



**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
OF  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

**APPROVED**  
**OCT 14 2026**  
**VAC of Winn Co, IL**

VACWC Commission Meeting Minutes  
555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL 61103  
September 9, 2026  
5:30 PM CST  
Eric Willard, President

**Meeting Called to Order** at 5:35 PM CST

**Pledge of Allegiance** lead by Ken VanLandegham

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

**Roll Call**

| Roll Call Attendance             |                   |           |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| American Legion Post #288        | VanLandeghem, Ken | Delegate  | Present           |
| American Legion Post #288        | Butram, Scott     | Alternate | Not in attendance |
| American Legion Post #1207       | Davis, Dave       | Delegate  | Present           |
| American Legion Post #1207       | Meissen, George   | Alternate | Present           |
| VFW Post #342                    | Holmes, Gary      | Delegate  | Arrived at 6:05PM |
| VFW Post #342                    | Metheny, Jeff     | Alternate | Present           |
| American Legion Post #332        | Draeger, David    | Delegate  | Present           |
| American Legion Post #332        | Greer, Jeff       | Alternate | Not in attendance |
| Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29        | Weis, Julie       | Delegate  | Present           |
| Blackhawk DAV Chapter #29        | Cummings, Darryl  | Alternate | Not in attendance |
| Navy Club Ship #1                | LaMay, Robert     | Delegate  | Arrived at 5:45PM |
| Navy Club Ship #1                | Reyes, Juan       | 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 | Not in attendance |

**Additional Attendees:** Interim Superintendent Dana Verfuert, Secretary Pro Tempore Attorney Michael Phillips.

**Quorum Established:** 14 Members, representing 11 MVSO's

**Zoom Attendees:** None

**Motion to Approve Agenda for September 9, 2026 (as Amended):** Egilske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Metheny; Discussion. **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

**Motion to Amend the Agenda to Discuss Article IX Proposed Bylaw Changes under New Business,** brought forward by Commissioner Metheny: Metheny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weis. **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Commissioner LaMay enters meeting at 5:45PM. Attendance updated to reflect 15 Members, representing 11 MVSO's.

**Motion to Amend the Agenda to Discuss Proposed Bylaw Amendment Aligning elections and Committee Terms,** brought forward by Commissioner Richmond: Richmond, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weis. **Voice Vote Yes. Motion Passes. Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 1:** LaMay.

**Motion to Approve the Minutes for the Commission Meeting held on August 12, 2026:** Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richmond. **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

#### **Public Comments:**

- Christina Valdez: Ms. Valdez spoke about her concerns regarding the Commissions compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the MVAA, lack of financial controls, and lack of transparency.
- Jeff Metheny: Commissioner Metheny spoke about his proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Veterans Assistance Commission. Additionally, he voiced his concerns that Commission members may not be taking their responsibility as members of the Commission seriously or with leadership.

#### **President's Report:**

- **Motion to Appoint Dana Verfuert the Interim Superintendent of the VACWC:** Weis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Egilske. **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Commissioner Holmes enters meeting at 6:05 PM. Attendance updated to reflect 16 Members, representing 11 MVSO's.

#### **Vice President's Report:**

- Second Reading – Article V: Membership – Bylaws Amendment presented.
- **Motion to Approve Article V: Membership – Bylaws Amendment as presented:** Egilske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis.
- **Motion to Postpone the Second Reading – Article V: Membership – Bylaws Amendment, to the October 2026 Commission Meeting:** Metheny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weis, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous. Motion Passes. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

#### **Finance Officer's Report - Egilske**

- Interim Superintendent Dana Verfuert presented the FY26 YTD budget report.

#### **Services Chair's Report - Davis**

- No Report

## **Personnel Chair's Report - Hernandez**

- No Report

## **Audit Committee Report – Reyes**

- Commissioner Reyes presented Requests for Proposals for Auditing Firms to perform the Forensic Audit, that the Audit Committee would like the Commission Members to review.

