



MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

Includes Meeting Minutes from
Special Meeting Held 10/1/24

PREPARED BY

Christa Hammers
Superintendent

MEETING AGENDA

10-23-2024

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplain's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes/Special Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

Meeting MINUTES

9/25/24

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

President Andy Ruggerio called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Roscoe Mazur - AmLeg - Oglesby / Phil Harth - AmLeg - Mendota / Lance Sires - AmLeg - Marseilles / Chuck Erb - VFW - Marseilles / Paul Siembab - MarCorpLeg - Post 078 / Mike Mallie - MarCorpLeg - Post 078 / Louis Sekula - AmLeg - LaSalle / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Other: Bill Luther - VFW - Ottawa

Officers Present

President – Andy Ruggerio
Vice President – Dennis Znaniecki
Guard – Elton Murphy
Chaplain – Harold Olsen

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent
James Sturtevant- VSO
Emily Hackler- VSO
Kelli Rietgraf - Administrative Assistant

Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Elton Murphy and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

NONE.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that the office held a Q&A session at LP Highschool for anyone interested in joining the military. The event was from 5-8pm and although the turnout could have been better, we were able to answer multiple questions from a student interested. We are working on making the event more successful in the future.

Christa also discussed that the office had their CEU training held by the state association in East Peoria. They heard from multiple impactful offices/people and the training, as always, was fantastic. Friday, Sept 20 - Roscoe was able to join us for MVAA training from the Attorney General's office and hear from our attorney.

Christa informed the Commission that we have had continuous fax issues and that she looked into E-FAX as a solution. She is working with IT to get that installed for the office and training on it.

Christa then told the commission that we will have a booth at Naplate Safety Day. It is at Vittone Park on Sunday, October 6th from 10am-2pm. The office would be closed for Columbus Day - Monday, Oct 14th and we would be attending Streators Senior Fair on Wed, Oct 16th from 10am - Noon at the Streator YMCA.

Christa then stated that we are looking at guaging interest for a caregiver program for our Veterans caretakers. If anyone is interested in group sessions/events - please let our office know.

We are working on numbers for the LaSalle Veterans Home Giving Tree and will have those available in November. Window painting and Santa are being worked on as well.

Meeting

MINUTES

Continued:

The VAC continues to see new clients and the amount phone calls average 700+ monthly. The VAC as brought in over \$7.9 million to Veterans and families through the end of August- over \$2.8 million from where we were this time last year.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Dennis Znaniecki and seconded by Elton Murphy. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

NONE.

New Business

VAC Budget was presented and discussed. The VAC Commission discussed adding additional income to all employee salaries in the sum of \$2,000 each.

Motion to approve additional salary to all VAC employees made by Elton Murphy. Seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve VAC Budget as written made by Elton Murphy. Seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Commission

Elton discussed burger night at the LaSalle VFW.

Andy discussed that the Ladd Am Legion was having a Queen of Hearts as well (Thursday)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Dennis Znaniecki. Motion passed unanimously at 5:40pm.

Special Meeting MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING - October 1, 2024

Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Gary Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Chuck Erb - VFW - Marseilles / Roscoe Mazur - AmLeg - Oglesby / Mike Harden - AmLeg - Ottawa / Mike Mallie - Marine CorpsLeg - Post 078

Officers Present

President – Andy Ruggerio
Vice President – Dennis Znaniecki- Excused
Guard – Elton Murphy
Chaplain – Harold Olsen - Excused

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent - EXCUSED
James Sturtevant- VSO
Emily Hackler- VSO- EXCUSED
Kelli Rietgraf - Administrative Assistant

Special Meeting MINUTES

Due to the nature of a special meeting- no old minutes were presented for accepting. President Andy Ruggerio called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Opening Prayer/Pledge and Roll Call was taken.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that they have convened to go over resolutions for Budget and Employee Salaries for FY25.

Christa informed the Board that this was merely a way to show that everything was voted on and approved by the Commission as discussed in September Meeting.

The below was discussed and voted on via individual vote by delegates/alternates present:

Motion to move that Resolution 24-001 (Budget for VAC FY25) be approved made by Roscoe Mazur. Seconded by Elton Murpy. Roll Call Vote is as follows:

A roll call vote was called:

Mike Harden - "yay"

Greg Stock - "yay"

Roscoe Mazur- "yay"

Andrew Ruggerio - "yay"

Gary Graffis- "yay"

Mike Mallie- "yay"

Elton Murphy - "yay"

Charles Erb- "nay"

Motion to approve Resolution/Budget for FY25 is approved 7:1.

Special Meeting MINUTES

Motion to move that Resolution 24-002 (Salaries for VAC Employees FY25) be approved made by Mike Mallie. Seconded by Elton Murpy.

A roll call vote was called:

Mike Harden - "yay"

Greg Stock - "yay"

Roscoe Mazur- "yay"

Andrew Ruggerio - "yay"

Gary Graffis- "yay"

Mike Mallie- "yay"

Elton Murphy - "yay"

Charles Erb- "yay"

Motion to approve Resolution/Employee Salaries for FY25 is unanimous.

Public Comment

Roscoe stated that MVAA training for the Board would be nice to have.

Christa stated that she will look into AG's office coming in to speak and let them know when she knows more.

President Andy Ruggerio asked for closing prayer and salute to colors.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Roscoe Mazur and seconded by Elton Murphy.

Motion passed unanimously at 4:45pm.

END OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

OCTOBER**Office Activity:**

The office now has E-Fax ability and the system has been working smoothly, allowing Veterans and Doctors Offices to get information to us without hassle.

