



Andrew Tangen, Superintendent  
Sherry Kruse, Assistant Superintendent  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County  
501 N. Riverside Dr, Ste 106  
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May 19, 2021

## **VAC MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

### **Roll Call of Members**

- Number of members present: 30

### **Special Guests**

- Ms. Maggie Roach from State Representative Joyce Mason's Office was present

### **Approval of minutes of previous meeting-November 17, 2020**

- Motion made by Delegate Patterson.
- Seconded by Delegate Marciciak.
- Motion to approve previous minutes passed.

### **Superintendents Report**

- Lapel Pins
  - VAC will order Lapel Pins with our logo. Superintendent asked how many delegates/alternates would be interested in having these. There were many interested, John Murray will order.
- Writ of Mandamus update
  - Superintendent Tangen stated all briefs have been filed. We are waiting on the Second Appellate Court to find out if we will have a possible oral argument. We're hoping to hear something by mid-June.
- Oswego Moving Memorial Wall
  - Our VAC staff will set up a table at the Village Hall in Oswego, IL, as we are a sponsor for the event. This event takes place from May 21<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. They will arrive Sunday morning and stay until Wednesday afternoon to represent our office.
- IDVA Visit with new Director Terry Prince
  - Superintendent Tangen and John Murray met with IDVA Director, Terry Prince several times over the past few weeks. He has a very good vision and good ideas on how to run the IDVA in a better direction.
- Lake County Board approval-Legislation
  - Superintendent Tangen met with the Lake County Board and they approved to support the Burn Pit Legislation.



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- Office appointments
  - VAC office has been vaccinated. Due to the opening up of restrictions, we may start having in-person appointments starting June 14, 2021.
- IACO Spring Meeting
  - Spring conference will take place June 21<sup>st</sup> – June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Superintendent Tangen, Sherry Kruse and John Murray will be in attendance.
- NACVSO Conference
  - This conference is for our annual accreditation training. This will be held virtual. Elections will be held, so John Murray from our office will attend National in Washington as he is running for a position on the Board. Superintendent Tangen will also be running for a position on the Board as well.
- IACVAC
  - Elections will be held in January 2022. Superintendent Tangen will be running for President, Sherry Kruse will be running for Judge Advocate and John Murray will be running for 1<sup>st</sup> Division Vice President.
- Cook and Adams County VAC's
  - Superintendent Tangen spoke with Cook County regarding their operations and how to get it in line with other VAC's. He also spoke with Adams County to talk about how to open a VAC office.

### **Superintendents Report Complete**

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

### **Old Business**

- Nothing to report

### **New Business**

- John Murray: Each table has a thumb drive. On this thumb drive are packets that includes FHCC Enrollment, Financial Assistance, and Claim Intake Questionnaire for Veterans or family members who come into the post looking for assistance. These are the packets that our office created to obtain information and to provide more efficient advocacy. They are very self-explanatory and have been very useful.



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## **Report by Officers**

### **Delegate Ayers (Marine Corps League 1395/Lynch Foundation):**

- June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3:30pm is the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Shoot for the Vets event at the Aurora Sportsman's Club. 100% of proceeds will go directly to the cause. There will be a mandatory safety brief beginning at 9am, Flag up at 10am and shooting starts immediately after. For more information, you can go to: <https://ajlynchfoundation.org/collections/shoot-for-the-vets>

### **Delegate DeReu (MOAA):**

- July 1<sup>st</sup>, Allen J. Lynch Foundation will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays event at the McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee Township, IL. For more information, and if you would like to sponsor, please visit: <https://ajlynchfoundation.org/collections/annual-sporting-clays-event>
- August 13<sup>th</sup> is the Lynch Golf Outing "Swingin' for the Vets" which will take place at the White Deer Run Golf Club in Vernon Hills from 10:15am – 8pm. It is requested that all posts put up posters and have the registration packets out for people to take. For more information, you can go to: <https://ajlynchfoundation.org/collections/swingin-for-the-vets-2021>
- Discussed the new legislation to include; Burn Pits, Basic Needs and Dependent Insurance. Also discussed the North Point Project.

