



Quarterly Meeting Meeting Minutes

Quarter 1 Fiscal Year 2023
Recorded on 4/19/23

901 S. 11th Street, Springfield, IL 62703 | Phone (217) 753-6680 | Fax (217) 535-3280 | info@myvac.org | www.myvac.org



Superintendent: Dane K. Shaffer | Chairman: Frank Tyree | Vice Chairman: Tim Kennedy | Secretary: Rose Connolly

I. Call to order

A meeting of the Veterans Assistance Commission Board of Directors was publicly held at 901 S. 11th St., Springfield, IL 62703 on 4/19/2023. The proceedings were held in accordance with Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/) with notices emailed and mailed to voting members and public notice given via social media (Facebook) and the VAC website (www.myvac.org).

- a) The Call to Order was made by VAC Chairman, Frank Tyree.
- b) The Salute of the Colors was ordered by VAC Chairman, Frank Tyree.
- c) The Pledge of Allegiance was directed by VAC Chairman, Frank Tyree.
- d) The Roll Call was taken by VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly.
- e) The Quorum was confirmed by VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly.

II. Attendees

Special guest attendees included: (not applicable).

Voting members in attendance and not in attendance:

Voting Member	Electors	Contact Method	Attendance
AMVETS Post 94 Springfield, IL	Primary: Ashti Dawson Alternate: Shawn Miller	ashti.dawson@gmail.com wolfemill@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/> x
American Legion Post 32 Springfield, IL	Primary: Bruce O'Neil Alternate: Mike Walton phil meyer guest?	bwojlo1@gmail.com walton73@outlook.com	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> x
American Legion Post 274 Rochester, IL	Primary: Gale Kent Alternate:	kamper279@comcast.net	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
American Legion Post 277 Auburn, IL	Primary: John Dautel Alternate: Anthony Belin	lucky_59@comcast.net	x x

American Legion Post 278 Divernon, IL	Primary: Paul Bell Alternate: James Ayers	PO Box 414 Divernon, IL 62530-0414	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
American Legion Post 508	Primary: Myron Griesheim Alternate: Jimmy Floyd	msgreish@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
American Legion Post 599 Pleasant Plains, IL	Primary: Myron Griesheim Alternate:	msgreish@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
American Legion Post 759	Primary: Rosemary Connolly Alternate: Iris Kirschner	rose.rose@gmail.com iris.miranda-kirschner@comcast.net	x <input type="checkbox"/>
American Legion Post 809	Primary: Clarence Stowe Alternate: Randy Boschulte Alternate: Richard Rump	American.809@sbcglobal.com	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Catholic War Veterans	Primary: Tim Kennedy Alternate: Dale Smith	mrdd65@comcast.net shelby71@sbcglobal.net	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Italian Am. War Veterans Springfield, IL	Primary: Mike Palazzolo Alternate:	palazzolom@sbcglobal.net	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Marine Corp League, Collier-Harrison Post #75C/O Jeffrey Wolfe, 3100 Stanton St., Springfield, IL 62703	Primary: Dan Davis Alternate: Sue Gibbons	mclil5rhdistrict@gmail.com sgibb1@uis.edu	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Military Order of Purple Heart Chapter 159	Primary: Dan Wellman Alternate: Ed Hein	d.welman@sbcglobal.net ed535hein@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Navy Club Ship 32	Primary: Mark Anderson Alternate: Bill Woollen	seabee644@yahoo.com wawoollen@comcast.net	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
VFW Post 755 Springfield, IL	Primary: Josh Seed Alternate: Eugene Walker	jseed22@yahoo.com genewalk61@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> x
VFW Post 10302 Springfield, IL	Primary: Dale Abbott Alternate: Mike Woodcox	dale3413591@gmail.com mwoodcox48@gmail.com	x x
VFW Post 4763	Primary: Kimberly Fuiten Alternate: Jay Hoffman	kimberlyfuiten@yahoo.com jay_713@hotmail.com	x x
VFW Post 11463 Rochester, IL 217-498-7574 (Post)	Primary: Kyle Blumhorst Alternate: James Duban	kyleblumhorst@yahoo.com jduban@aol.com	<input type="checkbox"/> x
guests	Jim Dixon Angelea Foxworth-Everett Les Morgan AL759		

III. Approval of minutes

Before we got started with the meeting, Frank Tyree explained that the by-laws were not followed in the past regarding the timing of the election that was held in October instead of January per the by-laws. The last two years were a bit off schedule during COVID. Before we do anything else, a new vote was made to rectify the mistake for an interim board until the next legitimate time in the coming January. Members voted to retain the same board under these circumstances.

The previous quarter's minutes were distributed to voting members. **After a review by those present, corrections were noted.** A Motion was made to dispense with reading of the January minutes with corrections discussed. Once approved and corrections made, the minutes will be posted online.

The Superintendents Quarterly Report was read by **VAC Superintendent, Dane Shaffer**. Hard copies were distributed to those present and publicly posted. January through March looked very good.

