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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.


# MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2022 / PREPARED BY STEVEN KREITZER

# MEETING

## 1/26/2022

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- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Upcoming Events
    - d. Nonprofit Status for grants
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
    - a. Peru Cemetery Veteran Grave Markers
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA



# Meeting MINUTES

11/17/2021

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles – Andy Ruggerio – Peru Memorial Group – John Duback - Ottawa - AMVETS - Bill Luther - Ottawa VFW- Jim Ebner - Oglesby, American Legion - Douglas Grieve - Tonica American Legion - Dennis Zaniecki - Peru - Greg Stock - Marseilles American Legion .

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen - Excused  
Guard – John Duback  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

## Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent  
Christa Hammers - Assistant Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - VSO / Outreach Coordinator  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by John Duback

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

Steven Kreitzer gave an update that the full budget was approved by the county for the 2022 year.

The office has brought in \$2,335,155.64 in backpay for a veterans this year.

Lissa Olson went over the Outreach opportunities coming to the office as resources for veterans. This is going to continue to expand in the months to come. December 16 lockbox event, December 15 flu shots.

Steven Kreitzer went over the meeting dated for 2022 and will be sent out along with the annual report to all the veterans service organizations.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by John Duback and seconded by Dennis Zaniecki. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business -  
Elections

President - Lance Sires nominated Chuck Erb and he accepted

Vice President - Bill Patterson nominated Harold Olson and he accepted

Chaplin - Elton Murphy nominated Jim Ebner and he accepted

Guard - Harold Olsen nominated Bill Patterson and he accepted

Dennis Zaniecki made the motion that we vote as one slate and none of the positions were contested. Andy Ruggerio seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Commission -  
Pearl Harbor Day Ceremonies in Peru and Ottawa

COVID Booster Shots at Ottawa American Legion 11/23

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously at 5:40pm.

Office Activity December			
Office Visits	79	Initial Claims	27
Phone	376	Appeals	21
Outstation	30	Board Appeals	0
Mendota	3	VA Healthcare	6
Oglesby	1	VA Pension	0
Streator	10	Other	429
Ottawa	16	Property Taxes	2
Office Activity January			
Office Visits	110	VA Compensation	13
Phone	422	Appeals	20
Outstation	49	Board Appeals	2
Mendota	7	VA Healthcare	3
Streator	15	VA Pension	2
Sandwich	6	Other	515
Ottawa	21	Property Taxes	26

We have seen our Wednesday PTSD group grow as new members are added. This last month we have also see the Flutes for Veterans program grow and regularly utilize the outreach space. In addition we have begun talking with many organizations to partner and attach the opioid crisis that not only affects our veterans but also their families in the community. This group has also worked to submit for a million dollar grant over 3 years to create programs. It is our hope to find out if this grant is received by the end of September. Northern Illinois University is the grant writer and will be the grant manager for this.



## Our Office OVERVIEW



January Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2021 Amount	Monthly amount
70%	12/4/2019	12/2022	\$45,602.56	\$1,659.95
10%	10/19/2021	12/2022	\$1,975.82	\$152.64
90%	9/27/2021	12/2022	\$26,485.06	\$1,998.52
70%	6/18/2021	12/2022	\$25,582.95	\$1,529.95
100% P&T- SMC	9/7/2021	12/2022	\$70,085.98	\$3,915.42
100% P&T	3/11/2021	12/2022	\$56,255.20	\$3,517.84
30% + Dep	4/9/2021	12/2022	\$9,777.13	\$522.39
40%	3/1/2020	12/2022	\$21,866.43	\$705.77
100% P&T	1/19/2021	12/2022	\$58,584.00	\$3,521.85
40%	8/5/2020	12/2022	\$11,194.05	\$673.28
90%	10/22/2019	12/2022	\$29,967.13	\$2,044.18
90%	5/7/2020	12/2022	\$45,958.18	\$2,165.52
Temp 100%/70%	11/16/2021	12/2022	\$23,809.49	\$1,529.95
100% Continued	10/22/2021	12/2022	\$39,984.72	\$3,332.06
DIC/Burial	12/20/2021	12/2022	\$20,915.28	\$1,742.94
100% P&T	11/4/2021	12/2022	\$41,745.16	\$3,456.30
40%	6/16/2021	12/2022	\$9,833.56	\$673.28
20%	9/8/2021	12/2022	\$4,190.74	\$301.74
10%	7/7/2021	12/2022	\$2,408.24	\$152.64
10%	10/18/2021	12/2022	\$1,975.82	\$152.64
20%	10/4/2021	12/2022	\$4,207.55	\$301.74
40%	6/30/2021	12/2022	\$12,302.09	\$791.61
Burial	9/30/2021	12/2022	\$300.00	\$300.00
10%	9/20/2021	12/2022	\$2,272.60	\$152.64
30%	11/2/2021	12/2022	\$11,511.47	\$284.93
20%	9/27/2021	12/2022	\$4,492.48	\$301.74
MOD	1/17/2022	12/2022	\$420.07	\$420.07
Burial	1/17/2022	12/2022	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
DIC	1/17/2022	12/2022	\$17,251.92	\$1,437.66
10%	12/22/2021	12/2022	\$1,984.32	\$152.64
		Totals:	\$604,940.00	\$39,891.89
	Year to Date Total		\$604,940.00	\$39,891.89

Our office has made an amazing start in securing benefits for our local veterans.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.


# MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022 / PREPARED BY STEVEN KREITZER

# MEETING

## 2/23/2022

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- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Upcoming Events
    - d. Grants
    - E. Pending legislation
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
    - a. Peru Cemetery Veteran Grave Markers
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

01/26/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles  
– Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles –  
Andy Ruggerio – Peru Memorial Group – John Duback - Ottawa - AMVETS -  
Bill Luther - Ottawa VFW- Dennis Zaniecki - Peru - Greg Stock - Marseilles  
American Legion - Elton Murphy - LaSalle, VFW.

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen - Excused  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner - Excused

## Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent  
Christa Hammers - Assistant Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator - Excused  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist



# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Bill Paterson and seconded by Elton Murphy

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

The office has brought in \$604,940 in backpay for a veterans this year.

H-Wave event transpired the afternoon of the meeting and was a success.

Christa went over the Outreach opportunities coming to the office as resources for veterans. There is a bowling fundraiser coming up on 4/16/2022 to help fund some of the programs the office would like to do. The PTSD Workout program flyer has been handed out and would like everyone to start sharing it around for veterans interested.

Steven Kreitzer went over the possibility of the board becoming a nonprofit so that there could be more grant opportunities. Steven was going to look into it and see if it would be feasible.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Dennis Zaniecki. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business - None

For the Good of the Commission -

Dennis Zaniecki stated that 3 burial plots were donated to the post if anyone knew of someone that could use them.

Andy Ruggerio talked about the rifle squads at funerals needing more help. Steven Kreitzer was looking into possible legislation to help them out for allowing relief of state workers from work to conduct the ceremonies. Dennis Zaniecki stated that high schoolers already can get leave from school to be the buglers so maybe this could be the same. Christa Hammers volunteered to do a flyer for them to advertise in the paper.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Dennis Zaniecki Motion passed unanimously at 5:45pm.

Office Activity January			
Office Visits	132	Initial Claims	13
Phone	476	Appeals	25
Outstation	49	Board Appeals	0
Mendota	8	VA Healthcare	0
Streator	16	VA Pension	4
Ottawa	21	Other	562
Sandwich	4	Property Taxes	53

As the programs continue to grow we will track where we can the number of veterans that come into the office for the programs and events. This does not account for all of our partners clients but does represent the majority of the groups attending.

PTSD Groups - 24

Opioid Grant writing and programing - 5

H-Wave - 7

Flutes for Vets 6

Each of these programs besides the Opioid one are facilitated by individuals outside our office and we just provided the space for them. Some of the programs that we didn't track attendance for are as follows.

Hines Homeless

Hines Community Outreach Team

Humana Insurance



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

February Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
90%	11/02/221	Dec-22	\$66,613.75	\$2,664.55
10%	8/5/2020	Dec-22	\$4,537.82	\$152.64
30%	3/14/2021	Dec-22	\$16,924.94	\$504.39
70%	9/7/2021	Dec-22	\$38,248.75	\$1,529.95
80%	12/28/2021	Dec-22	\$50,628.75	\$2,035.43
70%	10/27/2021	Dec-22	\$42,753.36	\$1,529.95
40%	12/3/2021	Dec-22	\$0.00	\$0.00
100% P&T	9/21/2021	Dec-22	\$45,170.28	\$3,332.06
100%	1/20/2022	Dec-22	\$43,634.04	\$3,636.17
100% P&T	3/11/2021	Dec-22	\$57,089.60	\$3,517.84
90%	7/20/2021	Dec-22	\$38,401.75	\$2,370.52
10%	7//28/21	Dec-22	\$2,866.16	\$152.64
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$406,869.20</b>	<b>\$21,426.14</b>
	<b>Year to Date Total</b>		<b>\$1,011,809.20</b>	<b>\$61,318.03</b>

Our office has made an amazing start in securing benefits for our local veterans. This is the highest we have ever been at securing benefits for our local veterans at this point in the year.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**



There are many active bills in the Illinois General Assembly that are cause for concern for many Veterans Assistance Commissions across the state.

HB 2378 Prop TX-Surviving Spouse - This bill aims to right a wrong where widows of veterans that never applied for the property tax exemption or reduction before they passed are currently barred from receiving any benefits. This bill is working to allow widows of veterans to apply for the property tax relief even if the veteran hasn't before their passing.

