

Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County, Illinois

501 N. Riverside Drive, Ste 106, Gurnee, IL 60031



Agenda - Final

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

10:00 AM

Meeting Held in Person

American Legion Post 771

749 Milwaukee Ave, Gurnee, IL 60031

Quarterly Meeting

1. **Enter Executive Session**
2. **Roll Call of Members**
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes (October 19, 2022)**
4. **VAC NFP Monthly Expense Report (October 2022)**
5. **President's Remarks**
6. **Superintendent's Report**
 - 6.1 Budget
 - 6.2 Bylaws
 - 6.3 Policy update
 - 6.4 Land update
 - 6.5 Veto session
 - 6.6 Schneider's veteran event
 - 6.7 Veterans Day events
7. **Approval of Superintendent Report**
8. **Unfinished Business**
9. **New Business**
10. **Report by Officers**
11. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 21, 2022, VAC Office, Gurnee



Andrew Tangen, Superintendent
Sherry Kruse, Assistant Superintendent
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11/16/2022

VAC MEETING MINUTES

Opening Ceremonies, Salute to the Colors, Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

- Colors presented by Delegate Marcicak
- Opening prayer by Delegate Patterson

Roll Call of Members

- Number of members present: 34

Special Guests

- Maggie Roach

Approval of minutes of previous meeting-September 14, 2022

- Motion made by Delegate BJ Voit
- Seconded by Delegate Paul Hettitch
- Motion to approve previous minutes passed

President Report

- Phone calls to VACLCL: explain that when calling the VAC provide all information needed and leave contact phone number, please be patient and allow VACLCL staff to respond

Superintendents Report

- By-Laws Update: any further discussion needed for additions/addendums to by-laws
 - Clarification for Article 7 Section 6 Paragraph B provided
 - Question from Article 5 Section 2 with addition of Post outside of Lake County who serve multiple Counties whose 25% members reside within Lake County
 - Question raised about posts who boarder across state lines, ex Illinois/Wisconsin
 - Question regarding County restrictions are for By-Laws and Delegate membership vs. services/assistance provided for Veterans outside of Lake County
 - Clarification that VAC Commission Membership requirements is different from those who VACLCL can provide services for (except for financial assistance). VACLCL can provide claims representation services to anyone, regardless of County or State residency, however due to current staffing and influx of need VAC staff have temporarily suspended accepting new veterans/families outside of Lake County. Financial assistance is still only available for Lake County residents.
 - Clarification that VACLCL entire Commission is a Public Body and required to comply with Open Meetings Act, any documentation regarding VACLCL, sent to any Delegate is accessible
- Motion made to accept updated By-Laws by Delegate Davidson
- Seconded by Delegate Voit

- Motion to approve By-Laws Update passed
- Policy Updates: policy updates are still in progress
- Land update: negotiations are ongoing, meeting with architect this Friday 11/18 to start building planning
- Veto session: started yesterday, trailer bill for MVAA is being worked on. Bill that we expected to be presented by ISACO has not been. The 2nd Veto session will be 11/29-12/1, JM & AT expecting to attend. Public Act 102-302 is set to take effect January 2023
- Delegate Forms: In accordance with Public Act 102-302, annual Delegate Forms are required to be sent to each post to current delegates January 1, 2023 and are to be returned ASAP, no later than March 1, 2023
- Congressman Schneider Event: AT attended along with several other Veterans and Veteran Organizations
- Veterans Day Events: VACLCL staff attended events throughout the County, Lindenhurst Veterans Memorial and Veterans History Project at the Lake County Court House, and schools throughout the County
- Flag donations: Donation of US and Military Branch flags were donated to VACLCL to provide to Veterans, flags are available here in the meeting and at VACLCL office for distribution

Superintendents Report Complete

- Motion to accept made by Delegate Voit
- Seconded by Delegate Peterson
- Motion to approve Superintendents Report passed

Old Business

- None

New Business

- **Larry Klauser:** question regarding Veterans needing services outside of Lake County. AT addressed sharing number of claims filed so far this FY are approximately 1700 claims, in comparison to FY2017 which were approximately 800 claims. The VACLCL has become more well known, however our own Lake County Veterans were receiving less focused services due to the overwhelming backlog. Some exceptions are made in certain cases. Also, if a Veteran contacts us outside of Lake County they are provided referrals and a warm hand off to other IACVAC or NACVSO VSO's whenever possible.
- **Question about VACLCL claim process:** Explained that VACLCL provides initial intake packet that has substantial questions and information that is used to establish a file, process the Intent to File and POA, prior to the initial appointment. During claim process VSO's will be reviewing service medical records to develop the claims prior to the submission of the appropriate claim forms. Most claims are not filed on the same day of the first appointment. Claims are developed as complete as possible to prepare for any necessary appeals.

