

Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County  
 March 12, 2025 - Commission Meeting Minutes  
 555 N. Court Street, Conf. Rm. 115, Rockford, IL 61103 - 5:30 pm

Meeting Opened: 1732 hours - 5:32 pm

Attendees:

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	Present
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	Present
Terrell Lewis	Rock Valley AmVets Post #922	Delegate	Present
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	Not in Attendance
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	Not in Attendance
Gene Schaefer	VFW Post #9759	Delegate	Present
Keith McDonald	Winnebago County Board	Representative	Not in Attendance

**Additional Attendees:** Jesus Pereira – Superintendent, Debra Hoover – VACWC Secretary, Francesca Montanez – VACWC, Mayra Toral – VACWC, Luz Ortiz-Rivera – VACWC, Timothy Hotchkiss – VACWC, Willie Borden – VACWC, Michael J. Phillips – VACWC Attorney, Brandon Franco – Rosecrance

- Opening Ceremonies
- Roll Call – 11 Members from 10 Posts
- Allow Zoom Attendees: Motion: Nancy Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Approval of Agenda as submitted: Motion: Gary Holmes 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stephanie Gilberto – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Move approval of prior months minutes to April meeting: Motion: Nancy Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stephanie Gilberto – Voice Vote Unanimous
- Public Comments: No public Comments
- Reports:
  - President – Terrell Lewis
    - Welcome
    - Reminder to complete OMA Training and provide certificate to VACWC Secretary

- Nancy Clark is the Chair of the By-Laws Committee
  - New By-Laws require 5 members for each committee
  - If you want a topic added to an agenda, please contact the President
- Administrative Coordinator – Nancy Clark
  - Reported dates for upcoming meetings
- Services Coordinator – Lana McCants - absent
- Finance Coordinator – Eric Willard
  - Gave FY2025 YTD Report
  - Move to end General Assistance (GA) and Emergency Assistance (EA) Programs until the beginning of the next fiscal year or until funding is restored within this fiscal year – 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ruben Hernandez – Roll Call Vote Taken – 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain – Result Unanimous – GA and EA Programs will be suspended
  - Finance Committee met and voted to recommend the supplemental budget. Move to approve the supplemental budget request and submit with a letter of urgent need to Winnebago County CEO, Finance Committee and County Board and request acknowledgement of receipt – 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Davis – Roll Call Vote Taken – 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain – Result Unanimous – Superintendent will submit supplemental budget to Winnebago County.
- Superintendent – Jesus Pereira
  - Read personal statement and received standing ovation from Commissioners and Guests
  - Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans – it is your month
  - Reminder: We are a unit of Government – not a department of Winnebago County
- Correspondence – None
- Unfinished Business – None
- New Business
  - Present VACWC Resolution 2025-02 – Resolution of The Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County Standing in Solidarity with the Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County – Motion to approve Resolution 2025-02: Gary Holmes 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ruben Hernandez
- Veteran Community Events
  - Submit events to [vac@vac.wincoil.gov](mailto:vac@vac.wincoil.gov)
  - March 19, 2025 Representative Eric Sorensen will be at The Veterans Drop in Center
  - 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
  - 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.
  - Roscoe, IL will host a Memorial Day parade this year
- Closing Ceremonies
- Next VACWC Commission Meeting – Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm – 555 N. Court Street, Rockford, IL
- Motion to Adjourn: Gary Holmes 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Davis – Voice Vote Unanimous
  - Meeting Adjourned 1853 hours - 6:53 pm