The office had a booth at the Naplate Safety Day Event. The Fire Dept combined their 75th year in service with their annual safety day - even though there were competing events - many came to see us at Vittone Park on Sunday, October 6th from 10am to 2pm. It was a great day.

On October 11, Kelli, Lissa and Christa attended Abraham Lincoln Cemeteries Ceremony for unaccompanied Veterans. It was a first for all three of them and it was an honor to go and see the ceremony take place.

The office also attended the Streator Senior Fair on Wednesday, October 16 from 10-Noon at the Streator YMCA- there were lots of Seniors out and quite a few Veterans have made appointments from that event. We look forward to next year.

The office will be attending the Veterans Day Parade in Utica on November 3 from 11-4pm. We will have a table with information available during that time.

Our office will also be attending a flag raising ceremony at IVCC on Friday, November 8th at 8:30am. This is in honor of Veterans Day.

Get your green light and let everyone know to stop in for theirs!
Veterans week November 4-11.

The office is working on tags for the Veterans for the Giving Tree. Tags will be available November 1st with gifts due December 2nd. Window Painting will be December 4th at 1pm and Santa will visit the office December 7th from 10am-1pm.

SEPTEMBER Office Activity

Office Visits	80	Intent to File	26
Phone	688	Intital Claims	35
Outstation	18	Appeals	22
Mendota	3	VA Healthcare	13
Streator	8	Pension/DIC	6
Marseilles	7	Other	176

OFFICE OTHER ACTIVITIES-SEPTEMBER

PTSD GROUP	19	WALK-INS:	75
FLUTES	3	APPT MADE	28
VHA	2	QUESTIONS	47
		TOTAL:	99

Our Office
EVENTS

SEPTEMBER Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2024 Amount	Monthly Amount
40%	8/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 14,026.08	\$ 755.28
50%	6/1/2024	Dec-24	\$ 13,541.68	\$ 1,075.16
70%	8/3/2023	Dec-24	\$ 35,980.09	\$ 1,716.28
90%	8/8/2023	Dec-24	\$ 32,603.64	\$ 2,428.91
90% IU	2/19/2020	Dec-24	\$ 59,493.72	\$ 3,946.25
30%	6/5/2024	Dec-24	\$ 7,864.65	\$ 524.31
90%	7/31/2020	Dec-24	\$ 66,464.76	\$ 2,428.91
CRDP	3/12/2024	Dec-24	\$ 3,968.19	\$ -
Burial	10/22/2021	Dec-24	\$ 5,727.00	\$ -
20%	5/17/2024	Dec-24	\$ 5,077.35	\$ 338.49
10%	5/6/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,568.45	\$ 171.23
DIC	9/1/2024	Dec-24	\$ 23,536.85	\$ 1,612.75
Burial	9/1/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,570.00	\$ -
100%	7/17/2024	Dec-24	\$ 52,677.70	\$ 3,870.59
100% P&T	11/30/2023	Dec-24	\$ 52,940.79	\$ 2,520.99
90%	4/18/2024	Dec-24	\$ 4,286.40	\$ 267.90
100%	8/28/2024	Dec-24	\$ 19,447.22	\$ 1,495.94
70%	8/14/2024	Dec-24	\$ 27,169.59	\$ 1,861.28
70%	10/23/2023	Dec-24	\$ 25,266.20	\$ 1,100.00
50%	7/3/2024	Dec-24	\$ 13,977.08	\$ 1,075.16
10%	2/28/2024	Dec-24	\$ 3,082.14	\$ 171.23
60%	5/7/2024	Dec-24	\$ 17,202.72	\$ 1,361.88
30%	4/25/2024	Dec-24	\$ 9,380.96	\$ 586.31
80%	3/27/2024	Dec-24	\$ 29,023.65	\$ 2,293.75
70%	11/1/2023	Dec-24	\$ 35,555.88	\$ 1,716.28
100%	8/26/2024	Dec-24	\$ 47,355.00	\$ 3,946.25
80%	10/1/2022	Dec-24	\$ 3,093.09	\$ -
80%	7/12/2023	Dec-24	\$ 47,153.80	\$ 1,995.01
100%	8/20/2024	Dec-24	\$ 54,299.88	\$ 4,524.99
40%	3/15/2023	Dec-24	\$ 22,471.04	\$ 755.28
Total			\$737,805.60	\$44,540.41
Year to Date Total			\$8,662,159.30	\$647,227.15

The VAC is happy to report that we are keeping on trend with an increase to benefits paid out to our Veterans and Families! Totalling OVER \$8.6 Million by the end of September 2024. This is over \$3 MILLION more than where we were FY23. We continue to see new clients daily and thank all our Veterans and Families for trusting us with their claims process.

Our Office
OVERVIEW

Meeting MINUTES

Superintendent Report Continued

Christa would also like the Commission to know that Lissa was nominated for and recieved the IVAC Community Cornerstone Award. Please congratulate her next time you see her!

On October 9th the County Board Chairman, States Attourney, Assistant States Attourney and a few VAC/Nursing Home Board members sat down with Christa, Andy, Harold and our Attourney to discuss a few items that have been in conflict between us. There were somethings that seemed to go well and others that are still up in the air until the Attourney General's office makes a ruling.

Christa is working on the End of Year Report and Lissa is working on the Superintendent Evaluation Letter for the Boards Approval. If anyone would have anything to add - please reach out to her. The report will be ready for end of year but presented at the January VAC Meeting as there is no meeting in December. The letter will be ready for approval at next meeting.