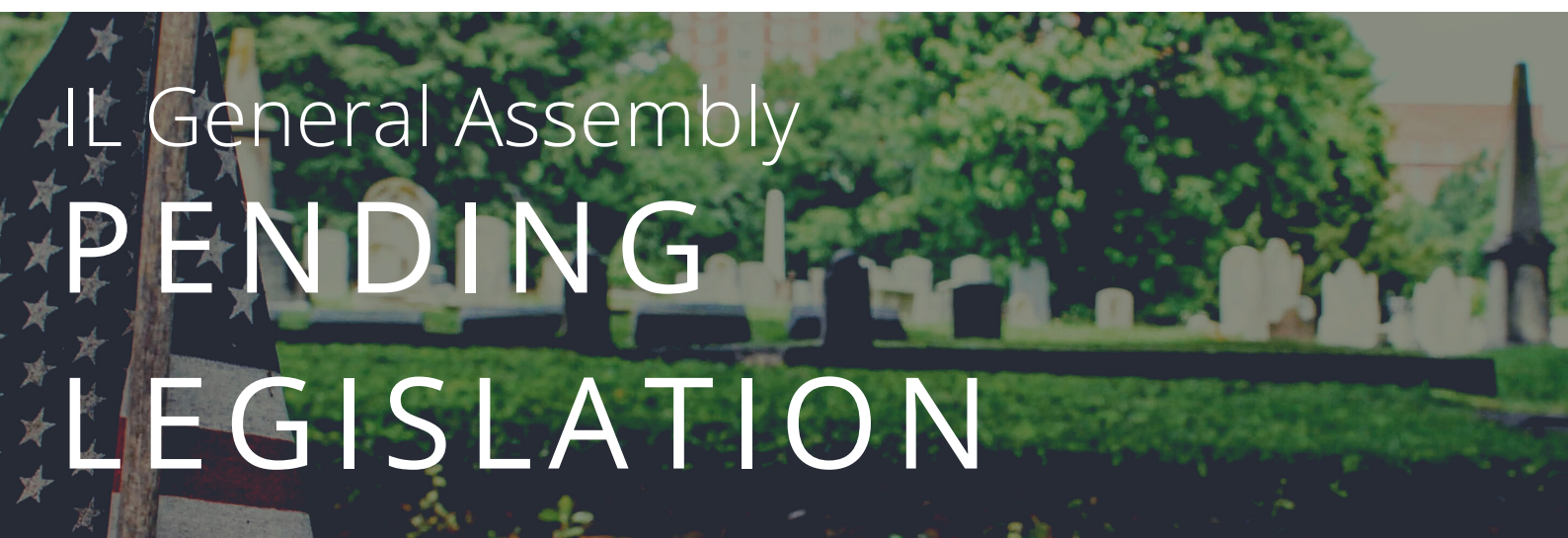
It is estimated that this will affect about 700-1000 surviving spouses that live in Illinois.

HB5184 - Veterans Assistance Commission - This bill aims to put into law what has been litigated in court. Some of the more contentious parts of the bill are as follows:

1) The Current bill as presented mandates a minimum funding of .02% levy for a Veterans Assistance Commission. There is a house amendment getting drafted for this so that the VAC Board would set the levy up to .02% and the county could only weigh in if between .02% and .03%. For our office budget to be able to get up to .02% levy would mean our office would get an additional sum of about \$138,000 to put this into perspective.

2) The second contention many are having is that only Federally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) can be members of the board and removes State Chartered VSO from the law. Contentions have been brought up by numerous VSO that do amazing things in the community that want to have a say. The state has not chartered a VSO in years and has no criteria to do so. In relation to this the house amendment is going to still contain State Chartered VSO and another bill is going to be introduced that would create the criteria for Chartering them.

3) The over 3,000,000 population doesn't have to have a Veterans Assistance Commission. This part is contentious because the 147 American legions not counting VFW's and other organizations have proved to be troublesome. They all cant agree on anything and as such the Cook County VAC has struggled to leadership turnover and success over the years. Currently, Cook County has 2 VAC's with one run by the veterans service organizations and one by the county. This is much like what happened in Grundy County that there is now case law on stating that a majority of the organizations have the legit VAC but event this has been troublesome.



IL General Assembly  
**PENDING  
LEGISLATION**

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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.


# MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2022 / PREPARED BY STEVEN KREITZER

# MEETING

## 3/23/2022

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- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Upcoming Events
      - 1) Bowling Fundraiser April 16, 2022
      - 2) IACVAC Legislative Conference
      - 3) Expo May 22, 2022
    - d. Pending legislation
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
    - a. Peru Cemetery Veteran Grave Markers
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

02/23/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota  
– Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles – Andy Ruggerio – Peru Memorial Group –  
John Duback - Ottawa - AMVETS - Bill Luther - Ottawa VFW- Dennis Zaniecki  
- Peru - Greg Stock - Marseilles American Legion - Elton Murphy - LaSalle,  
VFW - Jim Ebner - Oglesby, American Legion.

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen - Excused  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner - Excused

## Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent  
Christa Hammers - Assistant Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist



# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Elton Murphy and seconded by Dennis Zaniecki

Public Comment - None

## Superintendent's Report

The office has brought in \$1,011,809.20 in backpay for a veterans this year.

H-Wave event transpired the afternoon of the meeting and was a success.

Lissa went over the Outreach opportunities coming to the office as resources for veterans. There is a bowling fundraiser coming up on 4/16/2022 to help fund some of the programs the office would like to do. The PTSD Workout program flyer has been handed out and would like everyone to start sharing it around for veterans interested. She also went over the Veterans Expo coming up May 22, 2022.

Steven Kreitzer asked that the VAC open an account to keep donated funds as well as receive online donations. The bank statements will be available at each VAC Meeting and will be part of the county audit. Motion was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Jim Ebner. Motion passed unanimously.

Christa Hammers went over the website and all the information contained in it. Specifically showed everyone how to schedule appointments online for a veteran if they come into their post.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Dennis Zaniecki. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business - None

For the Good of the Commission -

Dennis Zaniecki stated that 3 burial plots were donated to the post if anyone knew of someone that could use them.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Bill Luther  
Motion passed unanimously at 5:46pm.

Office Activity February			
Office Visits	168	Initial Claims	15
Phone	621	Appeals	32
Outstation	37	Board Appeals	3
Mendota	5	VA Healthcare	2
Streator	13	VA Pension	8
Ottawa	15	Other	730
Sandwich	4	Property Taxes	36

As the programs continue to grow we will track where we can the number of veterans that come into the office for the programs and events. This does not account for all of our partners clients but does represent the majority of the groups attending.

PTSD Groups - 26

Opioid Grant writing and programing - 5

Caregiver - 5

Flutes for Vets - 7

Each of these programs besides the Opioid one are facilitated by individuals outside our office and we just provided the space for them. Some of the programs that we didn't track attendance for are as follows.

Hines Homeless

Hines Community Outreach Team

Humana Insurance



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

March Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
IU	11/17/2021	Dec-22	\$39,984.72	\$3,332.06
IU	10/07/2021	Dec-22	\$49,249.76	\$3,517.84
IU	09/01/2021	Dec-22	\$52,767.60	\$3,517.84
DIC	11/16/2021	Dec-22	\$20,915.28	\$1,742.94
100%	12/30/2021	Dec-22	\$39,862.20	\$3,321.85
100%	10/27/2021	Dec-22	\$45,731.92	\$3,517.84
100%	09/01/2021	Dec-22	\$49,980.90	\$3,332.06
90%	10/29/2021	Dec-22	\$31,895.76	\$2,453.52
90%	10/21/2021	Dec-22	\$37,821.28	\$2,701.52
90%	10/14/2021	Dec-22	\$31,973.90	\$2,283.85
90%	09/14/2021	Dec-22	\$34,312.80	\$2,287.52
90%	09/03/2021	Dec-22	\$31,334.52	\$2,238.18
80%	11/10/2021	Dec-22	\$23,119.59	\$1,778.43
80%	10/08/2021	Dec-22	\$28,496.02	\$2,035.43
80%	09/13/2021	Dec-22	\$34,312.80	\$2,287.52
70%	11/17/2021	Dec-22	\$19,919.40	\$1,659.95
70%	10/21/2021	Dec-22	\$24,895.92	\$1,778.28
70%	09/10/2021	Dec-22	\$21,670.65	\$1,444.71
60%	10/14/2021	Dec-22	\$18,550.42	\$1,325.03
50%	11/18/2021	Dec-22	\$11,501.28	\$958.44
50%	11/08/2021	Dec-22	\$12,459.72	\$958.44
50%	10/22/2021	Dec-22	\$14,706.16	\$1,050.44
50%	10/06/2021	Dec-22	\$14,376.60	\$958.44
50%	09/16/2021	Dec-22	\$15,840.60	\$1,056.04
50%	09/08/2021	Dec-22	\$15,756.60	\$1,050.44
20%	10/20/2021	Dec-22	\$4,224.36	\$301.74
10%	12/21/2021	Dec-22	\$1,831.68	\$152.64
10%	12/21/2021	Dec-22	\$1,831.68	\$152.64
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$729,324.12</b>	<b>\$53,195.63</b>
	<b>Year to Date Total</b>		<b>\$1,741,133.32</b>	<b>\$114,513.66</b>

Our office has made an amazing start in securing benefits for our local veterans. This is the highest we have ever been at securing benefits for our local veterans at this point in the year.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**



There are many active bills in the Illinois General Assembly that are cause for concern for many Veterans Assistance Commissions across the state.

