



**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
OF  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

VACWC Commission Meeting Minutes  
555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103  
October 8, 2025  
5:30 PM CST  
Eric Willard, President

**Meeting Called to Order** at 5:30 PM CST

**Pledge of Allegiance** lead by Ken VanLandegham

**Moment of Silence** lead by President Eric Willard

Interim Superintendent Maryna Misiewicz appointed Dana Verfuertth as the Secretary of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County.

**Roll Call Secretary Dana Verfuertth**

Roll Call Attendance			
Ken VanLandeghem	American Legion Post #288	Delegate	Present
Raymond Dhom	American Legion Post #288	Alternate	Not in attendance
Gary Holmes	American Legion Post #332	Delegate	Not in attendance
Jeff Greer	American Legion Post #332	Alternate	Not in attendance
Dave Davis	American Legion Post #1207	Delegate	Present
George Meissen	American Legion Post #1207	Alternate	Present
Todd Burton	Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29	Delegate	Not in attendance
John Kline	Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29	Alternate	Present (via Zoom)
Robert Lamay	Navy Club Ship #1	Delegate	Not in attendance
Stephanie Gilberto	Navy Club Ship #1	Alternate	Not in attendance
Terrell Lewis	Rock Valley AmVets Post #922	Delegate	Not in attendance
Jean Henning	Rock Valley AmVets Post #922	Alternate	Not in attendance
Eric Willard	Vietnam Veterans of America	Delegate	Present
Jerome Egilske	Vietnam Veterans of America	Alternate	Present
Lana McCants	VFW Post #342	Delegate	Not in attendance
Sean West	VFW Post #342	Alternate	Not in attendance
Ruben Hernandez	VFW Post #2955	Delegate	Present
Bill Graves	VFW Post #2955	Alternate	Not in attendance
Nancy Clark	VFW Post #5149	Delegate	Present
F.S. Tate	VFW Post #5149	Alternate	Present
Gene Schaefer	VFW Post #9759	Delegate	Present
Keith McDonald	Winnebago County Board	Representative	Not in attendance

**Additional Attendees:** Acting Superintendent Maryna Misiewicz, Superintendent Time Hotchkiss, Assistant Superintendent Debi Hoover, VSO Willie Borden, VAC Admin Francesca Montanez, VAC Admin Mayra Torel, VAC Secretary Dana Verfuert, Attorney Michael Phillips.

**Quorum Established:** 10 attendees, representing 7 posts

**Motion to allow John Kline to join the meeting electronically:** Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Egilske, no discussion, no amendments. **Roll Call Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion approved. Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0**

**Motion to Approve Agenda for October 8, 2025:** Egilske, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Schaefer, no discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. October 8, 2025, Agenda approved. Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0**

**Meeting Minutes for September will be review and approved at the November Commission Meeting.**

**Public Comments:** None.

**President's Report: Eric Willard**

- Recognizing Newly Elected Commission Officers  
Vice President, Nancy Clark  
Finance Officer, Jerome Egilske  
Services Chair, Dave Davis  
Personnel Chair, Rueben Hernandez

**Vice President's Report: Nancy Clark**

Bylaw Committee - FS Tate, Gene Schaefer, Jerome Egilske, and Rueban Hernandez volunteered for the Bylaw Committee.

**Finance Officer's Report: Jerome Egilske and Eric Willard**

- Fiscal year to date budget review: About \$45,000 is left in the FY2024-2025 budget. The Commission will be presenting Resolution ..... to Winnebago County to carry the money over to next year to put toward a new office location for the VACWC.
- **A Motion was made to add Timothy Hotchkiss, Debi Hoover, Eric Willard and Jerome Egilske to the account held at Illinois Bank and Trust (now UMB Bank) as authorized signers and remove Terrell Lewis and Jesus Perrera:** Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Clark. No discussion, No amendments. **Roll Call Vote Yes Unanimous. Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0**

**Services Chairperson's Report: Dave Davis**

Services Committee - Nancy Clark, FS Tate, Jerome Egilske and Rueban Hernandez volunteered for the Services Committee.

### **Personnel Chairperson's Report: Rueben Hernandez**

Personnel Committee – Rueban Hernandez would like to have the Personnel Committee Meeting to immediately follow the Services Committee Meetings.

### **Interim Superintendent's Report: Maryna Misiewicz**

- Maryna Misiewicz thanked everyone for the honor and privilege of serving as the Interim Superintendent of the VACWC.
- Maryna Misiewicz turned over the position of Superintendent to Timothy Hotchkiss, effective immediately.

### **Superintendent's Report: Timothy Hotchkiss**

- Tim Hotchkiss thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent of the VACWC.
- Hotchkiss shared his past experiences and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as the VACWC Superintendent.

### **Correspondence: Secretary Dana Verfuert**

None.

### **Unfinished Business: President Eric Willard**

- Disposition of Lawsuit: Attorney Micheal Phillips reported that a motion to dismiss was finalized on September 25, 2025.

### **New Business: President Eric Willard**

- Timothy Hotchkiss reported about the VACWC's General Assistance, a need's based financial aid program.

### **Announcements: Secretary Dana Verfuert**

- Nancy Clark reported that the Veterans Drop In Center is currently in the middle of a transition period and the VFW #5149 at 922 7<sup>th</sup> Street are more than willing to help Veterans in need during the transition.
- Every third Wednesday of the month, his post (VVA #984) has been providing Popeyes chicken at the VFW at 922 7<sup>th</sup> Street while the Veterans Drop In Center is closed.
- The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025.

Next VACWC Meeting will be on November 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM CST. 555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103

**Motion to Adjourn:** Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> Egilske, no discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous, Motion Approved at 6:40 PM CST. Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0**

Minutes Approved: November 12,2025

By: *Eric Willard*

Eric Willard, President  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, IL

Attest: *Dana Verfuertth*

Dana Verfuertth, Secretary  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, IL