## **Superintendent's Report**

- Interim Superintendent Dana Verfuert spoke about the VAC Staff and operations in the office.

## **Unfinished Business: None**

## **Recess: 7:20PM – 7:31PM**

## **New Business:**

- Discussion about **Article IX Proposed Bylaw Changes**, brought forward by Commissioner Metheny. Suggested that this item be placed on the next Commission Agenda in October as the First Reading. Metheny requested that it be placed on the next Commission Agenda in October for Second Reading.

## **Elections**

- Juan Reyes was nominated for VACWC President by Robert LaMay. Nomination accepted by Reyes.
- Nancy Clark was nominated for VACWC President by David Draeger. Nomination declined by Clark.
- Jerry Egilske was nominated for VACWC President by FS Tate. Nomination accepted by Jerry Egilske.
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Juan Reyes as the VACWC President:** Richmond, 2<sup>nd</sup> LaMay.
- **Results - No (8):** VanLandeghem, Davis, Draeger, Weis, Egilske, Hernandez, Clark, Schaefer. **Yes (3):** Metheny, LaMay, Richmond. **Abstain (0). Motion fails.**
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Jerry Egilske as the VACWC President:** Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hernandez.
- **Results - No (3):** Metheny, LaMay, Richmond. **Yes (7):** VanLandeghem, Davis, Draeger, Weis, Egilske, Hernandez, Clark. **Abstain (1):** Schaefer. **Motion passes.**
  
- Julie Weis was nominated for VACWC Vice President by Nancy Clark. Nomination declined by Weis.
- FS Tate was nominated for VACWC Vice President by Robert LaMay. Nomination declined by Tate.
- Nancy Clark was nominated for VACWC Vice President by Jerome Egilske. Nomination declined by Clark.
- Dave Davis was nominated for VACWC Vice President by Jerome Egilske. Nomination accepted by Davis.
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Dave Davis as the VACWC Vice President:** Egilske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weis.
- **Results - No (1):** Metheny **Yes (8):** VanLandeghem, Davis, Draeger, Weis, Egilske, Hernandez, Clark, Richmond. **Abstain (2):** LaMay, Schaefer. **Motion passes.**

- Julie Weis was nominated for VACWC Finance Chair by Robert LaMay. Nomination accepted by Weis.
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Julie Weis as the VACWC Finance Chair:** Egilske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis.
- **Results – Roll call vote YES unanimous. Motion passes.**
- Juan Reyes was nominated for VACWC Services Chair by Ruben Hernandez. Nomination accepted by Reyes.
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Juan Reyes as the VACWC Services Chair:** LaMay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Weis.
- **Results - No (4):** Davis, Draeger, Egilske, Clark. **Yes (7):** VanLandeghem, Metheny, Weis, LaMay, Hernandez, Schaefer, Richmond. **Abstain (0). Motion passes.**
- Ruben Hernandez was nominated for VACWC Personnel Chair by Jerry Egilske. Nomination accepted by Hernandez.
- **Motion to call a roll call vote to elect Ruben Hernandez as the VACWC Personnel Chair:** Weis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Egilske.
- **Results - No (1):** Hernandez. **Yes (8):** VanLandeghem, Davis, Draeger, Weis, LaMay, Egilske, Clark Schaefer. **Abstain (2):** Metheny, Richmond. **Motion passes.**

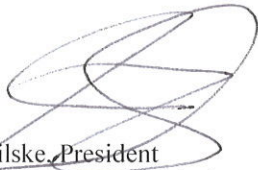
#### Correspondence (None)

**Announcements:** The Next VACWC Meeting will be on October 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST at Veterans Memorial Hall.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Reyes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Holmes, no discussion, no amendments, **Voice Vote Yes Unanimous, Motion Approved at 8:21 PM CST. Yes 11, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Minutes Approved: 10/14/2026

By:



Jerome Egilske, President  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, IL

Attest:



Dana Verfueth, Interim Superintendent  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, IL