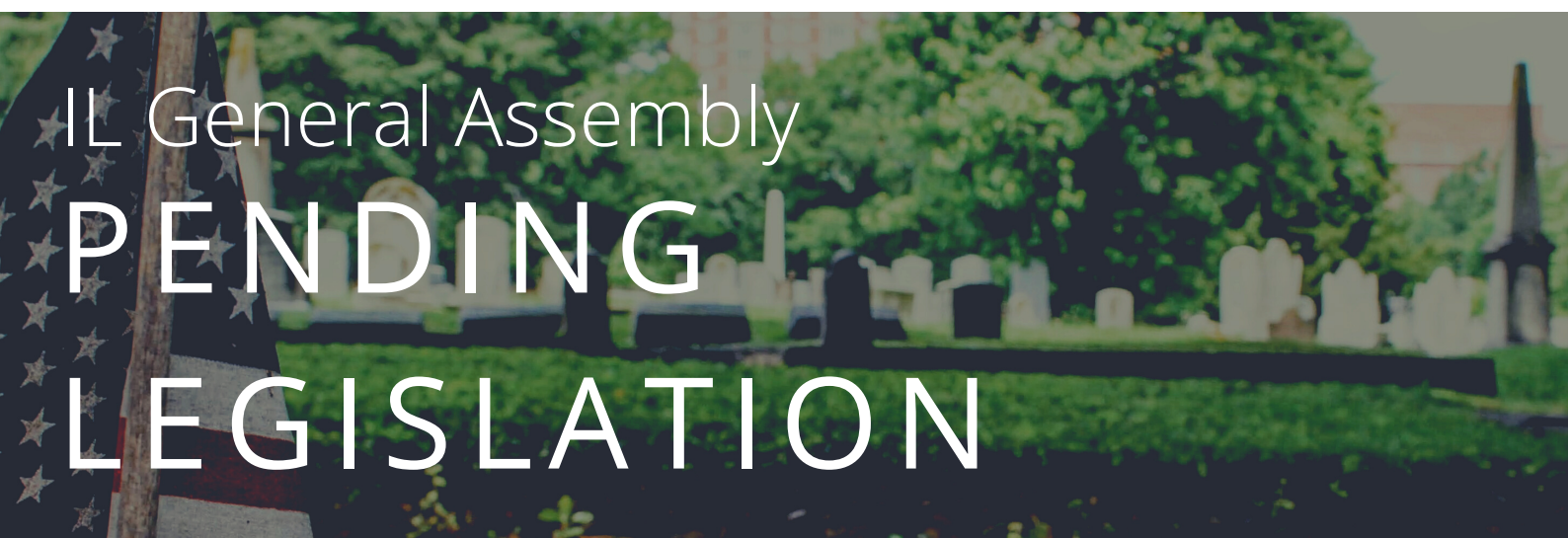
HB 2378 Prop TX-Surviving Spouse - This bill aims to right a wrong where widows of veterans that never applied for the property tax exemption or reduction before they passed are currently barred from receiving any benefits. This bill is working to allow widows of veterans to apply for the property tax relief even if the veteran hasn't before their passing.

It is estimated that this will affect about 700-1000 surviving spouses that live in Illinois.

This bill is currently back in Rules Committee so it will take a lot of work to get it out again. Our State Association had compiled some statements from widows in which this bill would affect and preparing a Resolution. They will be trying to use this to help many legislators understand the profound impact this will make on a few widows whose spouses were taken too early.

HB5184 - Veterans Assistance Commission - This bill aims to put into law what has been litigated in court. 3/4/2022 This bill passed the Illinois House of Representatives unanimously and moved on to the Senate.

In the Senate Senator Craig Wilcox (R), Senator Antonio Munoz (D), Senator Jason Plummer (D), all are chief sponsors of the bill as it works its way through. There is supposed to be some technical changes made by the Senate on this bill but still waiting to find out what those are.



IL General Assembly  
**PENDING  
LEGISLATION**



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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

# MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2022 / PREPARED BY STEVEN KREITZER

# MEETING

## 4/27/2022

- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Upcoming Events
      - 1) TBM Reunion May 21, 2022
      - 2) IACVAC Legislative Conference
      - 3) Expo May 22, 2022
    - d. Pending legislation
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
    - a. Elect Christa Hammers to be .  
Superintendent and pay commensurate with the  
job . (Closed Session)
    - b. Appoint Christa Hammers as interim  
Superintendent while search is conducted and  
pay commensurate with the job. (Closed Session)
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

03/23/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles – Andy Ruggerio – Peru Memorial Group – Bill Luther - Ottawa VFW - Greg Stock - Marseilles American Legion - Elton Murphy - LaSalle, VFW - Harold Olsen - AMVETS, Mendota - Gary Graffis - AMVETS, Ottawa - Lance Sires - American Legion, Marseilles.

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner - Excused

## Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent - Excused  
Christa Hammers - Assistant Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist - Excused

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Elton Murphy and seconded by Lance Sires

Public Comment - None

## Superintendent's Report

The office has brought in \$1,011,809.20 in backpay for a veterans this year.

H-Wave event transpired the afternoon of the meeting and was a success.

Lissa went over the Outreach opportunities coming to the office as resources for veterans. The Veterans Expo 2022 is coming up May 22 at LaSalle Rotary Park and would appreciate everyone to help spread the word. The office also has a Bowling Fundraiser coming up.

Christa Hammers briefly went over the numbers for last month.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business - None

For the Good of the Commission -

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Bill Luther

Motion passed unanimously at 5:46pm.



Office Activity March			
Office Visits	100	Initial Claims	15
Phone	642	Appeals	32
Outstation	31	Board Appeals	3
Mendota	6	VA Healthcare	2
Streator	11	VA Pension	8
Ottawa	12	Other	677
Sandwich	2	Property Taxes	36

As the programs continue to grow we will track where we can the number of veterans that come into the office for the programs and events. This does not account for all of our partners clients but does represent the majority of the groups attending.

PTSD Groups - 30

Opioid Grant writing and programing - 3

Caregiver - 5

Flutes for Vets - 12

Transportation Meeting - 28

VA Home Loan Class - 2

Each of these programs besides the Opioid one are facilitated by individuals outside our office and we just provided the space for them. Some of the programs that we didn't track attendance for are as follows.

Hines Homeless

Hines Community Outreach Team

Humana Insurance



# Our Office OVERVIEW

March Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
40%	2/24/2022	Dec-22	\$5,148.00	\$572.00
100%	12/20/2021	Dec-22	\$131,784.97	\$3,746.20
Burial	7/29/2022	Dec-22	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
DIC	7/29/2022	Dec-22	\$26,995.14	\$1,437.66
20%	12/31/2020	Dec-22	\$7,660.33	\$301.74
Pension	11/1/2021	Dec-22	\$8,008.00	\$616.00
20%	1/12/2022	Dec-22	\$1,938.30	\$149.10
SMC	2/28/2022	Dec-22	\$1,419.96	\$118.33
100%	1/3/2022	Dec-22	\$44,918.72	\$3,517.84
10%	2/3/2022	Dec-22	\$1,984.32	\$152.64
P&T	3/3/2022	Dec-22	\$2,896.08	\$241.34
60%	1/17/2022	Dec-22	\$15,900.36	\$1,325.03
100%	3/3/2022	Dec-22	\$39,984.72	\$3,332.06
10%	12/13/2021	Dec-22	\$1,831.68	\$152.64
30%	11/24/2021	Dec-22	\$5,608.68	\$467.39
80%	11/30/2021	Dec-22	\$23,916.60	\$1,926.43
100% P&T	10/6/2021	Dec-22	\$47,666.31	\$3,332.06
100% P&T & HB	1/19/2022	Dec-22	\$52,165.82	\$3,915.42
Burial Benefit	3/24/2022	Dec-22	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
40%	12/27/2021	Dec-22	\$13,171.81	\$909.28
100%	10/15/2021	Dec-22	\$56,459.38	\$3,332.06
100% IU P&T	12/3/2021	Dec-22	\$47,787.75	\$3,517.84
Burial Benefit	3/29/2022	Dec-22	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
DIC/MOD Check	4/6/2022	Dec-22	\$29,693.90	\$1,742.94
10%	2/2/2022	Dec-22	\$1,984.32	\$152.64
10%	2/4/2022	Dec-22	\$1,984.32	\$152.64
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$576,609.47</b>	<b>\$36,811.28</b>
<b>Year to Date Total</b>			<b>\$2,317,742.79</b>	<b>\$151,324.94</b>

Our office has made an amazing start in securing benefits for our local veterans. This is the highest we have ever been at securing benefits for our local veterans at this point in the year.

