



# Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County

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



September 26th, 2023

Commission Meeting  
AL18 John Olson

6:00PM

15052 Archer Ave Lockport, IL 60441

**I. CALL TO ORDER 6:03 PM**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Opening Prayer

**II. ROLL CALL ATTENDEES:**

POST	DELEGATE/ALTERNATE	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
AL 5 Harwood Joliet	D: Joseph Kelley A: Gary Califello	D		
AL 13 Marne Plainfield	D: Lisa McGlasson A: Raj Pillai	D A		
AL 18 John Olson Lockport	D: Mike Meyers A: Frank DiGiovanni	D		
AL 52 Romeoville	D: Stephen Benicke A: Steven Daley	A		
AL 191 Lester Smith Wilmington	D: Ken Watt A: Frank Mlyniec	D A		
AL 392 Peotone	D: Robert Krueger A: Rick Bolanowski	D A		
AL 935 Manhattan	D: Robert Angone A:	D		
AL 1080 Joliet	D: Tony Arellano A: Ricky Whitley	D		
AL 1200 Monee	D: A: David Batzek		X	
AL 1288 Bolingbrook	D: Larry Shaver A: Wayne Macejak	D A		
VFW 367 Cantigny Joliet	D: Jim Clausen A: Dennis Havranek	D A		
VFW 725 William Martin Mokena	D: James Hogan A: Paul Cravens	D A		
VFW 2199 Stone City Joliet	D: Kevin Pomykala A: Ron Adamski		X	

VFW 5422 Malcolm J Mayo Wilmington	D: Wally Wink A:		X	
VFW 5788 Lockport	D: Keith Carberry A:	D		
VFW 5819 Lemont	D: Kenneth Griffin	D		
VFW 5917 Bolingbrook	D: John Davin A: Gregory Palmer	D		
VFW 9545 Harry E Anderson New Lenox	D: Clarke Christiansen A: Donald Ibarra	D		

VAC Staff Present: Jen Solum, Erik Papineau, Amy Georgeakopoulos, Joe Martin, Jeff Walsh, Brandon Peterson

**III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND/OR FIRST TIME ATTENDEES**

Frank DiGiovanni – Post 18 Alt first time present

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Clarke Christiansen

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING (June 13, 2023, August 16, 2023)**

Ken Griffin – identity of historian: Subach George

Motion to adopt June 13, 2023 minutes as amended

Motion: Ken Griffin

Second: John Davin

Voice Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries

Motion to Adopt Aug 16, 2023

Motion: Ken Griffin

Second: James Hogan

Voice Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

A. Award Log – Presented by SVSO Georgeakopoulos

B. Financial Assistance – Presented By Jen Solum

C. Motion to File Superintendent’s Report

Motion: Tony Arellano

Second: James hogan

Voice Vote unanimous: Motion Carries

**VII. Old Business**

A. Update State of Economic Interest and Open Meetings Act Compliance for Commission Members

Solum is working with counties to determine if whole commission must complete SEI

Commission Members can come to office in order to take OMA Course

Motion to amend Bylaws to align with statutory requirement regarding OMA

Motion: Lisa McGlasson

Second: Ken Griffin

Voice Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries

- B. Update VACWC Policies and Procedures in Accordance with 330 ILCS 45/Military Veterans Assistance Act  
Jen Solum: still working with Legal to complete.
- C. Update New Full Time Position Mental Health Care Provider  
Jen Solum: opens for further questions, comments, or discussion before moving forward  
Tony Arellano – mention’s city’s budget for Mental Health that has gone unused. VAC must be proponents for MH treatment.  
Mike Meyers – mentions potential repercussions of seeing MH treatment with Firearm ownership  
Solum and Papineau confirm seeking treatment is not bar from firearm ownership. The only restrictions would be result of involuntary incarceration for MH or incompetency.  
Ken Griffin: requests criteria for position. Solum responds.

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Veterans Day Ceremony  
Jen Solum: Meeting next week with executive’s office to discuss county Veterans Day  
Members discuss individual post and local Veterans Day events.
- B. VetFest 2023  
review misc. items still needed for VetFest.  
Solum reviews purpose of Vetfest  
AL 725 presents donation  
Heather discusses promotional efforts

**VIII. Executive Closed Session:**

- A. Motion to enter closed session:
  - a. 5ILCS 120/2 Sec2(c)11: Litigation
  - b. 5ILCS 120/2 Sec2(c)21: Approval of closed Minutes, June 13, 2023  
Motion: Lisa McGlasson  
Second: James Hogan  
Roll Call Vote unanimous: Motion Carries (6:54PM)
- B. Motion to return to open session. 7:10PM
- C. Motion to approve items discussed during closed session.  
Motion to modify Minutes from June 13 closed session  
Second: James Hogan  
Roll Call Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries  
Motion to keep Aug 16 minutes closed  
Motion: Jim Clausen  
Second: James Hogan  
Roll Call Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries

**X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION**

- A. Commission President Updates
  - a. Discuss Establishing Event Committee  
Pillia reviews President’ roll in event and creating NFP to Manage Donations for VetFest  
Clarke Christiansen asks about composition of NFP. Raj states 501c3 is for events like this to collect funds for donation. Discussion pertaining to relationship between NFP and Commission. McGlasson clarifies the legal separation from NFP and Commission.  
Conversation tabled for further legal investigation.  
Raj Pillai discusses awareness of VAC and Copperfield Building
  - b. Discuss Establishing Superintendent Review Committee

- B. Introduction of New Employees
  - a. Brandon Peterson – VSO
  - b. Jeff Walsh - VSO
  - c. Aria Scott-VSO
  - d. Anna Lukasevich-Administrative Assistant starts on Monday
- C. Recurring Outreach
  - a. Every Thursday: Together We Stand Peer Support Group at VACWC Office Joe Martin
  - b. Second Monday: VSO Papineau Outreach Manhattan American Legion 935 Breakfast
  - c. Every Third Thursday: VSO Papineau Outreach at Peotone American Legion 392
  - d. Every Third Friday: VSO Papineau Outreach at Wilmington VFW 5422
  - e. Every Thursday: Rotating VSOs Outreach at Joliet CBOC
  - f. Every First Monday: VSO Georgakopoulos at Blueberry Hill Café Homer Glen

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion: James Hogan

Second: Ken Watt

Voice Vote Unanimous: Motion Carries (7:51pm)

**Next Meeting Will Be Held On  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00pm**

Minutes Prepared By: Erik Papineau