



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
 Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432
 Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329



11 May 2021

Commission Meeting

7:00 AM

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-18 issued by Governor Pritzker, meetings will be held via videoconference/telephonically through the ZOOM Meeting platform. VAC Will County Board Members will be attending meetings remotely and the general public is strongly encouraged to do the same. If a member of the public would like to attend the meeting virtually, please send an email to vacwc@willcountyillinois.com and a link will provided.

- I. Call to Order:
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer:
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	
Denise Williams	Secretary	
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	
Jim Singler	Chaplain	
Tom Mlynek	Member	
Janet Blue	Member	
Steve Benicke	Member	
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	
John York	Past Chairman	
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13 Apr @ 7:00 AM)
 - A. Motion:
- V. Superintendents Report:
 - A. 2021 Second Quarter Financial Assistance:
 - a) Shelter \$7,350
 - b) Gas \$301.81
 - c) Electric \$934.36
 - d) Water \$232.27
 - e) Personal Needs \$1025
 - f) Food \$0
 - g) Total Served: 12 Senior Veterans
 - B. Award/VSO Productivity
 - a) VSO Papineau & Wiza working on Award Log: 2015 -> \$83.1M VA Benefits
 - C. Project165 Report Valerie Tawrel
 - a) Homeless Prevention/Security Deposits: 7 House Holds
 - b) Received first \$30,000.00 Reimbursement from FEMA/UWWC

c)Total Served Hotel: 27 Vets 33 Individual Total Housed: 18 Total Ref: 11

- VI. New Business
 - A. By-Laws (Action Item)
 - B. 2022 Budget (Action Item)
- VII. Old Business
 - A. CARES Funding Update:
 - a) Exploring partnership with Veteran Community Project, Kansas City
 - b) Presenting at Modern Community Housing Solutions, Ad Hoc WCB 5/11/2021 @
3PM
- VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment
- IX. Motion to Adjourn:

VAC Executive Committee Meeting
6/08/2021
7AM
2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435
VIA Zoom



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- I. Call to Order:
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer: Tom Mylnek
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	P
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	E
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	P
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	A
John Kestel	Past Chairman	P
Lisa McGlasson	Member	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Jennifer Roach, Plainfield ALA; Jim Romaine, Manhattan AL
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13 Apr @ 7:00 AM)
 - A. Motion: Koch, Martinka; Unanimous
- V. Superintendents Report:
 - A. 2021 Second Quarter Financial Assistance:
 - a) Shelter \$7,350
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 - g) Total Served: 12 Senior Veterans

McNichol advised due to ongoing pandemic relief, moratorium on evictions, other assistance, need has been low

B. Award/VSO Productivity

a) VSO Papineau & Wiza working on Award Log: 2015 -> \$83.1M VA Benefits

-Wiza advised NPRC still lagging;

-McNichol, Wiza advised overall turnaround time for VA benefits has been either very, very fast or very slow

C. Project165 Report Valerie Tawrel

a) Homeless Prevention/Security Deposits: 7 House Holds

b) Received first \$30,000.00 Reimbursement from FEMA/UWWC

c) Total Served Hotel: 27 Vets 33 Individual Total Housed: 18 Total Ref: 11

-Tawrel advised \$165k for emergency relief, 12 rooms currently at Quality Inn, 3 have been housed in the past week; WCVAC is providing 25 of 27 veterans assistance, 2 are referrals from the VA

-Blue asked how WCVAC finds homeless veterans; Tawrel advised sometimes self-referral, sometimes referral from other agencies, from VA, stated primarily due to area agencies being unable to find other shelter, options

-McGlasson noted older age of majority of veteran clients, not currently finding current era

-Blue stated her Legion Auxiliary is finding the mothers to identify the veterans

-Tawrel advised average length age is 59.5 years old currently in the hotel

-McNichol advised the current 12 are different individuals from last month, advised as veterans are housed, they are replaced by new veterans

VI. New Business

A. By-Laws (Action Item)

-Picciolo complimented on job McGlasson on comp

-Williams reminded motion needed to accept the finalized copy of the By-Laws that was approved at last meeting

-Motion to approve/accept: Blue, Benicke; Discussion – Berry advised to update signature line; Unanimous

B. 2022 Budget (Action Item)

-McNichol advised in new budget, full time person under Emergency Grant for community outreach, Veterans Health and Welfare; advised marketing campaign also newly funded; identified line items staying in Executive Budget due to new Grants, will move into appropriate line items when funds are received; advised budget proposal for 2022 is essentially the same, differences are due to grants, eviction moratorium, numbers were skewed in 2020 due to pandemic; advised overall is \$1.5 million in Will County Executive budget community housing assistance no entity has requested/used