### **Delegate Desfor (American Legion Post 911):**

- May 31<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Day Parade is happening at 10:00 a.m. in Island Lake.
- VFW2486 Commander Michael Peck (not in attendance), "we'd like to commend Lake County VAC for leading the opposition to Cook County Board's effort to defund Cook County VAC".
- We have distributed handouts that explain the new Director of IDVA's "Plan for Future of IDVA". On the reverse side of this handout, there are details on Federal and State Legislation which needs support from all Veterans.

### **Delegate Duncan (American Legion Post 865):**

- May 27<sup>th</sup>, will be putting American Flags on Veteran Graves in the Zion Area.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, distributing poppies at Ace Hardware and Piggly Wiggly in Zion Il.
- May 31<sup>st</sup>, will have Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m., which is open to the public at Veterans Park in Zion, IL.

### **Delegate Gabriel (American Legion Post 703):**

- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, meeting at Fox Lake Post at 9:45 a.m. and will be departing at 10:00 to place American Flags at Graves of Veterans.
- May 31<sup>st</sup>, Memorial Services held at 11:00 a.m. at Lake Front Park, followed by Spaghetti Dinner at Post 703.
- Meetings are still being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., excluding November and December.

### **Delegate Voit (VFW Post 8741):**

- Meetings are still being held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.



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Delegate Christensen (Team Red White and Blue):

- Team RWB Chicagoland North will be hosting the following events:
  - May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 to 5:00; Social at Macushla Brewing Company located in Glenview IL.
  - Summer Sundays at 8:00 a.m.; walk/run/ruck located at Rollins Savana.
  - May 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.; Chicago Veterans 20 Mile Ruck in St. Charles.
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Trivia Night at Black Lung Brewing Company located in Round Lake Beach.
- Team RWB has an app with local events.

Delegate Castella (American Legion Post 911):

- The Post is open for business and normal activities.
- Post 911 is one of the principal organizers of the Wauconda Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service at Veterans Park in Wauconda. The events will be starting at 11:00 a.m.
- Post 911 has worked with the Village of Wauconda to place photo banners along Main St. in Wauconda, honoring local WWII and Korean War Veterans.
- Scholarship Program is in full operation and awarded the American Legion School Award on May 12<sup>th</sup> for Americanism.
- Meetings are still being held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Delegate Gandara (VFW Post 8741):

- “Lon and I of Operation Fetch have been speaking to family members of suicides & COVID-19 deaths. Lon because he has training in Medicine & Psych and myself because of speaking, informing, assisting Vet’s, Military personnel and their families with PTSD, alcoholism, anxiety, depression, Military Sexual Trauma, domestic violence, homelessness, suicide awareness and prevention.” I’ve also worked with VA Dr. John Patrick Bair of the Lovell FHCC, who is retiring this week and the VA has not found a replacement for him as of yet, which is problematic since he holds the PTSD Talking Circle for Veterans. This is the reason why I keep pushing my “Native American Culture for assisting, healing, welcoming back and recognizing our defenders of our Nation back into society.
- There is going to be a rise in depression and suicides due to COVID-19, PTSD, TBI and Moral Injury Programs not being looked into.
- August 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., the Native American Veterans Organizations are hosting the Potawatomi Pow-wow. This event includes “talking circles, special sagging, healing prayers and discussions”.
- “I have been playing Taps, done Honor Guard Duty and working to direct 2 family’s for 2 suicides. TAPS, the 22 a Day and Gold Star Organizations for Veterans and Active Duty. Also had honors for 3 older Veteran’s who passed away from COVID-19 Virus. Unknown at this time if they received shots from the VA but I’ll find out and will direct their families to the VAC if they rate any benefits”.

Delegate Nickerson (American Legion Post 1943):

- Meetings are still being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.



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Delegate Dutkovic (Reserve Organization of America):

- Membership is open to all ranks.
- Convention upcoming in Tennessee.
- Next meeting with MOWW/MOA at Dover Straights on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00.

Delegate Hettich: (Antioch VFW Post 4551), (Antioch American Legion Post 748) & US Army Reserve Ambassador Program

- Lakes Region Historical Society, Antioch American Legion and Antioch VFW will conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery in Antioch on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30.
- As USAR Ambassador Illinois, we have returned to our routine of visiting soldiers, civilians and our units. I have awarded all of my Ambassador Minutemen scholarships to several ROTC Units, however I have a single three year scholarship remaining.

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Delegate Voight
- Seconded by Delegate Hettich
- Motion to adjourn passed

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 15, 2021 at the American Legion Post , Gurnee**