online or even from correspondence in the mail or via telephone. The IRS and Illinois State Department of Revenue have issued warnings stating they will never ask for your personal information using such methods. If either of these entities ask for such information, call them from publicly available numbers and provide this agent. Never assume a phone number sent to you is legitimate, always check independently.*

5. **Upcoming Event** - Sunday August 9th, 1pm, Purple Heart Ceremony Oak Ridge Cemetery at Purple Heart Memorial.
6. **Upcoming Event** - October 29th, 7pm, Navy Club Inter-Veterans Council meeting.
7. **Retiring of the Colors** – Joe Flemming
8. **Next Meeting** – October 21, 7pm VFW #10302 (North-Enders)