-Williams asked re:10% State budget cuts, potential impact on other agency's ability to meet their needs, impact on our need to supply services

-McNichol advised 80% of majority of budgets of social service agencies are Federal; advised future is programs, municipalities, agencies hiring for grant managers as this is a source of funding, takes more work/is a change in effort required to secure monies

-Motion to accept budget proposal: Berry, Blue; Unanimous

VII. Old Business

A. CARES Funding Update:

a) Exploring partnership with Veteran Community Project, Kansas City

-McNichol discussed \$1.5 million in CARES funding; will send link to slide deck to Kansas City Tiny Homes project; advised tiny homes function more like a free-standing hotel rooms; advised some properties have been identified as potentials; ongoing conversations

b) Presenting at Modern Community Housing Solutions, Ad Hoc WCB 5/11/2021 @ 3PM

-MAPP collaborative, other partners in hotel project; more to follow

VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment

- Martinka advised Lockport AL 7am-11am pancake breakfast, ceremony
- Williams advised MiddleEast Conflicts Wall ceremony at 11am to replace ALNC ceremony
- Mylnek advised 3 days prior to Memorial Day flags are being deployed at ALNC
- McNichol advised June 8th WCVAC w/Habitat for Humanity at VFW Cantigny at 8:00am; on June 22nd, 2nd event to include all Will County, Township, nonprofit service providers as veterans resource fair
- Romain advised Manhattan post will be covering ceremonies at 7 area cemeteries for Memorial Day
- Blue advised discussion of deportation of US Veterans; said up to 5k have been deported
- McGlasson advised there are complicated issues at stake, cautioned WCVAC against making a blanket statement; advised Duckworth is working w/President on this issue
- Papineau advised there is a mechanism to upgrade discharge individual veterans, advised we are a County-level organizations, this is a National policy; discharge upgrades can help veterans with bad paper
- McNichol requested to further investigate, place on agenda, potentially develop action plan
- Koch advised County-level government
- Picciolo advised we can create a committee to look into, address issue

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Mylnek, Blue; discussion: meetings to remain on zoom; Unanimous

VAC Executive Committee Meeting
6/08/2021
7AM
2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435
VIA Zoom

Date of Birth	Age	Gender	Date In	Date out	Room Number	Destination	Outcome	Days in Hotel
8/24/1971		49 male	10/6/2020	10/13/2020	137	CERS	Removed	7
2/20/1966		61 male	10/5/2020	10/21/2020	222	P165	Success	16
07/09/1951		69 male	9/30/2020	12/14/2020	112	VASH/Hosp/LTC	Hosp	75 LTC now
06/10/1954		66 male	10/12/2020	11/23/2020	123	HUD/VASH	Success	95
06/26/1968		52 male	10/14/2020	1/14/2021	127	TRINITY RRH	Success	92
4/6/1951		69 male	10/15/2020	10/29/2020	209	Home Purchase	Success	14
3/5/1949		72 male	10/22/2020	11/16/2020	231	P165	Success	25
07/29/1959		61 male	11/11/2020		101	HMJ - HUD VASH		
04/05/1959		61 male	12/7/2020	04/06/21	110	TRINITY RRH	Success	122
12/7/1971		49 male	12/9/2020	03/01/2021	111	CC SSVF	Success	81
10/17/1989		31 female	1/30/2021	02/28/2021	127	VOA SSVF	Transferred	29
4/7/1987		33 male	1/30/2021	02/28/2021	127	VOA SSVF	Transferred	29
6/6/60		60 male	2/16/2021		218	Family/CoC		
07/13/1954		66 male	2/4/2021		222	HUD VASH		
11/18/1947		73 male	1/28/2021		223	Family / DOC		
11/23/1983		37 female	1/27/2021	3/2/2021	225	CC/VASH	Success	33
02/19/1966		54 male	2/21/2021		112	CoC/PSH	Success	15
04/04/1953		67 male	2/22/2021		106	MSHV		
7/3/1965		55 male	10/29/2020	2/4/2021	126	CC/VASH	Success	98 <CC picked up hotel payment
03/28/1961		59 male	1/6/2021	1/26/2021	105	VASH	Success	20
8/27/1985		34 female	2/11/2021	2/18/2021	219	Family	Success	7
03/26/1964		56 male	03/03/2021		127	Family		
08/14/61		39 male	03/11/2021		226	?/Family		
11/21/1975		45 Female	3/18/2021		107	CoC/Family		
09/07/1973		47 Male	3/18/2021		209	CoC/PSH		
02/19/1952		69 Male	3/22/2021		230	VASH/Family		
1/5/77		44 Male	4/8/21		135	VOA SSVF/Family		
06/24/1982		38 Male	4/30/2021	6/2/21	267	CCDOJ / SSVF	Success	33
11/16/71		49 Male	5/10/2021	5/17/21	107	GPD	Transfer/Success	7
7/6/59		61 Male	5/21/21		101	VOA SSVF		
1/8/90		31 Female	5/24/21		109			

