



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 Lafore Lock 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 Marshall, Jay Hoffman.
- c) The Pledge of Allegiance was directed by VAC Provost Marshall, 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	absent
Springfield	Cynthia Robbins	Alternate	jacwr08@yahoo.com	absent
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	absent
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	absent
	Dale Smith	Alternate	shelby71@sbcglobal.net	absent
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	absent

VFW #755	Joshua Seed	Delegate	jseed22@yahoo.com	
	Cory Galloway	Alternate	corygallowayinsurance@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	
Rochester	Kyle Blumhorst	Alternate	kyleblumhorst@yahoo.com	x

Guests and other attendees included: Tim Krell from the Sangamon County board, Ken Buck, Sangamon county VAC staff members, and Freddie Rocha.

III. Approval of minutes

The previous quarter's minutes from July 17, 2024 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made to dispense reading of the minutes since they were previously emailed by Michael Johnson and second by Larry Miller. Minutes were approved with necessary corrections; Ashti's title in the header and vice chair title changed to provost.

IV. Superintendents Quarterly Report

Copies of the report were passed out and discussed and attached. VAC will no longer sell Honvee cook books since it's an unregistered organization. Other fund raisers of the commission are welcome. VAC has requested to present at the county board meeting on Dec 10, 2024. Eight employees have been approved which includes the superintendent position. A discussion followed with the proposed location to move to 3100 Walton Drive. Location proposal is tabled.

Dave Duban and Michael Johnson moved to approve the superintendent's report and the motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

Reach out Committee Report: Larry Miller no answers from non-participating organizations.

Budget Legal rundown (00:30:06): Shawn is in heavy talks regarding the Military Veterans Assistance Act (MVAA) with the county. The county is holding back the funding stated in the act that the minimum for .02% of tax levy to go to veterans in every county of Illinois. Biggest disagreement coming from Sangamon county board is the wording of “just and need”. This VAC commission has been holding back to allow the county to agree with due diligence. There is an upcoming budget meeting next Monday with Brian McFadden and auditors. We had a meeting 2 weeks ago Joel Bonet, Brian McFadden, Ashti, Jay, and David went to talk to their chairman. There was no notification that their attorney was going to show. Our direction not yours. Their lawyer should not have been in the room and that was an ethics violation.

Our lawyer, Josh Hermann of Peoria, is coming down next Monday in hopes of avoiding court. We have submitted a budget and have not been told we are not getting what we budgeted for. The budget starts Dec 1st. We are a governing body and whatever the commission asks is to be accepted as “go”. The Attorney General’s office is with us. Last year the commission approved a budget for \$740k. VAC received a 30% increase which did not meet the required .02%. We are looking at spending \$120k of taxpayers money that is clear in the law which we are trying to avoid. An ethics violation occurred during a meeting between the county and the VAC when their lawyer attended a meeting and VAC already has our own lawyer that was not present.

VI. New Business (0:52:32.08)

The next county meeting Nov 12th at 6PM at the old SJR building. Ashti and Shawn will be on the agenda and invite others to get on the agenda to speak. Here is the information we need to speak during the next county board meeting. Please sign up before 4:30 pm the day before the meeting.

<https://sangamonil.gov/departments/a-c/county-board/meetings/request-to-speak/aut horization-form-for-addressing-the-sangamon-county-board>

(1:05:20:10) There is an opening on the executive board due to the resignation of Tim Kennedy. Tammy Harmony was nominated. A motion to approve her position on the executive committee was made by Bill Woodcox and seconded by Larry Miller. Motion approved.

(1:07:13:76) New complaint about human rights with 60 days to respond. Against the VAC Based on former employee’s termination due to race, retaliation, and sex. We have a draft position statement on our behalf to respond.

(1:9:55:83) MVAA directs us to “Adapt and adopt” county policies and make them our own.

VII. For the Good of the Commission (1:15:49:29)

October 19: Free Pancakes - Salvation Army - Hosted by Amvets Post 94 - 9-11am

October 19: Brews & BBQ - VFW 755 - 11am

October 19: Kids Halloween Party = VFW 4763 - 1-4pm

October 25: Adult Halloween Party - VFW 10302 - 6-11pm

October 26: Trick or Treat - VFW 755 - 11am

October 26: Annual Scholarship Meal - American Legion 809

October 26: Trivia Night - AmVets - 5pm

November 2: Navy/Marine Corps Ball

November 3: Quarter Auction - VFW 10302 - 2pm

November 5: Election Day

November 7: Mayor's Veterans Reception at AL post 809

November 8: Music Bingo - VFW 4763 - 7pm

November 11: Veterans Day Parade at 10:30 in Springfield

November 11: Veterans Day Breakfast at VFW Post 4763, etc all posts will have a meal.

November 16: Multi-Family Garage Sale - VFW 10302 - 12-5pm

December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance

December 14: Wreaths Across America: Camp Butler and Chatham cemeteries.

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** Jan 15, 2025, at American Legion post in 412 W Adams St, Auburn, IL 62615.
- c) The **Meeting Adjournment** was made by **VAC Chairman, Shawn** at **8:37 PM**.
(1:39.40.21)

Recorded and given by,

Rose Connolly

Rose Connolly, Secretary of
the VAC

Oct 16, 2024

Date Recorded