Delegate Reports

Delegate Magnosta (VFW Post 2245):

- Grayslake Central High School recognized Veterans with their 16th Annual Veterans Day Assembly and breakfast on November 11th, 2022. It was a great turnout and local Veterans were honored
- Congressman Schneiders' Veterans Breakfast was well attended
- Posts 2245 & 659 did their combined Poppy Drive for Veterans Day and it was also a great turnout
- Post made the following donations
 - \$500 to Operation Christmas Cheer
 - \$1000 to MVC
 - \$1000 to Lake County Honor Flight

Delegate Gallagher (AML Post 659):

- Combined with VFW Post 2245 raised \$7800 with Veterans Day Poppy Drive
- Post will hold Veterans Annual Dinner November 17th, 2022
- Post 659 had three members on Lake County Honor Flight 20 in October.
 - Post donated \$1000 to Lake County Honor Flight

Delegate Rock (Navy League Lake County Council):

- Breakfast Meeting will be held Saturday November 19th, 2022 at 0800
- Goat Locker Great Lakes Christmas Program will be Saturday December 7th, 2022 at 1000 at National Museum of the American Sailor at Great Lakes

Delegate Lopez (MOAA):

- MG Clifton Capp passed away first part of November 2022, and laid to rest with Honors
- MOAA North Shore & Chicago Chapter is hosting a luncheon Sunday November 20th, 2022 at Dover Straits, Joint luncheon with ROA, AUSA & Chicago Chapter of MOWW, guest speaker MG Harris on Financial status of Illinois

Delegate Castella (AML Post 911):

- Post 911 Wauconda held a Veterans Breakfast Sunday November 13th, 2022 that was very well attended by both members and non-members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxilliary, the Sons of American Legion, and the American Legion Riders

Delegate Jones (VFW Post 4737):

- 2nd Annual turkey & pie giveaway will be November 20th, 2022 at the Wooden Nickel in Highwood, register through email at vfwpost4737@gmail.com

Delegate Dutkovic (Ft. Sheridan ROA Chapter 48):

- Next meeting will be by November 20th, 2022 at Dover Straits with MOWW & MOAA
- Both ROA Ch. 48 & the Department of Illinois have sent support resolutions to Lake County for the Ft. Sheridan Cemetery expansion, any future supports please send to Ken Jones (kjones@lcfpd.org)

Delegate Ayers (MCL Detachment 1395):

- Participated in private Bronze Star Award presentation to WWII Vet Ed Bedno
- Served breakfast at Veterans History Project

Delegate Voit (VFW Post 8741):

- Presented Colors at Mundelein High School Veterans Day breakfast, Libertyville Senior Center, and Spring Grove Hospice
- November 17, 2022 attending funeral for GSGT Kenneth Parrish at Ft. Sheridan Cemetery

Delegate Klauser (AML 867):

- November 11, 2022 Mundelein High School provided breakfast and guest speakers in honor of Veterans Day with over 20 members of AML Post 867 in attendance
- December 2, 2022 Post 867 will host its annual Holiday Party at the Mundelein Park and Recreation Regent Center

Delegate Schultz (AML 1247):

- Post 1247 began its' Fall Winter Monthly Bingo events (6:30pm on the first Thursday of the month, October through May) to support Veterans and other related relief efforts
- Post 1247 supported the Vernon Hills Police Department (VHPD) at the Jim Heier Fishing Derby held for patients from the Lovell Federal Medical / VA Hospital at Big Bear Lake on Sunday September 18th, 2022
- Post 1247 once again was the transportation agent for Winter Clothing collected as part of the Green Oakes, Libertyville, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills Chamber of Commerce (GLMV) Coat Drive, delivering the collected items to the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago
- Post 1247 participated at the final football game of the season for Vernon Hills High School as the Color Guard, for Military Appreciation night
- Post 1247 participated in Veterans Day breakfast observance at Hawthorn South District 73 Middle School
- Post 1247 participated in Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony at Wheeling AMVETS Post 66 as the ceremonial Rifle Team
- Post 1247 facilitated the development and passage of a resolution by the Village Board of Vernon Hills to the Lake county Board of Commissioners in support of the expansion of the Fort Sheridan Cemetery
- Post 1247 made a donation of \$500 to the VACLC General Service Emergency Fund

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Delegate Patterson
- Seconded by Delegate Marciciak
- Motion to adjourn passed

Next meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 at the American Legion Post , Gurnee