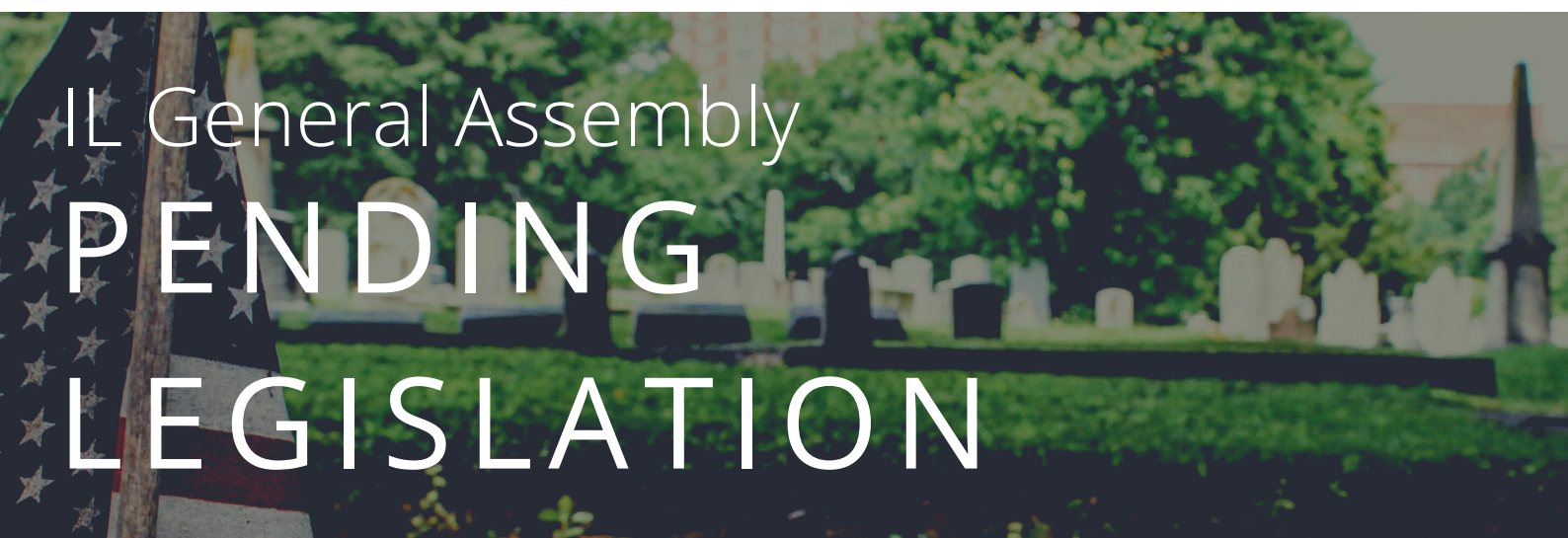


Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

There are many active bills in the Illinois General Assembly that are cause for concern for many Veterans Assistance Commissions across the state.

SB 1975 - Aims to create a study on the impact of the Veterans Property Tax Exemption in St. Clair, Lake, Will, Madison, and Rock Island Counties. Increases benefits to Surviving Spouses. Lastly, it affords those that are 100% permanent and total not to have to re-file every year for the exemption. This bill has passed both houses and on the the Governor for signing.

HB5184 - Veterans Assistance Commission - This bill aims to put into law what has been litigated in court. This bill passed both houses and on to the Governor's office for signing.



IL General Assembly  
**PENDING  
LEGISLATION**



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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

# MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 5/25/2022

- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Event Overview
      - 1) TBM Reunion May 21, 2022
      - 2) Expo May 22, 2022
    - d. Passed legislation
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
    - a. Appointment of By-Law Committee
    - b. Appointment of Budget Committee
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA



# Meeting MINUTES

04/27/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback- AmVets- Ottawa / Lance Sires- Am Legion- Marseilles / Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman- VFW- Mendota / Dennis Znaniecki- Am Legion- Peru / Jack Leininger- VFW- Marseilles / Elton Murphy- VFW- LaSalle / Gary Graffis- AmVets- Ottawa / Bill Luther- VFW- Ottawa / Andy Ruggerio- Peru Mem Group- Peru

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson - Excused  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

## Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent - Present  
Christa Hammers - Assistant Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Elton Murphy and seconded by Harold Olsen.

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

The office has brought in \$2.3 million in backpay for a veterans this year. Continue to trend upward and our office is still seeing an influx of appointments/new clients.

Lissa went over the Outreach opportunities coming to the office as resources for veterans. The Veterans Expo 2022 is coming up May 22 at LaSalle Rotary Park - over 30 Vendors coming out. Also went over that our Bowling Fundraiser brought in over \$6000 in funds for our programs. Trying to build more programs for these funds.

Steve briefly went over pending legislation for MVAA and Widows Property Tax.

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

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business - Appointment of Christa Hammers for Superintendent Position (Closed Session) - Move to Closed Session: Andy Ruggerio, Second: Dennis Znaniiecki. - Out of Closed Session: Andy Ruggerio, Second: Lance Sires.

For the Good of the Commission -

Dennis Znaniiecki- Vietnam Memorial Group: Veterans Home needs a canopy- roughly \$12,000. Asking for donations towards it. Also- Flags of Fallen- make sure you get the flags to the Airshow on Saturday.

Jack Leininger- Where are we with getting 501(c)3, Bank account questions- ask auditor about it.

Harold Olsen- Went over Bingo and Music at the Veterans home.

Jim Ebner- Passing of George Mason (February 13th)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Harold Olsen and seconded by Jim Ebner Motion passed unanimously at 5:42pm.

Office Activity April				
Office Visits	79		Initial Claims	40
Phone	622		Appeals	1
Outstation	16		Board Appeals	0
Mendota	8		VA Healthcare	0
Streator	8		VA Pension	0
GROUP NUMBERS				
Flutes	9		PTSD Group	29
Humana	5			

We have had a few outside entities that are looking at using our facility to host their activities:

\*Senior Advisory Group

\*Women Veterans Stand Down (June 11, 2022) - Two sessions 9AM - 1PM & 1PM - 4PM

(Register Online)

We are continuing to expand our services and finding new uses for our office space. Talk of possibly making a day a month focused on certain benefits and bringing in outside providers to highlight them and make our Veterans and Families aware of their services.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**



April Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
100%	1/3/2022	Dec-22	\$44,918.72	\$3,517.84
10%	2/3/2022	Dec-22	\$1,984.32	\$152.64
P&T	3/3/2022	Dec-22	\$2,896.08	\$241.34
60%	1/17/2022	Dec-22	\$15,900.36	\$1,325.03
100%	3/3/2022	Dec-22	\$39,984.72	\$3,332.06
10%	12/13/2021	Dec-22	\$1,831.68	\$152.64
50%	1/24/2022	Dec-22	\$14,376.60	\$958.44
10%	3/2/2022	Dec-22	\$1,984.32	\$1,831.68
30%	2/22/2022	Dec-22	\$6,543.46	\$467.39
30%	3/16/2022	Dec-22	\$6,424.33	\$467.39
Burial	4/25/2022	Dec-22	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
100%	1/19/2022	Dec-22	\$51,879.75	\$3,915.42
MOD	4/26/2022	Dec-22	\$4,033.75	\$4,033.75
Burial	4/26/2022	Dec-22	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
30%	7/8/2021	Dec-22	\$9,243.64	\$467.39
DIC/ Burial/ MOD	1/15/2022	Dec-22	\$21,564.90	\$1,437.66
80%	12/6/2021	Dec-22	\$32,891.01	\$1,926.43
10%	10/6/2021	Dec-22	\$2,739.02	\$152.64
10%	1/25/2022	Dec-22	\$2,289.60	\$152.64
Dependency Grant	4/11/2022	Dec-22	\$24,425.16	\$2,035.43
10%	12/7/2021	Dec-22	\$2,442.24	\$152.64
40%	9/21/2020	Dec-22	\$38,195.76	\$747.28
100% P&T	10/4/2021	Dec-22	\$53,258.67	\$3,517.84
80%	1/3/2022	Dec-22	\$23,034.36	\$1,778.43
40%	1/21/2021	Dec-22	\$15,849.00	\$747.28
	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$422,691.45</b>	<b>\$37,511.28</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$2,740,434.24</b>	<b>\$188,836.22</b>

We continue to bring in benefits to our Veterans and Families- this is the highest we have ever been for backpay at this point of the year since we have had the office.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

The two active bills in the Illinois General Assembly that effect our office as well as our Veterans and Families have been passed/signed:

**SB 1975** - Property Tax Exemptions: Exemptions for those receiving the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption will auto-renew if the qualifying veteran is deemed permanently and totally disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For taxable year 2023 and thereafter, if the taxpayer is the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected and who is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a recipient of dependency and indemnity compensation under federal law, then the property is also exempt from taxation under this Code.

**HB5184** - Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Provides that the previous endorsed changes are now written into law. Changing and amending topics that now make things more understandable and less to misconstrue. Effective: Jan 1, 2023

An American flag is draped diagonally across the bottom left corner of the page, resting on a light-colored, weathered wooden surface. The stars and stripes of the flag are clearly visible.

PASSED  
LEGISLATION



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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 6/22/2022

- 
- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  - III. Chaplin's Prayer
  - IV. Roll Call of Officers
  - V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - VI. Public Comment
  - VII. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Office Activity
    - b. Outreach Activity
    - c. Training Overview
      - 1) Nationals in Texas
      - 2) Certified Veterans Advocate Course
  - VIII. Old Business
  - IX. New Business
    - a. Approval of By-Law Amendments
    - b. Presentation of candidate for Assistant Superintendent position
    - c. Approval of Non-Veteran to position of Assistant Superintendent
    - d. Time-Clock Plus
  - X. For the Good of the Commission
  - XI. Closing Prayer
  - XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

05/25/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

Lance Sires- Am Legion- Marseilles / Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman- VFW- Mendota / Dennis Znaniecki- Am Legion- Peru / Bill Luther- VFW- Ottawa / Andy Ruggerio- Peru Mem Group- Peru / Steven Kreitzer- LaSalle County VAC

Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb

Vice President – Harold Olsen

Guard – Bill Paterson

Chaplin – Jim Ebner

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent

Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator

Beth Caldera - Receptionist- Excused



# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Lance Sires and seconded by Dennis Znaniecki.

