



Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County

2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60435
Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329

January 24, 2023

Commission Meeting

6:30PM

John Olson American Legion Post 18
15052 Archer Avenue Lockport, IL 60441

I.	CALL TO ORDER:	Jen Solum
	A. Pledge of Allegiance	Commission
	B. Opening Prayer	Jim Clausen
II.	ROLL CALL ATTENDEES:	AnnaMarie Deneen

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present	Absent	Excused
AL 1200 Monee	D: Janet Blue (3yr Member) A: David Batzek		X	
AL 1080 Joliet	D: Thomas Horn A: Gary Stieg		X	
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	D		
AL 521 Steger	D: Joey Smith A: Robert Welch		X	
AL 392 Peotone	D: Bob Krueger A: Rick Bolanowski		X	
AL 241 Joliet Buffalo Soldiers	D: John Gavin	D		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	D		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	A		
AL 39 Braidwood	D: Dale Fraher A: James Chappel		X	
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	D		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	A		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Herschel Nelson	D		

Post	Delegate/Alternate	Present	Absent	Excused
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	D		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	D		
VFW 8283 Steger			X	
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	D		
VFW 5819 Lemont	D: Kenneth Griffin		X	
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	D		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	A		
VFW 2199 Joliet Stone City	D: Kevin Pomykala A: Ron Adamski		X	
VFW 1493 Frankfort	D: Amanda Koch A: Daniel Koch		X	
VFW 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan		X	
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	D		
Quorum	13			

III.	INTRODUCTION OF GUEST AND/OR FIRST TIME ATTENDEES	
	Romeoville American Legion Post 52 – Steve Daley Bolingbrook Wayne Macejak	
	DISCUSSION: Vote of President Pro tempore Lisa McGlasson was nominated for President Pro Tempore of the January 24, 2023, meeting. Nominated by: Robert Angone First: Inaudible Second: Inaudible	

Roll Call Vote

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 241 Joliet Buffalo Soldiers	D: John Gavin	X		

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		

IV.	PUBLIC COMMENT -No public comment	
V.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 1. December 13, 2023 Discussion: Major Joseph Kelley pointed out typo in December minutes and Erik Papineau agreed we would make the edit.	
VI.	SUPERINTENDENT REPORT A. Award Log -Erik Papineau spoke with regard the Pact Act, and that the VA is processing claims, and back log has been created, but moving claims forward. Educating vets about the PACT ACT and available benefits. B. Emergency Shelter Jen Solum states there are currently no vets staying; they are all presently housed. Received 2 nd payout for FEMA Grant for 15k. We also have 40k left from ESG. C. Financial Assistance December - \$125.00 personal products \$700.00 shelter \$0.00 gas	

	<p>\$90.51 electric \$47.26 water</p> <p>MOTION TO ACCEPT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT FIRST: Larry Shaver, AL #1288 SECOND: Robert Angone, AL #935 PASSED: Unanimously</p>	
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VII.	NEW BUSINESS	
	<p>A. UPDATE Website Calendar Erik reported that we are updating website calendar to a user-friendly version, as well as a message board.</p> <p>B. Authorize Board Member Blue to Sign employee COLA Pay Increases.</p> <p>MOTION TO ALLOW THE PRESIDENT PROTEMP (LISA MCGLASSON) TO SIGN THE PAPERWORK TO MOVE COLA INCREASE FORWARDED FIRST: Clarke Christianson, VFW 9545 SECOND: John Davin, VFW 5917 MOTION PASSES</p>	

ROLL CALL VOTE

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 241 Joliet Buffalo Soldiers	D: John Gavin	X		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW, 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		

QUORUM ROLL CALL OF ATTENDEES (MEMBERS LEFT AND ENTERED MEETING)

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan Arrived late	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		

VII.	NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)
	C. Governors Report Submitted by Jen Solum Jen explained the context of the Governors Report regarding the veteran

	population, money spent for financial assistance, transportation program, benefits provided to the county, etc.				
VIII.	OLD BUSINESS				
	<p>A. Committee Updates</p> <p>i. Draft of Investigation Report Paul O’Grady or a representative of his firm</p> <p>Discussion: Jeffrey D. Skly an attorney from Peterson, Johnson & Murray discussed the context of the Draft Investigative Report regarding Hey G Marketing and VAC Marketing contract</p> <p>-Mr. Skly briefed the commission on his findings during the six-month investigation, recommendation made by Mr. Skly was for Will County VAC to recover the unspent funds.</p> <p>Question and answer session followed.</p> <p>Motion to authorize Jen in her official capacity to engage with the Will County States Attorney to review the draft and make recommendation to the commission as far as legal steps to take.</p> <p>FIRST: Larry Shaver, AL #1288</p> <p>SECOND: James Hogan, VFW #725</p> <p>YES: 13 MOTION CARRIES</p>				
	POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
	AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
	AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
	AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
	AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
	AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
	AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
	AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
	VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
	VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
	VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
	VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		

