

Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County
 April 9, 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:

Board Members	Guests
Terrell Lewis – President (Rock Valley AmVets #922)	Jesus Pereira – Superintendent – Via Zoom
Nancy Clark – Administrative Coordinator (VFW Post #5149)	Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary
Eric Willard – Finance Coordinator (VVA Post #984)	Francesca Montanez – VACWC
Ken VanLandeghem (American Legion Post #288)	Mayra Toral – VACWC
Gary Holmes (American Legion Post #332)	Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC
Dave Davis (American Legion Post #1207)	Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC
George Meissen (American Legion Post #1207)	Willie Borden – VACWC
Reuben Hernandez (VFW Post #2955)	Michael J. Phillips – VACWC Attorney
Gene Schaefer (VFW Post #9759)	Keith McDonald – Appointed Winnebago County Board
Sean West (VFW Post#342)	Julie Weiss – Guest
Todd Burton (Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29)	Ray Richmond – Guest
Bob Lamay (Navy Ship Club #1)	Stacy Moore - Guest
12 Members from 11 Posts	

- Opening Ceremonies
- Roll Call – 11 Members from 11 Posts
- Allow Zoom Attendees: Motion: Dave Davis 2nd: Todd Burton – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Approval of Agenda as submitted: Motion: Rueben Hernandez 2nd: Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Move approval of prior months minutes to April meeting: Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd: Eric Willard – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Public Comments:
 - Keith McDonald
 - Julie Weiss
- Reports:
 - President – Terrell Lewis
 - Welcome
 - Reminder to set up new vac.wincoil.gov e-mail – reach out to Debi or Jesus for assistance
 - Reminder to complete OMA Training and provide certificate to VACWC Secretary
 - Review the letter from the Attorney General
 - Administrative Coordinator – Nancy Clark
 - Reported dates for upcoming meetings
 - Moved to amend Resolution 2025-01 Exhibit A 2.0 Motion: Nancy Clark 2nd Rueben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous
 - Services Coordinator – Lana McCants - absent
 - Finance Coordinator – Eric Willard
 - Gave FY2025 YTD Report – 41% expended at 42% of the year (5 months)
 - Motion to Approve move \$25,000 for GA/EA expenditures from line item 48100 to 43991 – Motion: Eric Willard 2nd: Nancy Clark – Roll Call Vote Taken – 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain – Result Unanimous

- Finance Committee will be setting a date for their next meeting to discuss the outcome of tonight's vote and to discuss the supplemental budget. Will advise commission when the date is set.
 - President advised Secretary to mark financial reports as "read"
 - President asked for motion to accept reports: Motion: Gary Holmes 2nd: Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
 - Superintendent – Jesus Pereira – Zoom from Washington DC – NACVSO Conference
 - The Supplemental Budget will not be considered by the Winnebago County Board due to the pending litigation – do not expect any additional budget for this FY – will keep reviewing our supplies and services line for the remainder of the FY
 - I am continuing to work with Community Partners (HudVash and SSVF Providers) for homeless veterans
 - Still meeting with our clients needing monthly assistance for rental and utilities – will provide services Month to Month as approved by this body
 - We've reached out to county for assistance with supplies and postage - the county has denied our requests
 - Remember that our office provides more than GA – there is a whole other side of services that the VACWC provides which is representing claimants with claims against the VBA which is the service we provide that brings money back into the community – we have now passed \$2M
- Correspondence
 - Note from Superintendent regarding Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran
 - VACWC Secretary read aloud a letter sent to President Terrell Lewis from a Veteran Spouse
- Unfinished Business
 - Administrative Coordinator will set up meeting for By-Laws Review
 - Services Manual Meeting – Personnel Coordinator has been given 60 days to set up meeting
- New Business
 - Dave Davis: Auxiliary's of approved VSO (Federally/State Approved) can be members of the VACWC Commission (Delegate/Alternate)
 - Gene Schaefer: Plan for inclement weather or larger attendance at VACWC meetings
 - Veterans Memorial Hall could be a consideration for larger attendance
 - Very difficult to cancel a scheduled/posted public meeting with less than 48 hour notice – we will follow Winnebago County weather emergency procedures
- Veteran Community Events
 - Submit events to vac@vac.wincoil.gov
 - 3rd Monday of each month – American Legion Scholarship Dinner, Post 1207
 - Every Tuesday 9:00 am – 11:00 am – VA/SheVets Breakfast at Johnny Pancakes
 - April 26, 2025 – National Montford Point Marine Association – 11th Anniversary Banquet
 - May 3, 2025 – Veterans Memorial Hall – Gala to Commemorate 50 Years since the end of Vietnam War
 - May 10, 2025 – VACWC will host "Empowering Veterans. Connecting Opportunities. Building Futures.
 - July 17 – July 20 – The Wall that Heals – Vietnam Veterans
 - May 18 - May 21 – Vets Roll
 - Memorial Day Parade will go on as planned
- Closing Ceremonies
- Next VACWC Commission Meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 5:30 pm – 555 N. Court Street, Conf. Rm #115, Rockford, IL
- Motion to Adjourn: Nancy Clark 2nd: Rueben Hernandez – Voice Vote Unanimous
 - Meeting Adjourned 1811 hours - 6:11 pm