Shawn Miller asked for a better tracker broken down by VSO from the number of claims, number of appeals, by VSO and if they are continuous appeals. In other words how much work is being done. Shawn wants to know the numbers that go with the one million dollars represented. Dane said data is broken down on their VetPro system. (<https://myvac.org/about-the-vac/transparency/>).

IV. Unfinished business

The previous discussion on the status of VAC staff pay raises was discussed by **VAC Superintendent, Dane Shaffer**. This project is still in progress and will be continued to the Q1 2023 Quarterly Meeting.

V. New business

- IL Association of County Officials's Spring Conference May 10-12 at Crowne Plaza will be attended by Dane and Jeff. Duane will be in the office.
- add 4 offices
- Construction updates. Brian Deener(sp) at county buildings & grounds. Four offices will be added and the improvement of the rear security gate. County is making the final decisions
- meeting at different posts again. Next meeting at 755
- Bridget Crawford is new service officer that begins Monday
- Rod Sheppard starts June 5 as new admin.
- Our transport van was broken into. It was a veteran that had been transferred many times and knew what he was doing and where the credit card was kept in the van. We don't know who did it. County is paying insurance.
- A motion was made to record/video the current meeting and post that online. Motion was seconded. Upon discussion, Jay read an email from Dane regarding misinformation at the

last meeting. Frank Tyree said he was unaware of the witness statements and had subsequently spoken with Dane to resolve the issue so it won't happen again. Equipment for recording was brought up. Meetings are currently recorded for typing up the minutes but the recordings are hard to hear. Shawn Miller mentioned blind courtesy copy (BCC) of that email also being made transparent. Rose had mentioned that the minutes are considered a draft until voted upon at the next quarterly meeting and therefore current meetings must be approved before being posted online. A vote 4 for the motion and 5 nay against recording at this time.

- Shawn mentioned New business bylaws approved by the chairman.
- Dane revisited the practicality of making trips to Danville. Illinois Assistive Technology moved into a building that would have been an ideal location for a CBOC but VA planning is on a 10 year planning cycle. Our guest representatives of congressman Budinski at this meeting stated she is in favor of a CBOC in Springfield.

VI. Old business

A new sub-committee with *6 members* was formed to review the by-laws. Members on the committee include Jay Hoffman, Shawn Miller, Mike Woodcox, Dan Davis, Tim Kennedy, and Bill Maud. The chair for the by-laws committee is Shawn Miller. The committee will set their own meeting date and report to Frank Tyree their recommendations.

Dental assistance will be on website NLT May 1. Community Care has dental.

Financial assistance guidelines have been changed and veterans can apply online or paper applications.

There's an annual all at once policy for food, rent, and utilities to save time and paperwork.

County resolution 22-2 passed on Oct 19, 2022 appointing new titles of Jeff and Duane effective immediately. In the past, a new hire would be an administrative assistant. Our new hire, Bridget Crawford, will have the title of Associate Veterans Service officer.

VII. For the Good of the Commission

March 29th there was a Stand down for veterans at the Salvation Army and Archie Ford held a Stand down. supportive service for veteran families

March 31st: IACV for incoming VSO class online. With more employees, Dane hopes to achieve better outreach.

Jul 8 Taylorville riders PTSD Run: raffle golf cart and a wall of firearms. Last year there were 130 motorcycles and 30 vehicles. See facebook for details.

April 26 at 9AM Unaccompanied Burial Ceremony at Camp Butler.

May 5 - 6: Vietnam Vigil May at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Les Morgan mentioned that during the closing ceremony, people will form a circle around all three memorials. <https://illinoisvvmav.org/>

Aug 31 Shawn Miller announced a fundraiser for Honor Flight

Oct 21 Shawn Miller announced Trivia fundraiser

VFW 10302 Hud Run to benefit Honor flight this Saturday.

Marine Corps League is raffling off 2 Henry rifles. Last year they raised \$2000 for Toys for Tots and Honor Flight.

May 20 canned good celebrating 1 yr anniversary

Jun 16: Springfield Lucky Horseshoes military appreciation day

May 16: Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

May 29 Memorial Day at Camp Butler: Mark Anderson is guest speaker. Scouts will be placing flags out at 7AM on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

Memorial Day Ceremony in Chatham.

1 year anniversary for the Chatham VFW.

Frank mentioned that a Revolutionary War veteran's grave was unmaintained (Philip Crowder)

VIII. Closing

- a) The **Announcement of the next public meeting** was pronounced by **VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly** to be held on **July 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM** (Central/Standard) at the location at VFW 755 The **Retiring of the Colors** was conducted by **VAC Chairman, Frank Tyree**.
- b) The **Meeting Adjournment** was made by **VAC Chairman, Frank Tyree** at **7:56 PM** (Central/Standard) on the same day as the meeting began.

Recorded and given by,

<i>Rosemary Connolly</i>
Rose Connolly, Secretary of the VAC

4/19/2023
Date of approval