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

The office has seen a drop in office visits- as to be expected with having two VSO's, we still have submitted 40 initial claims and brought in over \$2.7 million in backpay for a veterans this year. This is the highest amount of backpay we have been as an office this time of year.

There are a few outside entities looking to use our space: Senior Advisory Group (Lissa is working on this and would be apart of this committee) and Women Veterans Stand Down (Saturday, June 11, 2022). We continue to look for ways to use our space for the benefit of our Veterans and Families.

Christa briefly discussed the TBM Avenger outreach on May 21, 2022. Unfortunately rained out, but still found a few Veterans to chat with about benefits and have had a couple make appointments.

Lissa went over the Veterans Expo 2022 that was May 22 at LaSalle Rotary Park - over 30 Vendors came out. It was a success, had about 100 visitors come through. She talked about possibly breaking down the Expo into small events throughout the year to highlight services instead of having one big Expo every year.

Christa briefly went over passed legislation for Military Veterans Assistance Act and the Property Tax Exemption for 100% perm and total Veterans and Surviving Spouses in receipt of DIC.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Bill Luther. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business - Clarification of Appointment of Christa Hammers for Superintendent Position- She has been appointed to the position as of June 1, 2022. Motion for Approval by: Dennis Znaniecki  
Seconded by: Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Commission -

Chuck asked if any members would be willing to sit on a By-Law committee. By-Laws need to be updated every 4 years, we are due. No active members were interested, clarified as to what was big that needed changed. Christa asked the members to consider changing the verbiage regarding the Assistant Superintendent needing to be a Veteran as to move Lissa to that position. The group agreed that the By-Laws can be amended to include a clause for such situations. Harold asked if we could ask another County that has this situation on how they word it. Christa agreed to get that done and let members know that hard copies will be mailed to every post for approval at next meeting (6/22/22). No members interested in Budget Committee either- Christa will present Budget for approval by members as it has been done previously.

Dennis Znaniecki- Vietnam Memorial Group: Veterans Home needs a canopy- roughly \$12,000. Asking for donations towards it. Susan Scully stated that the project was delayed due to increased cost. Harold Olsen- Went over Bingo at the Veterans home. Need to be RAPID tested, but the Veterans appreciate it.

Lissa went over her training at IACO and with IDVA. Talked briefly about how she was the only non-Veteran appointed to a position on the Board as Secretary. Discussed how Rep. Kifowit and Director Prince had spoken to them regarding passed legislation and IDVA and Counties working together, respectively.

Lissa also informed the members that there will be a Vietnam Veteran pinning ceremony, put on by AllenForce- hosted at our location on July 8, 2022. Anyone interested needs to register.

Steve thanked Christa and Lissa, Beth (excused), for all the hard work put in and the Board for giving him the opportunity and believing in him. Wished everyone the best and the Board reciprocated. Christa presented him with a statue for commemorating his time at the VAC and as a thank you for all he has done for the Veterans and Families - as well as the office.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Znaniecki and seconded by Harold Olsen Motion passed unanimously at 5:36pm.

Office Activity May			
Office Visits	57	Initial Claims	29
Phone	476	Appeals	3
Outstation	14	Board Appeals	0
Mendota	6	VA Healthcare	0
Streator	8	VA Pension	4
Ottawa	0	Other	511

Women's Veterans Stand Down Event- June 10th- put on by National Lewis University and University of Chicago. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Martha Herb, EdD, LPC

- Others involved: AF-LAN Legal Services
- Black Alliance of Colleges and Employers (BACE)
- Cook County Veterans
- DePaul University Multi-Faith Veteran Initiative
- Illinois Department of Employment Services (IDES)
- Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Women Veterans Program
- Intimate Partner Violence Prevention
- National Able Network
- National Women Veterans United
- Road Home Program at Rush
- Social Security Administration – Benefits/Recruitment Outreach
- VITAL Program at Jesse Brown
- Women's Health Services (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Overall we had two attend in-person and they seemed to enjoy it. Have extra goodie bags for Women Veterans if anyone knows of any that were not able to attend.

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

May Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Thru	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
90%	1/3/2022	###	\$24,862.60	\$1,998.52
70%	2/9/2022	###	\$25,395.42	\$1,659.95
SMC- ED	9/21/2020	###	\$3,809.77	\$865.61
10%	6/22/2021	###	\$3,620.86	\$152.64
50%	1/24/2022	###	\$11,501.28	\$958.44
10%	3/2/2022	###	\$1,831.68	\$1,831.68
30%	1/24/2022	###	\$5,608.68	\$467.39
30%	3/2/2022	###	\$6,258.68	\$467.39
Burial	2/22/2022	###	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
100%	3/16/2022	###	\$46,985.04	\$3,915.42
MOD	4/25/2022	###	\$0.00	\$4,033.75
Burial	1/19/2022	###	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
70%	4/26/2022	###	\$18,359.40	\$1,529.95
20%	4/26/2022	###	\$3,620.88	\$301.74
MOD	8/5/2021	###	\$0.00	\$1,251.39
DIC	2/1/2022	###	\$16,290.72	\$1,357.56
10%	4/25/2022	###	\$1,831.68	\$152.64
90%	4/25/2022	###	\$28,870.20	\$2,405.85
Pension	4/7/2022	###	\$14,748.00	\$1,229.00
	Total		\$213,594.89	\$28,578.92
	Year to Date Total		\$2,954,029.13	\$179,903.86

#### National Training in Texas:

Heard from a lot of VA entities such as- VA Debt Management, Secretary McDonough and VA Appeal Board Chairman, Cheryl Mason. Christa attended her second set of classes for CVA Training (Certified Veterans Appeals).

#### Events:

Vietnam Veteran Recognition Pinning Ceremony

July 8, 2022 - Starts at 1:00

Put on by *AllenForce* - Hosted at the VAC

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

Active Bill to watch:

### **H.R.3967**

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021

It allows for many more presumptive conditions and locations to be added for Vietnam and OEF/OIF Era Veterans. To include more issues caused by toxic exposure due to both Agent Orange and Burn Pits. Also includes 31 new Outpatient VA clinic locations. None of which are in Illinois, but its a win for our Veterans overall.



UPDATE ON  
LEGISLATION



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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 7/27/2022

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

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

06/22/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman- VFW-  
Mendota / Douglas Grieve - Am Leg- Tonica / John Duback -  
AmVets - Ottawa / Jack Leininger - VFW - Marseilles

Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Outreach Coordinator  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist- Excused

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Bill Paterson and seconded by Harold Olsen.

Public Comment - None

## Superintendent's Report

The office has again seen a drop in office visits- as to be expected with having two VSO's, we still have submitted 29 initial claims and brought in over \$2.9 million in backpay for a veterans this year. We are looking to hire another VSO soon.

Christa discussed the Women Veterans Stand Down (Saturday, June 11, 2022). There were a few Veterans that came in-person to our event and they seemed to get a lot out of it. We have bags left over if anyone has Women Veterans in their post- send them our way to pick one up.

Christa also briefly discussed the CVA courses she took at National Training in San Antonio over the week of June 6-9. She only has one more set of classes to take before being able to test for certification.

Lissa went over the remainder of National Training and discussed how we heard from Tom Murphy, Cheryl Mason and Sec. McDonough. Out of everything we heard multiple times how the claims process is going to slow down a bit due to probable passing of legislation. She also went over the Vietnam Pinning ceremony happening thanks to AllenForce on July 8, 2022 - hosted by our office. Anyone interested needs to register.

Christa briefly went over that legislation- the PACT ACT. It is amazing piece of legislation regarding presumptive conditions for Vietnam, OEF/OIF Veterans dealing with toxic exposures. Not only were conditions were added but locations as well. Also, 31 additional VA Clinics will be added to the USA.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

Old Business - None

New Business -

President Chuck Erb asked the Commission if anyone wanted to discuss in closed session the by-law amendments or if everyone was happy with the changes. Consensus was everyone was happy so he moved to have a motion that they be accepted. Motion for acceptance made by Jack Leininger and seconded by Harold Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

Christa presented the TimeClock + system to the board and a discussion ensued on pros/cons of the system. Ultimately the Board decided to make all staff salaried and therefore not need the system. Christa will get with the HR Director on how to go about this and amend job descriptions. A letter was signed to be submitted saying as such to the HR Director by Christa.

For the Good of the Commission -

Jim Ebner asked that if we could give more lead time for events so that they may share them with their posts at their scheduled meeting times/dates, he would appreciate it. Lissa stated that in most cases we are at the mercy for whomever is to get us the information and sometimes the flyers. We will do our best moving forward to push these entities to get us the information faster.

Jim Ebner also stated that their post has a Steak Fry tomorrow night and to spread the word.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Ebner and seconded by John Duback. Motion passed unanimously at 5:42pm.



June Office Activity				
Office Visits	62		Initial Claims	43
Phone	466		Appeals	8
Outstation	13		Board Appeals	1
Mendota	7		VA Healthcare	3
Streator	11		VA Pension	1
Intent to File	29		Other	485

### Vietnam Veteran 50th Commemoration Pinning Ceremony: July 8, 2022

This event was put on by AllenForce and hosted at our location. We had over 54 Vietnam Veterans and a few Gold Star Families in attendance, along with their supporters. Overall it was a fantastic turn out and everyone was very happy with it, even with the rain.

