



901 S. 11th Street, Springfield, IL 62703 | Phone (217) 753-6680 | www.vacsangamon.org



Superintendent: Ashti Dawson | Chairman: Shawn Miller | Vice Chairman: Bill Mowder | Secretary: Rose Connolly | Provost: Jay Hoffman

I. Call to order the Veterans Assistance Commission was publicly held at VFW Post 755 on Oct 16, 2024 at 7PM by Chairman, Shawn Miller. The proceedings were held in accordance with Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/) with notices emailed to voting members and public notice given via social media (Facebook) and the VAC website (vacsangamon.org).

- a) The Call to Order was made by VAC Chairman, Shawn Miller at 7PM
- b) The Salute of the Colors was given by VAC Provost, Jay Hoffman.
- c) The Pledge of Allegiance was directed by VAC Provost, Jay Hoffman.
- d) The Roll Call was taken by VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly.
- e) The Quorum was confirmed by VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly.

II. Attendees

Voting members in attendance and not in attendance:

Organization	Member's Name	Role	Email	present
American Legion #32	William Mowder	Delegate	mowderbill@yahoo.com	x
Springfield	Cynthia Robbins	Alternate	jacwr08@yahoo.com	
American Legion #274	Gael Kent	Delegate	ilamleg.post274@gmail.com	absent
Rochester		Alternate	m	
American Legion #277	John Dautel	Delegate	lucky_59@comcast.net	x

Auburn	Anthony Bellin	Alternate	adb3579@gmail.com	
American Legion #278	Paul Bell	Delegate		absent
Divernon	James Ayers	Alternate		absent
American Legion #759	Rose Connolly	Delegate	rose.rosec@gmail.com	x
Chatham	Les Morgan	Alternate	asarge@peoplepc.com	X
American Legion #809	Michael Johnson	Delegate	michaelj_40160@yahoo.com	x
	Delmar Flournoy	Alternate	flourneydelmer@gmail.com	
AmVets #94	Larry Miller	Delegate	lrmsvm@comcast480	x
	Tammy Harmony	Alternate	faraway84@hotmail.com	x
Catholic War Vets #1916	Timothy Kennedy	Delegate	mrdd65@comcast.net	x
	Dale Smith	Alternate	shelby71@sbcglobal.net	
Italian American War Veterans	Mike Palazzolo	Delegate	palazzolom@sbcglobal.net	absent
		Alternate		
Marine Corp League	Dan Davis	Delegate	mcl5thdistrict@gmail.com	x
	Sue Gibbons	Alternate	sgibb1@uis.edu	
Military Order of the Purple Heart	Dan Wellman	Delegate	d.wellmann@sbcglobal.net	x
		Alternate		
Navy Club Ship #32	Phil Brown	Delegate	pwbsg752@gmail.com	absent
	Michael Alwood	Alternate	subnuker@gmail.com	

VFW #755	Joshua Seed	Delegate	jseed22@yahoo.com	
	Galloway	Alternate	dale3413591@gmail.com	x
VFW #4763	Kimberly Yantis	Delegate	kimberlyfuiten@yahoo.com	x
Chatham	Jayson Hoffman	Alternate	jay_713@hotmail.com	x
VFW #10302	Michael Woodcox	Delegate	mwoodcox48@gmail.com	x
	Larry Carter	Alternate		
VFW #11463	James Duban	Delegate	jbuban@aol.com	absent
Rochester	Kyle Blumhorst	Alternate	kyleblumhorst@yahoo.com	x

Guest and other attendees included: VAC Staff, Diane Rogers (Gold Star), Chris Cody (VFW 4763).

An Affirmation was set forth to ensure we accounted for guests and those that wanted to speak with a sign in and rules to speak to the board. The Affirmation was approved by all delegates.

III. Approval of minutes

The previous quarter's minutes from July 17, 2024 were distributed by Rose Connolly. A motion was made to dispense reading by Michael Johnson and second by Larry.