	VFW, 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
	VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		
<p>ii. By-Law Committee Discussion: members have not had a chance to meet, could not get schedules to work out. Committee consists of six members. One was Steve Benicke, who since withdrew. Current members are Amanda Koch, Jennifer Piehl, Bobby Welsh, Robert Angone, Ken Griffin, Clarke Christianson.</p> <p>Motion to disband current bylaw committee and form a bylaw committee of four members, although all commission members are welcome to join, only the four bylaw members can make recommendations to the commission regarding bylaw changes. FIRST: Clarke Christianson SECOND: Robert Angone Yes: 13 Motion Carries</p>					
	POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
	AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
	AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
	AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
	AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
	AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
	AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
	AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
	VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
	VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
	VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
	VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
	VFW, 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
	VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		
Motion to accept Clark Christianson, Larry Shaver, Robert Angone, Lisa					

McGlasson members as the new bylaw committee.

First: Mike Meyers

Second: Steve Daley

Yes: 13 Motion Carries

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW, 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		

- iii. Superintendent Hiring Committee
 Discussion: Robert Angone report there has not been a meeting; members are non-cooperative. Suggestions made to reestablish new hiring committee. Robert asked Jen Solum for advice as to qualifications for position.
 Lisa McGlasson explained that the way the position was previously posted in terms of education requirements, precludes current staff from applying for the position. Further explained that none of the current VAC staff would be able to apply based on a vote of this

commission.

Motion to move the restriction for education and find best candidate available according to our committee and whoever we find with the experience.

FIRST: Mike Meyers, AL #18

SECOND: John Davin, VFW 5917

Yes: 13 Motion Carries

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		

Motion to amend previous motion to volunteer a 3-person committee Larry Shaver, Mike Meyer, Jen Piehl to do the work for the hiring of the new superintendent. Conduct the interviews, bring a recommendation for a full vote to the full board.

First: Mike Myers, AL 18

Second: Robert Angone, AL 935

Yes: 13 Motion Carries

Voice vote: All those in favor of the amended motion to create the hiring committee of three individuals that were named.

All in favor: Unanimous Motion carries.				
POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A: John Kestle	X		
AL 191 Wilmington	D: Ken Watt	X		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	X		
AL 18 Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Tom Jost	X		
AL 13 Plainfield	D: James Castaneda A: Raj Pillai	X		
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Hershel Nelson	X		
AL Post 5 Harwood	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	X		
VFW 9545 New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	X		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Larry Shaver	X		
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A: Ernest Errico	X		
VFW 5422 Wilmington	D: Jennifer Piehl A: Wally Wink	X		
VFW, 725 Mokena	D: James Hogan	X		
VFW 367 Joliet Cantigny	D: Jim Clausen A: Lou Smith	X		
<p>B. Delegate Alternate Forms have been sent out. Jen Solum stated that the forms went out and need to be returned no later than the March 1, 2023, deadline.</p> <p>C. Recording Device update. Jen Solum informed the committee that the recording via verbatim recording minutes, electronic version, or other details regarding meetings, closed sessions, etc.</p>				
IX.	FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION			
	A. Every Tuesday, VAC at Orland Park Vet Center (Greg Wiza)			
	B. Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC Office			
	C. Second Monday – VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast			
	D. Every 3 rd Thursday – VAC at Peotone American Legion (Erik Papineau)			

	<p>Discussion: Jen stated that she and Joe Martin our outreach coordinator attended drug court together this past week. Jen learned the potential for the need of the VAC at these meetings.</p> <p>Jen Solum stated that she spoke to the county this morning and any potential for moving out of the Glenwood location is now on hold.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2023, with Valentine’s Day being that same day Clarke Christianson is concerned that it may be problematic. Clarke sent e-mail out previously and asked with no response. Lisa explained that the date can be moved if necessary. Larry Shaver stated that it should be moved forward.</p> <p>AARP offers free tax information, provided at the various Will County Libraries.</p>
X.	Motion to Adjourn
	<p>First: Clarke Christianson, VFW 9545 Second: James Hogan, VFW 725 Motion Carries.</p>