August is our One Year Anniversary in the new space. We are celebrating by having a Health and Wellness Event. There are a few entities already on board and a few more that we are getting details to. Let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas for who should be there. This event will be August 17 from 1:00p-4:00p at the VAC Office in Peru.

### New VSO Update:

We have had 53 applications on Indeed, 6 individually emailed- out of 59 applications:  
 19 submitted all needed documents: Application, Resume and Job Description  
 7 of those were Veterans

Holding Interviews the first week of August.

Group Numbers: 14 PTSD    2 VR&E

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

June Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
40%	12/31/2020	Dec-22	\$14,539.38	\$673.28
dependent	5/3/2022	Dec-22	\$9,761.36	\$747.28
30%	2/1/2022	Dec-22	\$3,530.40	\$220.65
70%	6/6/2021	Dec-22	\$30,490.79	\$1,659.95
100%	6/30/2022	Dec-22	\$43,640.52	\$3,636.17
80%	4/8/2022	Dec-22	\$28,847.55	\$2,299.76
70%	3/9/2022	Dec-22	\$30,127.35	\$1,882.95
70%	2/15/2022	Dec-22	\$27,916.88	\$1,778.28
40%	11/28/2021	Dec-22	\$0.00	\$0.00
60%	1/19/2022	Dec-22	\$15,846.31	\$1,214.03
DIC/MOD Check	3/24/2022	Dec-22	\$27,028.02	\$1,437.66
10%	2/21/2022	Dec-22	\$2,289.60	\$152.64
70%	2/16/2022	Dec-22	\$22,491.33	\$1,529.95
70%	5/11/2021	Dec-22	\$32,386.40	\$1,659.95
60%	4/11/2022	Dec-22	\$15,335.13	\$1,214.03
SMC	4/4/2022	Dec-22	\$48,759.99	\$4,033.75
10%	4/12/2022	Dec-22	2,289.60	\$152.64
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$355,280.61</b>	<b>\$24,292.97</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$3,309,309.74</b>	<b>\$204,196.83</b>

Donations for Programs/Events:

TBM Avenger Group, Connecting Point Computers and Veteran Michael Hooper

Programs:

PTSD Workout Group, Service Dog Program (in the works) and Christmas Program for Veterans at VA Home in LaSalle/Christmas for Veterans kids (Date/Details TBD)

Fire Extinguishers were inspected and found to be some that were recalled in 2018. We had them replaced and relocated so we are up to code.

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

## Claims NEED TO KNOW:

There has been a few issues lately with Veterans trying to get opinion letters from providers through the VA. This still seems to be a case-by-case situation, however, Christa did meet with the VA Clinic and talked to the Medical Director regarding what we were asking for. This seemed to be beneficial and they seem to be more on board, especially if there is Medical Research accompanying the request. Please make sure that any Veterans that are needing any letters written have research to back up their claims. We can assist with this, but Veterans do need to make efforts too.

## Active Bill to watch:

### **H.R.3967**

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021

It allows for many more presumptive conditions and locations to be added for Vietnam and OEF/OIF Era Veterans. To include more issues caused by toxic exposure due to both Agent Orange and Burn Pits. Also includes 31 new Outpatient VA clinic locations. None of which are in Illinois, but its a win for our Veterans overall.

Update On  
**LEGISLATION**



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Presents:

# HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

**August 17, 2022 | 1:00PM - 4:00PM**



Location: 4231 Progress Blvd- Peru, IL

More information on vendors will be provided soon!



[www.lasallecountyvac.com](http://www.lasallecountyvac.com)



This to go above our Door (between window and door frame)

# LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

This to on our Door (grey is the window– it will be individual vinyl)



## HOURS

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**CLOSED DAILY**

**Noon - 1:00 pm**

**815-433-1761**

**[www.lasallecountyvac.com](http://www.lasallecountyvac.com)**

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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 8/24/2022

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

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

07/27/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman- VFW- Mendota / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Lance Sires - Am Legion - Marseilles / Dennis Znaniecki- Am Legion - Peru / Elton Murphy- VFW - LaSalle / Other: Andy Ruggerio- Peru Memorial Group / Roscoe Mazur- Am Legion - Oglesby

Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Harold Olsen and seconded by Bill Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

The office has increased in the number of claims- totaling 43 initial claims and 29 intents submitted in June. Up from only 29 initial claims in May. We are still well over where we were last year for compensation numbers for our Veterans and Families.

Christa discussed the Vietnam Pinning Ceremony and its success.

Christa discussed the interviews. We have went through the applications so far and have a few more to go in order to proceed with any candidates. We have interviews the week of August 1 and will be interviewing 9 total in hopes of finding a suitable fit.

Christa also discussed the group numbers being down since a lot of the members are hit hard by inflation, they are taking a few weeks off here and there.

Christa discussed the wonderful donations received from TBM Avengers, Connecting Point Computers and Veteran Michael Hooper for our Programs and Events. Also went over the programs that we are looking to start- Service Dog and Christmas for Veterans/families and the VA Home. Also, refreshed on the PTSD/Workout Program.

Lissa briefly discussed the Health and Wellness fair that we have coming up August 17- from 1p-4p. That will bring in many vendors focusing on whole body wellness. Also discussed new training for those who don't process claims that the IACVAC is putting together.

Christa briefly went over that our fire extinguishers were out of date/recalled and we had those fixed and updated and new signage for the outside of the office.

Lastly, Christa went over the PACT Act and how it is back in the Senate and hopefully passing to the President soon.

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



# Meeting MINUTES

## Old Business - None

## New Business -

Jim Ebner presented his guest- Roscoe Mazur- stating that he was going to be taking over for him come next election cycle.

Elton Murphy asked if the VFW could put money towards the Christmas Program that the VAC was arranging with the VA Home. It was agreed that this would be possible.

Commission went into closed session to discuss salaries for employees-  
Motion to go into closed session made by: Harold Olsen and seconded by Bill Patterson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to come out of closed session made by: Dennis Znaniiecki and seconded by Elton Murphy. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission discussed the budget. Approval for this years budget/resolutions:  
Motion made by Lance Sires, seconded by Harold Olsen.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## For the Good of the Commission -

Dennis Znaniiecki stated that IDOT was hiring for "snowbirds" and stated that there are full-time positions available if anyone knew of anything.

Elton Murphy stated that the VFW was having a Burger Fry from 5-8 in LaSalle, every fourth Thursday.

Lissa discussed the term lengths and when we would be sending out for information on new delegates/alternates.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Dennis Znaniiecki.  
Motion passed unanimously at 5:53 pm.

July Office Activity				
Office Visits	78		Initial Claims	50
Phone	538		Appeals	27
Outstation	13		Board Appeals	0
Mendota	5		VA Healthcare	2
Streator	8		VA Pension	4
Intent to File	3		Other	546

Health & Wellness Fair- August 17 2022:

We had quite a few entities out for our Veterans/Families. They were HWAVE, Hines Eligibility, Maitri Path to Wellness, Hero Nutrition, Flutes for Vets, Tranquility Massage, Acres of Peace, St. Margaret's Dietician and M Mind and Body Yoga.

This event was put on by our office to get the word out for our Veterans/Families to understand that there are many different ways to get ourselves healthy, not just with therapy/medication. It was a great event- hoping to do something more soon.

New VSO Update:

We have a new hire- James Sturtevant, Navy Veteran and he will give a brief introduction to himself and what he hopes to accomplish/learn here with us.

Group Numbers: 14 PTSD    2 VR&E

Signage:

The business that we ordered through had a part break on one of their printers- so there is a delay in the processing of our order. We hope that it gets fixed and completed soon, but they didn't give a definitive timeline.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

July Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
100%	8/11/2021	Dec-22	\$ 76,080.46	\$3,332.06
Burial	7/11/2022	Dec-22	\$ 1,128.00	\$1,128.00
90%	6/13/2022	Dec-22	\$ 24,617.69	\$1,903.13
MOD	5/5/2022	Dec-22	\$ 3,517.84	\$3,517.84
Burial	5/5/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00
DIC	5/5/2022	Dec-22	\$ 26,520.40	\$1,437.66
100%	2/22/2021	Dec-22	\$ 65,951.63	\$3,636.17
10%	4/21/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,442.24	\$152.64
10%	5/3/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,136.96	\$152.64
30%	4/29/2022	Dec-22	\$ 6,105.63	\$467.39
100%	9/21/2022	Dec-22	\$ 69,289.94	\$3,915.42
70%	5/18/2022	Dec-22	\$ 25,948.64	\$1,659.95
70%	7/26/2022	Dec-22	\$ 22,949.25	\$1,529.95
40%	4/6/2021	Dec-22	\$ 15,685.89	\$673.28
10%	7/12/2022	Dec-22	\$ 1,831.68	\$152.64
80%	4/12/2011	Dec-22	\$ 204,732.12	\$1,926.43
40%	2/9/2021	Dec-22	\$ 8,079.36	\$673.28
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$559,017.73</b>	<b>\$28,258.48</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$3,868,327.47</b>	<b>\$232,455.31</b>

## OFFICE OVERALL TOTALS:

We have exceeded any goals that we had previous years and continue to do everything we can to get our Veterans/Families the benefits they are eligible for. We had the highest overall in 2019, totaling just over \$2.9million. With last years total being just over \$2.6 million. We have far surpassed that this year, with no intentions of "easing up".