Average age males: 57 Average age females: 36
 3/5 females: All successfully housed
 All females have hx. of DV and/or MST (Documented Trauma)
 All females; SC Disability
 Ave. LOS 49.07 { 6.03.21}

COMMISSION BY-LAWS OF THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ARTICLE I -NAME

Section 1. The name of this Commission shall be The Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County, Illinois also known as Veterans Assistance Commission (VACWC) or Commission.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Commission is to promote the welfare of honorably discharged military members and their families.

Section 2. The Commission will act as a central office for all veterans' organizations included as members of this Commission.

Section 3. The Commission will have general oversight of the distribution of all relief and supplies and services that may be appropriated for the benefit of veterans and their families.

Section 4. The Commission will administer and process all government claims referred to the Commission.

Section 5. The Commission will formulate such rules and regulation that will enable it to carry out the purpose set forth herein as governed by 330 Illinois Compiled Statutes 45/2 thru 45/10 entitled 'Military Veterans Assistance Act' of the Illinois Revised Statutes to include revisions and future amendments thereto.

Article III – JURISDICTION

Section 1. The territory to be included within the jurisdiction for this Commission will be the county of Will in the state of Illinois.

Article IV – OFFICE

Section 1. The headquarters and principal office of this Commission shall be in a County building, or other suitable central location. The current location is: 2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110, Joliet IL 60435.

Section 2. This office shall be provided, furnished, and equipped by the County with all necessary supplies, including telephone, computers, printers, printing, and stationary, relief orders, relief questionnaires, postage, desks, etc.

Section 7. Should any delegate or alternate be disqualified or unable to serve, the Post, Organization, Camp, or Chapter shall, upon notice of the disqualification or inability to serve, immediately notify the Executive Board and a replacement to be appointed prior to the next Commission Meeting.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of this Commission shall be PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, CHAPLAIN, and SERGEANT AT ARMS, which make up the Executive Committee.

Section 2. PAST PRESIDENTS shall be given honorary membership to the Executive Committee with voting rights.

Section 3. In the absence of a duly elected SECRETARY wherein the position remains unfilled, the Senior Veteran Service Officer will act as SECRETARY until such time as a SECRETARY is appointed.

Section 4. A Judge Advocate (as needed) may be appointed by the executive committee and ratified by the board and need not be a member of the Commission.

Section 5. Any member of this Commission shall be eligible to hold office, with the best interest of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County, and it is further provided that no two (2) offices are filled by persons representing the same Post, Organization, Camp, or Chapter.

Section 6. A vacancy of any office occurring during the current term shall be replaced by appointment of the executive committee and ratified by the Commission. A vacancy shall exist when an officer is absent from regular meetings of said Commission for three (3) consecutive meetings.

Section 7. The President elected as set forth in Section 1 of this article, shall vacate their designation as delegate or alternate and the organization which they officially represent shall be entitled to replace them until such time as their term of office ends. The President will only vote on matters before the commission in the event of a tie.

ARTICLE VII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Every two years, at the regularly scheduled Annual meeting, nominations will be opened for the election of Officers.

Section 2. All nominations shall be from the floor of the membership present at the meeting. The candidate receiving a majority of the vote for each office shall be elected. Elections shall be by written ballot unless a position is not contested.

Section 3. All officers shall be elected at the October meeting for a term of two (2) years and all officers so elected shall assume their duties at the November meeting, following their election, and shall continue in office for two years or until their successors are regularly elected.

Section 4. Officers may be elected from any Unit, Post, Camp, or Chapter and must be serving as a Delegate or Alternate from those organizations, or a current elected Officer of this Commission at the time of election

Section 4. The Executive Board shall provide oversight of the Superintendent in the interim between the regular meetings of the Commission.

Section 5. The Executive Board is given the authority to act on final decisions of appeal within the Commission's authority.

Section 6. The Executive Board shall have the power to act in case of emergency between meetings of the Commission.

Section 7. The Executive Board shall review the budget prepared by the Superintendent before being submitted to the Finance Committee of the County Board each May.

Section 8. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of at least three Officers.

Section 9. Notice of an Executive Board meeting shall be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by the Secretary. The President or three (3) Officers of the Board may call for a meeting and the Secretary shall call the meeting as directed.

Section 10. The Executive Board, during a bonified emergency, has the authority to act ordinarily requiring Commission approval, without prior approval of the Commission. The Board will notify the Commission of the emergency action taken as soon as practicable.

