



Veterans Assistance Commission Of Winnebago County

555 Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103 – 815-516-2850 – VAC@wincoil.us

Commission Meeting Minutes

14 June 2023

I. OPENING – 1731 Hours

- A. Hybrid Meeting held in Person at the VFW located at 922 – 7th Street, Rockford, IL 61104 and via Zoom Meetings (internet-based meeting platform).
- B. Opening Ceremonies: Salute Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence.
- C. Roll Call of Commission Officers, Certified Organizations Delegates & Alternates that are **Present In-Person.**

Officers 4 Delegates 14 Alternates 3 Cert. Org. 14 Quorum YES

- D. Allow Zoom Attendees to join and participate in the Meeting. **No one on Zoom.**
- E. Recognition of Guests and or Visitors: Julie Weis, VAC-A Secretary; Mike Phillips, Attorney; Kristine Spivey, VAC employee; Ray Richmond, VAC Employee; Bob Ryder, from Boone County.
- F. Accept the AGENDA: Are there any additions or changes to be made?
NOTE: Additions can be made. NO MOTIONS or VOTES TAKEN until the following meeting. Votes taken by Roll Call (R/C) or Voice Votes.

***Motion to accept the Agenda presented by the reading of the agenda. 2nd John Hood**

***Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous**

- G. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE – There is a 3-minute time limit. Call 815-516-2850 to get on the list. **Comments only NO questions.**
- H. Reading and Disposition of 2023 May's minutes.

***Motion presented by the reading of May's minutes. 2nd Curly Thompson**

***Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous**

VAC-Administration Reports

1. President

- a. We are subject to the OMA and must follow the Agenda and some things need to be read verbatim for the recording.
- b. Please attend in person since we need to have a Quorum present in person to vote in the Zoom attendees.

2. Administrative Coordinator

- a. We strongly encourage all organization's delegates and alternates to attend workshops and meetings.



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- b. Since the pandemic is officially over, OMA requires Commissioners to attend in person and may attend on Zoom only one of these criteria is met: 1) **Personal Illness/disability**, 2) **Employment issues or for doing the business of the commission**, and 3) **a Family or other emergency**.
 - c. We need an in-person Quorum to vote on issues.
 - d. You are required to notify Julie Weis, our secretary, or Nancy Clark, our Administrative Coordinator, if you need to attend on Zoom as soon as possible before the meeting.
 - e. 06/15 Advisory Workshop – Cancelled.
 - f. 06/22 Advisory Workshop – Discuss Issues from last commission meeting.
 - g. 06/29 Advisory Workshop – Personnel Manual/Services Handbook.
 - h. 07/06 Advisory Workshop – Month End Wrap up and agenda prep.
 - i. 07/12 Commission Meeting at 1730 hours
 - j. Everyone is invited to join all of these workshops and meetings.
3. **Services Coordinator**
- a. Added the Asset Disregards that were approved to the Services Handbook.
 - b. No Personnel issues.
4. **Appeals Committee – No Appeals – No Report**
- a. We need a roster for future Appeals Committee members.
 - b. If you are interested in being on future Appeals Committees, please let the Administrative Coordinator, Nancy Clark, know.
 - c. Lana McCants agreed to be on the Appeals Committee Roster
- *Motion presented by VAC-A reports as given so far. 2nd Al Hogland*
**Voice Vote: Y 13 N 0 AB 1 Result of Vote: passed*
5. **Finance Coordinator**
- a. Todd Burton and Debbie Ferlita, our accountant, went to IL Bank and Trust to get her access to our accounts.
 - b. Debbie agreed to be the IMRF agent for the VACWC.
 - c. Presentation of Year-To-Date Financial Reports.
 - d. We are on point so far this year.
 - e. See meeting packet for reports.
- *Motion presented by Year-to-Date financial report as given. 2nd John Guler*
**R/C vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous*



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A. VAC-Operations

1. NO Reports.
2. Looking for Volunteer Drivers.
3. Email address changes reminder: VAC@vac.wincoil.gov, JWeis@vac.wincoil.gov
4. DO NOT use VAC@wincoil.us
5. If your phone number or email has changed, please let Julie know via email message with NEW EMAIL Address /NEW PHONE Number as the Subject.

II. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Debbie completed the paperwork to be the IMRF agent for the VAC office.

****Motion to approve a Resolution to ratify Deborah Ferlita as the new VAC Authorized Agent of our IMRF account by Todd Burton 2nd Nancy Clark***

****Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

B. Second Read for By-Law Changes.

****Motion to approve By-Law changes by Terrell Lewis 2nd John Guler***

****Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

C. Moving the Thursday Advisory Workshop Meetings to Veterans Memorial Hall

****Motion to move Thursday Workshops to Veterans Memorial Hall by: Terrell Lewis 2nd John Guler***

****Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

D. Discuss the vacant Superintendent position.

1. Steve Thomas resigned and accepted a severance package on 12 June 2023.

****Motion to accept the resignation the current VAC Superintendent, Steve Thomas, and to declare the position vacant. By: Todd Burton 2nd Nancy Clark***

****R/C: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous***

2. According to the Military Veterans Assistance Act, Section 10 (b) - Superintendent vacancies shall be filled, whether long-term or temporarily, at the next regularly scheduled full Commission meeting or within 30 days at a specially convened meeting, whichever comes sooner, and shall be selected by a vote from a majority of the full Commission membership.



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3. Nomination to select an Interim Superintendent at the current salary, with no authority to hire or terminate employees, for a period not to exceed 90 days beginning 15 JUN 2023 and ending 14 SEP 2023.

- a. Nominations for Interim Superintendent:

Eric Willard nominated by: Todd Burton There were no other nominations.

**Motion to close nominations for Interim Superintendent by: Nancy Clark*

2nd by: Curly Thompson

**Voice Vote: Y 14 N 0 AB 0 Result of Vote: Unanimous*

- b. Appointment of the Interim Superintendent.

** Motion to appoint Eric Willard as the Interim Superintendent by: Nancy Clark*

2nd by Guler

**R/C Vote: Y 13 N 1 AB 0 Result of Vote: Passed*

V. VETERAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

- A. Enclosed Minutes from Advisory Committee Workshop Meetings for previous months.
- B. 22nd of every month – remembering those who have committed suicide.
- C. Remember Red Friday for our Deployed Service members.
- D. Looking for Volunteer Drivers and Coordinators.
- E. Send or bring in Flyers for your up-coming events – soon they will be going up on our website.
- F. See attached information about upcoming community events.

Meeting Suspended at 1826 to participate on in Webinar by IL Attorney General's office regarding the New Military Veterans Assistance Act (MVAA).

Due to technical difficulties, we were not able to attend the webinar.

The meeting re opened at 1837 to close the meeting.

VI. CLOSING

- A. Closing Ceremonies
- B. Next Meeting is on **12 JULY 2023 @ 1730 hours aka 5:30 pm**

**Motion to Adjourn. John Hood 2nd John Guler*

**Voice Vote: 14 Ayes 0 Nays*

- C. Meeting Adjourned at: 1838 hours