## Programs:

Completed the Application for the Service Dog Program. You will find a flyer attached. This program is mainly run off of donations and benefits Veterans that are looking to get a dog trained with a Partner Program to be a Service Animal.



Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

## NEED TO KNOW:

We have training again in September, this time in Peoria. We will be out of office from September 19-23. If anyone would like to come in and discuss their claim or has questions, please take these dates into consideration and we will be happy to assist you as soon as possible. Our office will be open- with Beth and James available to answer any questions they can or relay any immediate needs.

## Legislation Update:

### **H.R.3967**

#### **Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021**

We have attached a overview of the new information regarding this bill, put together graciously by the VAC of Sangamon County.

### **(330 ILCS 45/) Military Veterans Assistance Act**

There is a trailer bill in the works. This bill will hopefully alleviate the issues that some counties are having with the "grey" areas of what exactly is run by the VAC and the Counties separately and what the County shall provide to the VAC. This should be presented in the veto session in November.



Update On  
**LEGISLATION**

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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS



# MEETING

## 9/28/2022

# AGENDA

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplin's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Office Activity
  - b. Office Training
  - c. Office Events
  - d. Policy Updates
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
  - a. OMA/FOIA Updates
  - b. By-Law Updates
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

# Meeting MINUTES

08/24/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman- VFW- Mendota / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Lance Sires - Am Legion - Marseilles / Elton Murphy- VFW - LaSalle / Bill Luther - VFW - Ottawa / Gary Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / Other: Andy Ruggerio- Peru Memorial Group

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

## Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent  
James Sturtevant- VSO- In-Training  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist

# 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

The office has increased in the number of claims- totaling 50 initial claims and we had the largest payout for backpay for a Veteran since we took office. We are very proud of what we have done and continue to do for our Veterans & Families.

Christa discussed the Health and Wellness Fair and the fact that all that attended (including vendors) found it successful and hope to have more like it.

Christa introduced the new hire, James Sturtevant. James then gave a brief background of himself and what he hopes to get from the office.

Christa discussed the signage having issues with printing and hoping to be done soon. They apologized for the delay.

Christa discussed the programs that we have here in the office and the ideas that we are hoping to bring to life for Christmas time. Attached a Service Dog Program flyer and went over how it will help a bit with paying for the training. Any interested Veterans should reach out to the office for more information.

Lissa briefly discussed new training for those who don't process claims that the IACVAC is putting together. This is something that we hope to bring to life soon so we can have people in the office properly direct our Veterans & Families with their questions. Also discussed training in September and the fact that we will be out of office for the week of 9/19-9/23 but available via email.

Lastly, Christa went over the MVAA and how there is possibly a trailer bill that is being built by fellow VAC offices and the AG office coming for Veto Session.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

## Old Business - None

## New Business -

Christa discussed the PACT Act passing and what that will mean for our Veterans & Families. We are so excited that this legislation has finally gone through.

There was an attachment on the minutes that was made by another VAC providing a bit of insight into the new law and what ailments/locations are now covered.

## For the Good of the Commission -

Elton Murphy stated that there is burger night at LaSalle VFW from 5-8pm.

Harold Olsen brought up that they donated a bunch to the LaSalle VA Home and that if you do that, there are sheets to fill out. They are still requiring COVID testing.

Jim Ebner stated that he was happy to announce the Oglesby Legion now is ADA Compliant with 36" bathroom doorways.

Lissa discussed that the Streator Legion closed doors, but has charter still since there was some confusion. Chuck Erb asked about Ottawa VFW- Elton Murphy stated that they reopened last week.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Greg Stock.

Motion passed unanimously at 5:32 pm.

#### Hines Flu Clinics Event:

We have set up to have three different dates available for Veterans to come in and receive their flu shots. Attached you will find a flyer for the events. Please spread the word.

#### Equine Therapy:

October 7th the office will be going to Cedar Creek Ranch to experience what they have to offer our Veterans and Families. We hope to come to an agreement for possible program.

#### Peoria Training:

Christa and Lissa attended the annual IACVAC training in East Peoria. There were a lot of good classes and the information was invaluable. They were able to witness BVA mock hearings, speak with a BVA judge, learn more about disagreeing with C&P examiners, the PACT Act, Secondary Conditions, Caregiver Support and more.

There was a FOIA request for our By-Laws that brought up some concerns that it overstepped the MVAA in some regards. We are wanting to amend them to avoid that. See attached for proposed amendments. If agreed upon- these will be sent out to be voted on during the October Meeting.

OMA/FOIA- We learned a lot about what every VAC should have in their office- policies, procedures, certificates and such. We need to have every Delegate/Alternates OMA Certificate in office for us to be compliant. Needs to happen once in a lifetime. Lissa is our office FOIA officer and Christa is the alternate.

#### Accreditation for Office:

There is going to be a office Accreditation given to any VAC that is compliant with everything needed per the MVAA. This is policies/procedures/Veteran percentage in office (includes family/spouse of)/Dues paid and training kept current among others. This is not mandatory, but is a good idea to have to make sure that we are good to go as an office.

#### Signage:

The business that we ordered through came in on 9/12. They hung our outside signage and we are pleased with the results. There is no mistaking what office you are walking into anymore.



## Our Office **OVERVIEW**



August Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
50%	5/3/2022	Dec-22	\$ 12,356.76	\$958.44
60%	4/21/2022	Dec-22	\$ 19,424.48	\$1,214.03
Dependency Grant	5/1/2021	Dec-22	\$ 2,044.00	\$74.00
Dependency Grant	3/1/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,210.00	\$130.00
20%	6/2/2022	Dec-22	\$ 4,224.36	\$301.74
Dependency Grant	5/1/2021	Dec-22	\$ 888.00	\$74.00
20%	8/5/2021	Dec-22	\$ 5,385.15	\$301.74
30%	5/26/2022	Dec-22	\$ 7,010.85	\$467.39
DIC	4/18/2022	Dec-22	\$ 20,915.28	\$1,742.94
50%	10/7/2021	Dec-22	\$ 20,050.69	\$1,050.44
50%	6/29/2022	Dec-22	\$ 13,418.16	\$958.44
Burial	10/22/2021	Dec-22	\$ 828.00	\$828.00
80%	5/20/2022	Dec-22	\$ 27,662.28	\$1,950.43
10%	5/19/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,289.60	\$152.64
20%	5/26/2022	Dec-22	\$ 4,526.10	\$301.74
10%	5/19/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,289.60	\$152.64
40%	12/20/2021	Dec-22	\$ 13,951.64	\$865.61
PT-IU	5/9/2022	Dec-22	\$ 47,691.00	\$3,636.17
30%	7/9/2021	Dec-22	\$ 14,041.20	\$590.39
70%	8/2/2022	Dec-22	\$ 19,919.40	\$1,659.95
20%	6/1/2022	Dec-22	\$ 4,224.36	\$301.74
90%	9/15/2021	Dec-22	\$ 45,743.28	\$1,998.52
Survivors Pension	10/1/2021	Dec-22	\$ 1,514.00	\$757.00
MOD	8/31/2022	Dec-22	\$ 3,517.84	\$0.00
Pension	8/29/2022	Dec-22	\$ 3,484.00	\$268.00
40%	6/8/2022	Dec-22	\$ 11,209.20	\$747.28
70%	1/6/2022	Dec-22	\$ 35,045.17	\$1,754.95
60%	10/7/2021	Dec-22	\$ 27,855.05	\$1,214.03
60%	10/7/2021	Dec-22	\$ 6,300.33	\$274.59
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$380,019.78</b>	<b>\$24,726.84</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$4,248,347.25</b>	<b>\$257,182.15</b>

## OFFICE OVERALL TOTALS:

We continue to exceed goals and look forward to adding staff to help our clients have less of a wait time to get into our office for appointments. Currently we are booking into November.

## MVAA Trailer Bill:

There are a few other VACs that are working with the Attorney Generals Office to make a trailer bill for the MVAA. This bill will help the VAC and County understand what needs to be supplied per the regulations. Some things that are brought up are: IMRF, HR, IT Services and goods such as paper.

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

Group Numbers:  
PTSD: 8 Flutes: 6 Senior Resource: 6

August Office Activity			
Office Visits	99	Initial Claims	42
Phone	1099	Appeals	18
Outstation	29	Board Appeals	0
Mendota	10	VA Healthcare	0
Streator	19	VA Pension	6
Intent to File	21	Other	1161

### TRAINING NEED TO KNOW:

October 1st is Basic Benefits sign-up. This is for James to take his courses for accreditation. That will be the week of November 11th.

Also, Advanced Appeals course sign-up is October 1st. This is for Lissa to take courses to learn more about how to go about and write appeals. This is November 2-4.

CVA (Certified Veterans Appeals) course for Christa will be December 8-9. This is her third class and hoping to test after it is completed.

We have a State IACVAC Conference in February from the 1st-3rd. (Winter Conference) - Lissa and Christa will be attending.

National Training will be held in Madison, WI next year from June 4-9.

In 2024 it will be in Colorado from May 12-17. We hope to have one of our new team members join us for each. Open to suggestions on attendance.