Section 11. The members of the Executive Board will complete training required by law within specified timeframes and submit necessary proof of completion to maintain eligibility, including but not limited to the Open Meetings Act Requirements training under Freedom of Information Act. The Secretary of the Commission will provide training requirements to members, and track compliance.

Section 12. Each elected member of the Executive Board of the Commission shall be the registered Open Meeting Act Designees and shall comply with all requirements as directed by the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President shall, with the consent of the Executive Board, appoint members to serve on an Executive Committee, in addition to other such other Committees as shall be deemed advisable to carry out the purpose of this Commission.

Section 2. All committees, including ad hoc committees, shall include a VAC staff member to provide administrative support and ensure statutory compliance of the committee.

ARTICLE X – THE BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF WILL COUNTY

Section 1. The Board of Appeals of the Veterans Assistance Commission consists of seven (7) voting members, and the Veterans Assistance Commission Judge Advocate and Secretary. The Veterans Assistance Commission Judge Advocate and the Secretary are non-voting members of the Board of

ARTICLE XII – SUPERINTENDENT

Section 1. The Executive powers of this Commission shall be vested in the Superintendent, who shall be selected by the Executive Committee, duly elected by at least a simple majority of the full Commission, and shall take office on the date designated by the Committee.

Section 2. The Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission may appoint assistants as needed. Assistants will be employees of the VAC, and not Will County employees for the purposes of employment decisions, including hiring and termination. Superintendent has the right to hire and fire employees of the Commission.

Section 3. The Superintendent must be an Honorably Discharged Veteran as evidenced by a certified DD-214 submitted prior to appointment. The Superintendent shall select, as far as possible, secretaries and other employees from among Honorably Discharged Military Veterans as defined in Section 2 of 330 ILCS 45, or their surviving spouses.

Section 4. Neither the Superintendent nor any staff member shall be allowed to hold any elected office in a VACWC member veterans' organization or in Will County government.

Section 5. This office shall be under the direction of the Superintendent, further designated as Superintendent of Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County, who shall investigate and report to the Veterans Assistance Commission all claims for relief under the law.

Section 6. The Superintendent shall, under the direction of the Commission, maintain an office in the County Administration Building or other central location. Said office is to be used solely by the Commission for carrying out of its purposes. Said office shall be provided, furnished, and equipped by the County of Will with all necessary equipment and supplies, as needed.

Section 7. The mission of the office shall be to provide service and assistance to military veterans, their families, and families of deceased veterans, and for rendering of such other services as may be considered reasonable for carrying out the purposes of the Commission.

Section 8. The term of office of the Superintendent shall be indefinite but shall come before the Executive Board and Commission for review every three (3) years. The Superintendent may be removed from office if, after investigations of a special elected committee, determines that he/she has not adequately executed the duties and obligations of the office, or if it is determined his/her demeanor is such as to hinder the ethical and professional performance of the office. An investigative committee, consisting of five (5) delegates or alternates, shall be elected after a written appeal to the Board is made by the delegates of no less than three (3) member organizations. The Commission must approve the removal of the Superintendent by a 2/3 vote of the delegates and officers.

Section 9. In the event of the resignation of the Superintendent, he/she must provide the Commission with a formal written notice ninety (90) days prior to the date of his/her resignation, where possible.

Section 10. Vacancy in the Superintendent's office due to death, retirement, or discharge, shall be temporarily filled by the Assistant Superintendent until such time as the Commission has selected a new Superintendent. During the temporary absence of the Superintendent due to illness, vacation, or business travel, the duties of the Superintendent shall be administered by the Assistant Superintendent.

Section II. The SVSO, and all subordinate Veteran Service Officers, shall be employees of the VAC, and are not employees of Will County for the purposes of employment decisions, including hiring and termination.

Section II. The SVSO shall be responsible for maintaining detailed records and intakes of all veterans and family members who come to the Commission for services.

Section III. The SVSO is responsible to the Assistant Superintendent for developing training plans and procedures for staff, interns, and volunteers.

Section IV. The SVSO shall maintain the website, social media platforms, and newsletters for the Commission.

Section V. The SVSO shall be responsible to the Assistant Superintendent for developing plans for outreach, community and veteran engagement, and partnerships with outside agencies and organizations.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

Section I. These By-Laws may be reviewed annually and amended as needed at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the authorized membership attending such regular meeting. Proposed amendment must be submitted in writing and read at the regular meeting preceding the meeting in which a vote will take place; and written notice will be given to all members of the Commission (delegates and alternates) at least five days in advance of the date the amendment is to be acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,
The Veterans Assistance Commission
Of Will County, Illinois

Jack Picciolo, President

Kristina McNichol, Superintendent

Approved _____, 2021