

Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County  
 August 13, 2025 - Commission Meeting Minutes  
 555 N. Court Street, Conf. Rm. 115, Rockford, IL 61103 5:30 pm

Meeting Opened: 1730 hours - 5:30 pm

Attendees:

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Nancy Clark – Acting President (Delegate - VFW Post #5149)	Jesus Pereira – Superintendent – Via Zoom
Eric Willard – Finance Coordinator (Delegate - VVA Post #984)	Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary
Jean Henning (Alternate – Rock Valley AmVets Post #922)	Francesca Montanez – VACWC
Jerome Egilske (Alternate – Vietnam Veterans of America Post #984)	Mayra Toral – VACWC
Ken VanLandeghem (Delegate - American Legion Post #288)	Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC
Reuben Hernandez (Delegate – VFW Post #2955)	Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC
Dave Davis (Delegate - American Legion Post #1207)	Willie Borden – VACWC
George Meissen – Sargent at Arms (American Legion Post #1207)	Michael J. Phillips – VACWC Attorney
F.S. Tate (Alternate – VFW Post #5149)	
Gene Schaefer (Delegate – VFW Post #9759)	
<b>Delegates and Alternate from Posts</b>	

- Appointment of Secretary Pro Tem, Lorie Becker, by Nancy Clark – Acting President (Delegate - VFW Post #5149)
- Opening Ceremonies lead by Nancy Clark – Acting President (Delegate - VFW Post #5149)
- Roll Call –Delegates and Sargent at Arms
- Allow Zoom Attendees: No Zoom attendees present
- Approval of Agenda: Item “Personel Chair” added to the agenda between items 6b and 6c. Approve Agenda as amended: Motion: Jean Henning 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rueben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Postpone the approval of prior months minutes until September 10, 2025: Motion: Jean Henning 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Public Comments: Gene Schaefer (Delegate – VFW Post #9759) presented about Rockford Police Department’s Citizen’s Police Academy. He explained the outstanding information that is available to the public about the Department’s day to day operations through the program.
- Reports:
  - Acting President – Nancy Clark
    - Welcome
  - Vice President – Nancy Clark
    - Reported dates for upcoming meetings
  - Services Chair - Vacant
    - No Report
  - Personel Chair – Vacant
    - No Report
- Finance Coordinator – Eric Willard
  - FY2025 YTD Report – 50.8% expended at 50% of the year (6 months)
  - Seeking approval to move \$25,000 for GA/EA expenditures from line item 48100 to 43991 for the month of May - Motion: Nancy Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lana McCants – Roll Call Vote Taken – 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain – Result Unanimous
  - Superintendent – Jesus Pereira – Zoom from Springfield, IL – IACO Conference

- Must focus on FY2026 budget which is due in June – received instructions and will be reviewing with the attorney – will need a Finance Committee meeting before next commission meeting
    - Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 2:00 pm – Veterans Memorial Hall
    - YTD Remaining – Operations \$108,000 to get us through 10/1/2025.
    - We set aside \$25,000 for April general assistance
    - Unable to provide emergency housing due to funding
    - Training, CEU and travel coming up
    - Money will likely only last another month or two
    - Will be reviewing lines to find any excess to see if we can move any monies
  - Representatives from Senator Tammy Duckworth’s Office will office hours at our location to meet with Veterans the first Wednesday of every month from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm – appointment are handled by the VACWC
  - HUDVash has a representative in our office every Monday
  - The Veteran Drop in Center has a representative in our office on most Fridays
  - The VACWC is partnering with Seabreeze Transportation to assist our local veterans due to the cut of the VACWC Transportation program:
    - Handicapped capable vehicles – wheelchair access and lift up to 1000 lbs.
    - Covered with Medicaid and other accepted insurance companies
    - Can take Veterans to local and VA Madison appointments
    - VACWC will assist Veterans with signing up for insurance to help them get these services
  - May 10, 2024 – Veteran Employment and Resource Event
  - VACWC is a LIEHEAP location
  - VACWC has a Notary Public on staff
  - Visual GA has been installed and we will be utilizing for our GA clients beginning soon
  - We are responding to an OMA allegation
    - Be sure to complete your OMA Certification
    - Will likely be more of these nuisance claims – most of them are baseless – being used to waste our time
  - VSO Timothy Hotchkiss received his PIV Card and will be picking it up this week
  - Mandamus hearing scheduled for May 15, 2025 – not looking to go to trial – more for clarification on the interpretation of the MVAA
  - Preparing FY2026 budget – lower than FY2025 – higher than .02%
  - VACWC had 114 in office appointments in April
  - Currently in Springfield attending the IACO (Illinois Association of County Officials) Conference
  - Nancy Clark – Administrative Coordinator - took the floor to thank Jesus for his continued hard work – she is getting a lot of good remarks. Thank you to your staff for what you are doing – hearing from the veterans that they are very satisfied that they are finally getting follow-through.
- Correspondence
  - Reading of impact statement sent on behalf of Rosecrance Veterans Services
- Unfinished Business
  - By-Laws committee meeting scheduled
  - Services committee meeting scheduled
- New Business
  - First reading of by-laws changes
    - Nancy Clark was unable to attend the By-laws committee meeting therefore Dave Davis stood in as chair
    - Dave Davis reviewed changes as provided in the draft version of the By-laws

- Suggestions for updates and changes were recorded by secretary
  - Motion to Approve first reading of the by-laws: Nancy Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Eric Willard – voice vote unanimous
  - Motion to approve by-laws changes will roll over to the next meeting: Gary Holmes 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Davis – voice vote unanimous
- Resolution 2025-03 – A Resolution Scheduling Semi-Annual Reviews of Closed Session Minutes of Meetings of the VACWC
  - Motion to accept Resolution 2025-03 – Dave Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lana McCants – roll call vote taken 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain – Results 8 Unanimous
- Veteran Community Events
  - Submit events to [vac@vac.wincoil.gov](mailto:vac@vac.wincoil.gov)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month – American Legion Scholarship Dinner, Post 1207
  - Every Tuesday 9:00 am – 11:00 am – VA/SheVets Breakfast at Johnny Pancakes
  - June 12 – Illinois Women’s Veterans Day – Demonstration of Unity 11 am - Meet and Greet 3-7 pm
  - July 17 – July 20 – The Wall that Heals – Vietnam Veterans
  - June 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Back the Beard – Buster’s Loves Park, IL
- Closing Ceremonies
- Next VACWC Commission Meeting – Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm – 555 N. Court Street, Conf. Rm #115, Rockford, IL
- Motion to Adjourn: Gary Holmes 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lana McCants – Voice Vote Unanimous
  - Meeting Adjourned 1825 hours - 6:25 pm