



**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF
WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

APPROVED

MAY 13 2026

VAC of Winn Co, IL

VACWC Commission Meeting Minutes
555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103
April 8, 2026
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

Roll Call Secretary Dana Verfuertth

Roll Call Attendance			
American Legion Post #288	VanLandeghem, Ken	Delegate	Present
American Legion Post #288	Butram, Scott	Alternate	Present
American Legion Post #1207	Davis, Dave	Delegate	Present
American Legion Post #1207	Meissen, George	Alternate	Present
VFW Post #342	Holmes, Gary	Delegate	Present
VFW Post #342	Metheny, Jeff	Alternate	Present
American Legion Post #332	Draeger, David	Delegate	Present
American Legion Post #332	Greer, Jeff	Alternate	Present
Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29	Weis, Julie	Delegate	Not in attendance
Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29	Cummings, Darryl	Alternate	Not in attendance
Navy Club Ship #1	Lamay, Robert	Delegate	Not in attendance
Navy Club Ship #1	Reyes, Juan	Alternate	Present
VFW Post #342	Holmes, Gary	Delegate	Present
VFW Post #342	Metheny, Jeff	Alternate	Present
Vietnam Veterans of America #984	Egilske, Jerome	Delegate	Present
Vietnam Veterans of America #984	Willard, Eric	Alternate	Present
VFW Post #2955	Hernandez, Ruben	Delegate	Present
VFW Post #2955	Graves, Bill	Alternate	Not in attendance
VFW Post #5149	Clark, Nancy	Delegate	Present
VFW Post #5149	Tate, FS	Alternate	Present
VFW Post #9759	Schaefer, Gene	Delegate	Present
VFW Post #9759	Puckett, Jim	Alternate	Not in attendance
American Legion Post #340	Richmond, Ray	Delegate	Present
American Legion Post #340	Evans, Willie	Alternate	Present

Additional Attendees: Interim Superintendent Willie Borden, VAC Admin Francesca Montanez, VAC Secretary Dana Verfuert, VAC Office Manager Michaela Kelliher, VAC VSO Shara Ibalio, Attorney Michael Phillips.

Quorum Established: 17 attendees, representing 10 MVSO's

Zoom Attendees: None

Motion to Approve Agenda for April 8, 2026: Egilske, 2nd: Davis; No discussion, no amendments, **Roll Call Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Motion to approve March 11, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes: Holmes, 2nd Egilske; No discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Public Comments:

- Ted Deppe from American Legion Post #197 invited Commissioners and their respective MVSO's to attend or participate in the Pecatonica Memorial Day Parade.
- VAC Secretary Dana Verfuert read a letter to the VACWC from Veteran Dennis O'Rourke, regarding a VA claim that was not submitted in July 2024.

President's Report: Eric Willard

- 6:08PM - **Motion to Enter into Executive Session pursuant Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act:** Egilske, 2nd Hernandez, no discussion, no amendments, **Roll Call Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**
- President Eric Willard excused all guests and Interim Superintendent Willie Borden, VAC Office Manager Michaela Kelliher, VAC VSO Shara Ibalio, VAC Administrative Assistant Francesca Montanez, and VAC Secretary Dana Verfuert from the Executive Session. Attorney Michael Phillips remained in Executive Session along with all members of the Commission present.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:10PM – 6:57PM
- **Motion to Reconvene in Open Session at 6:58PM:** Homes, 2nd Davis, no discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous, Motion Passes. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**
- **Motion to Hire an Investigator:** Reyes, 2nd: Egilske; No discussion, no amendments, **Roll Call Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 5, No 3, Abstain 2.**

Vice President's Report: Nancy Clark

- Bylaws Committee – Next Meeting will be April 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM CST, Veterans Memorial Hall, First Floor Conference Room.

Finance Officer's Report: Jerome Egilske

- Fiscal year to date budget review done by Jerome Egilske.
- Finance Committee – Next Special Meeting (Budget) will be Monday, April 13, 2026 at 1:00PM CST, Veterans Memorial Hall, First Floor Conference Room.

- **Motion to have an Immediate Independent Forensic Financial Audit Performed on All of the VACWC Accounts over the Past Three (3) Budget Years:** Metheny, 2nd Richmond; Discussion, no amendments, **Roll Call Vote Yes. Motion Passes. Yes 5, No 3, Abstain 2.**

Services Chairperson’s Report: Dave Davis

- Services Committee – Next Special Meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2026 at 3:00 PM CST, Veterans Memorial Hall, First Floor Conference Room.

Personnel Chairperson’s Report: Rueben Hernandez

- Personnel Committee – Next Meeting will be Monday, April 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM CST, Veterans Memorial Hall, First Floor Conference Room.

Superintendent’s Report: Interim Superintendent Willie Borden, Jr.

- Mr. Borden reported on the state of the VAC, including transportation, general assistance and staffing

Correspondence:

- VAC Secretary Dana Verfuert read a letter from a Veteran thanking VAC Staff Members for their efforts and professionalism in assistance with his VA Claim.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business (None)

Announcements: Secretary Dana Verfuert

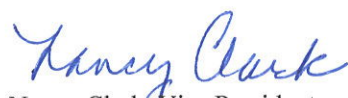
- Rock the Block – June 20, 2026 American Legion Post 340
- American Legion Scholarship Dinner – 3rd Monday of each month – American Legion Post 1207
- VA/SheVets - Every Tuesday, 9:00AM-11:00AM – Breakfast at Johnny Pancakes
- Rockford Memorial Day Parade – May 25, 2026 at 9:00AM
- Annual Banquet – April 25, 2026 – Montford Pointe Marines

The Next VACWC Meeting will be on May 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST. 555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103

Motion to Adjourn: Hernandez, 2nd Egilske, no discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous, Motion Approved at 8:01 PM CST. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0**

Minutes Approved: 05/13/2026

By:



Nancy Clark, Vice President
Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, IL

Attest:



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

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