Superintendents Quarterly Report (0:05:18)

Ashti listed a succession of names of past VAC superintendents.

A new mission statement was read.

Employee Report: Ashti introduced the staff Bridget Crawford, David Reiger, Darnell Marrero, John Raibine, and Ivannia Galloway as VA work study. Bill Mower and Tim Kennedy moved to accept the report and Motion carried (0:25:22)

The VAC can use Sangamon County auditors according to the Military Veterans Assistance Act. (25:30)

Ashti Dawson reviewed the 2025 comprehensive budget in FY that starts September 1, 2025. Budget includes the salaries which this board had approved in 2022 that were never dispersed. (Handout

attached) Shawn Miller discussed levies collected by Sangamon County to have the 0.2% to go toward the VAC.

Questions came up about office lease on page one and on page 2 Building Rental (0:31:35). Buildings and grounds janitorial maintenance as explained that the county performs but comes out of this line item. (0:33:05) Currently nothing is spent on advertising. There is no requirement for a line item budget to get our money from the county. We are being nice to show where the money will be used. A motion was made to approve the superintendent's report made by JD Seed and seconded by Tim Kennedy. The motion to accept the budget was made with the option to move as needed. Motion approved with 1 nay vote by Cynthia Robbins.

< At this point a closed meeting as part of the VAC act. Non-delegates and guests were temporarily dismissed (0:50:26-1:05:20.16)>

New Business

- FOIA Requests were filed with the Attorney General and Sangamon County zero found items.
- Lawyers Report: We spent \$504,000 so far without a resolution. The Military Division table at the VFW convention confirmed that we are on the right regarding the .02%. (1:08:10.40)
- The VAC Webpage is pending a google verification request. Currently google pulls up the old website and not the current (see header of these minutes)

Unfinished Business

- Reach out Committee Report: Larry Miller has tried to contact the Rochester American Legion post Divernon and ITAM before the meeting
- Update on MVAA - Shawn
- Landlord of Rochester Rd: Chairman Shawn met with the landlord who is asking for \$7,200 for not following through with the lease that was signed by Dane Shafter. Horrible location. Size wise, good. No bus stop. Choice was 1) move there. 2) write a memo from the board asking for \$7200 pay and get them off back. The Township needs to consider modifying the current office to be in compliance for veteran privacy. Or space in the remodeled former SJR building. Kim moved to pay off the landlord and second by Les Morgan. Motion passed.
- Buildout of 11st Building Update discussed for ADA compliance.

For the Good of the Commission

- August 24-28 - Diane Rogers discussed the Gold Star Mission. The bicycle ride is starting in Metropolis/ending Rockford. Saturday, Sep 28 volunteers need drivers to pick up bikers back to Springfield. We provide vehicles to pick up riders. Flyers were handed out.
- Veteran Forum - Bill Mowder
- American Legion 277, reschedule
- August 7-11 - Amvets National Convention - PAL/BOS
- August 8-17 - State Fair - Beer Tents Volunteers (CVA) offered Amvets 94 can host other posts if they need money.

- August 11 - Veterans Day at the State Fair
- August 27 - Honor Flight Returns to the Springfield Airport about 930pm
- August 29 - Honor Flight Golf Fundraiser - AmVets Post 94 - The Oaks
- September 16-20 - IACVAC Annual Conference
- October 5 - Spaulding Memorial Golf Fundraiser - The Oaks
- October 12 - Flag Retirement Ceremony - Spaulding Memorial - 10am

VIII. Closing of Affairs

- a) The Retiring of the Colors was conducted by Provost Marshall, Jay Hoffman.
- b) The next Public VAC Meeting was announced by VAC Secretary, Rose Connolly October 16, 2024, at VFW 755.
- c) The Meeting Adjournment was made by VAC Chairman, Shawn at 8:43 PM. (1:39.40.21)

Recorded and given by,

<i>Rose Connolly</i>
Rose Connolly, Secretary of the VAC

July 17, 2024
Date Recorded