Update On  
**OFFICE TRAINING**

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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 10/26/2022

# AGENDA

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplin's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Office Activity
  - b. Office Events
  - c. OMA Certificates Needed
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
  - a. By-Laws Updated/Approved
  - b. Vote on December Meeting
- X. For the Good of the Commission
  - a. LaSalle VA Nursing Home Update
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

# Meeting MINUTES

09/28/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

Vice President Harold Olsen called the meeting to order at 5:08pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Lance Sires - Am Legion - Marseilles / Elton Murphy- VFW - LaSalle / Jack Leininger - VFW- Marseilles / Other: Andy Ruggerio- Peru Memorial Group

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb- Excused  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

## Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent  
James Sturtevant- VSO- In-Training  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist- Excused



# Meeting MINUTES

Meeting started at 5:05pm. Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Elton Murphy and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously.

## Public Comment - None

## Superintendent's Report

The office has seen a lot of new clients, phone calls regarding PACT ACT and Camp Lejeune are in abundance. We are booking into November right now and there's no end in sight- which we welcome. We are very proud of what we have done and continue to do for our Veterans & Families.

Christa discussed the Events coming up- Flu Clinics (we have 3 dates available)- more dates possible if need arises. Also that the signage for the building has arrived and we are very happy with it.

Christa then discussed that we were going to Cedar Creek Ranch on October 7th along with Hines Suicide Prevention Team and AllenForce to come up with a program for our Veterans.

Christa talked about training in East Peoria that her and Lissa attended. There were BVA mock hearings, law judges, C&P exam Q&A session, info on the PACT ACT, Secondary Condition submission information, Caregiver Support guidance and more.

Christa informed the Board about the Accreditation for the Office that the State Association is putting together. It is a good check list for what we should have in place already, and some VAC's don't. Not a NEED to have document, but should have it. Then discussed the policies that were needed to be in place to hold the Accreditation and went over each with the Board: Purchase, Travel, Finance, and Discipline.

Christa then let the Board know that we are over \$4 million in backpay/payment to our Veterans/Families as of this time. Exceeding goals exponentially.

Christa brought up the MVAA trailer bill and Lissa went over how it doesn't effect what should already be happening between the VAC and County, but rather clarifies what services should be rendered and by whom.

Christa then made the Board aware of upcoming training dates: November 14-18 is Basic Benefits that James will be taking, Advanced Appeals is November 2-4 and Lissa will be taking that and CVA (Certified Veterans Advocate/Appeals) will be December 8-9 and Christa will be taking this. There is a State IACVAC winter conference in February that Christa and Lissa will be attending. National Training will be in Madison, WI next year and in Colorado in 2024.

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

# Meeting MINUTES

## Old Business - None

## New Business -

Christa brought up the FOIA request from the "watch dogs". Stating that there was some verbiage that needed to be amended in our By-Laws. Let the Board know of the changes and told them it would be sent to their posts with changes before next meeting for approval in October.

Board went over changes, made a few more to some numbers on the items and approved for it to be amended and sent. Understood Voting was in October.

Christa then brought up that we need to make sure every Board Member (Delegate/Alternate) has a OMA Certificate on file at the office. If they do not have one, or it has been a few years- they are welcome to come to the office and we can assist with getting them set up to complete it. Want to have this done ASAP.

## For the Good of the Commission -

Harold Olsen brought up that they continue to attend the nursing home and they are still doing the COVID tests. The residents did a scavenger hunt and seem to welcome them any time they go in.

Jim Ebner asked about the COVID funds from the County. Christa stated she hadn't heard anything following the phone call. Jim stated he would check on the status of it and let the Commission know.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Lance Sires.  
Motion passed unanimously at 6:13pm.

#### Hines Flu Clinics Event:

Next date is November 16th from 10am-Noon and from 1pm-2pm. If you need your shot and are enrolled in VA Healthcare- stop on in.

#### Equine Therapy:

October 7th the office went to Cedar Creek Ranch along with AllenForce and Hines Suicide Prevention Team. We met with Paul, the owner and discussed how his business could support outings/events or even a program that we could put together for our Veterans/Families. It was a great day.

#### Green Lights for Veterans:

Veterans day is November 11th. We are looking to spread awareness/support by offering Veterans a Green Light Bulb to shine the week of November 7-13th. The office made other towns aware and we hope to see this successful!

#### Christmas for VA Home Event:

We are going to do a drive for every resident in need at the LaSalle VA Home. We are getting in contact with the home and will have a Christmas Tree up with tags for people to grab starting November 14th. We need items back no later than that so we can get them ready to take to the home December 16th.

#### Christmas Windows for VA Home:

We plan on decorating the VA Home widows for Christmas on November 30th in the afternoon. If you are interested, please call our office and sign up. We will have window chalk available for anyone to use. This is a great event that both residents and staff enjoy very much.

#### Christmas for the Kids:

Tentatively we have scheduled a Santa for December 16th from 9-Noon- but are probably going to change the hours since some schools are not out yet. This will be for Veterans with children to bring in a small gift prior to the event for Santa to give their child and take photos.



Our Office  
**EVENTS**

September Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
Dependency Grant	8/1/2022	Dec-22	\$ 1,554.00	\$111.00
10%	6/16/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,136.96	\$152.64
SMC	3/25/2016	Dec-22	\$ 16,175.02	\$640.72
100% P&T	4/6/2021	Dec-22	\$ 80,152.88	\$3,517.84
70% (Waiting on CRSC)	6/28/2022	Dec-22	\$ 20,117.25	\$1,659.95
70%	5/14/2022	Dec-22	\$ 20,067.93	\$1,529.95
60%	6/21/2022	Dec-22	\$ 17,752.53	\$1,214.03
90%	1/21/2020	Dec-22	\$ 55,443.47	\$1,998.52
30%	6/24/2022	Dec-22	\$ 7,478.24	\$467.39
40%	5/10/2022	Dec-22	\$ 3,956.84	\$205.89
20%	5/26/2022	Dec-22	\$ 5,129.58	\$301.74
MOD Check	6/30/2022	Dec-22	\$ 5,645.33	\$0.00
100% P&T	10/26/2021	Dec-22	\$ 79,783.80	\$3,332.06
100% PT	12/21/2021	Dec-22	\$ 80,537.37	\$3,847.97
20%	8/8/2022	Dec-22	\$ 3,922.62	\$301.74
70%	6/16/2022	Dec-22	\$ 27,502.95	\$2,165.52
50%	6/15/2022	Dec-22	\$ 12,738.60	\$958.44
50%	7/27/2022	Dec-22	\$ 13,418.16	\$958.44
10%	6/16/2021	Dec-22	\$ 4,078.78	\$152.64
100%	5/9/2022	Dec-22	\$ 58,178.72	\$3,636.17
10%	6/21/2022	Dec-22	\$ 2,289.60	\$152.64
90%	6/24/2022	Dec-22	\$ 24,678.51	\$1,998.52
100 PT%	9/15/2021	Dec-22	\$ 31,755.04	\$1,519.32
90%	1/24/2022	Dec-22	\$ 32,710.16	\$2,165.52
10%	7/6/2022	Dec-22	\$ 1,984.32	\$152.64
100%	6/10/2022	Dec-22	\$ 53,751.45	\$3,915.42
40%	7/6/2022	Dec-22	\$ 11,209.20	\$747.28
Total			\$674,149.31	\$37,803.99
Year to Date Total			\$4,922,496.56	\$294,986.14

## OFFICE OVERALL TOTALS:

We continue to exceed goals and look forward to adding staff to help our clients have less of a wait time to get into our office for appointments.

We are currently booking into December. We hope that with James coming on board and eventually Emily- we will get the wait time for appointments down significantly.

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

Group Numbers:  
PTSD: 11 Flutes for Vets: 10

September Office Activity				
Office Visits	63		Initial Claims	28
Phone	619		Appeals	7
Outstation	26		Board Appeals	0
Mendota	15		VA Healthcare	0
Streator	11		VA Pension	1
Intent to File	20		Other	672

Congrats are in order for Lissa:

Lissa was chosen as the Walls 102 Community Spotlight Person of the Month of November. She is going on Friday to chat with the radio station about her community outreach and what she does for our office. You can hear her on 102.1FM every Friday in November at about 9:00AM.

James had Basic - Basic Benefits training and he will give a brief run down of how that went.

OMA- We received some certificates from the Delegates/Alternates but do not have them all. Please supply these ASAP and if you need help our office is available to assist you.

If anyone has any Veterans Day events coming up- please let our office know so we can make a list and help spread the word.

Update On  
**OFFICE NTK**



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LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS  
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022 / PREPARED BY CHRISTA HAMMERS

# MEETING

## 11/16/2022

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplin's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of the Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Office Activity
  - b. Office Events
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
  - a. Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

# Meeting MINUTES

10/26/2022

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

## Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Lance Sires - Am Legion - Marseilles / Elton Murphy- VFW - LaSalle / Jack Leininger - VFW - Marseilles / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Bill Luther- VFW - Ottawa / Other: Andy Ruggerio- Peru Memorial Group

## Officers Present

President – Chuck Erb  
Vice President – Harold Olsen  
Guard – Bill Paterson  
Chaplin – Jim Ebner

## Employees Present

Christa Hammers – Superintendent  
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent  
James Sturtevant- VSO- In-Training  
Beth Caldera - Receptionist

# Meeting MINUTES

Meeting started at 5:00pm. Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Harold Olsen and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

Christa discussed the Events coming up- Flu Clinics (we have 3 dates available)- more dates possible if need arises. Also that the signage for the building has arrived and we are very happy with it.

Christa then discussed that the office went to Cedar Creek Ranch on October 7th along with Hines Suicide Prevention Team and AllenForce to see about coming up with a program for our Veterans. We discussed how Paul's business could support outings and events that would benefit our Veterans and Families. More to come when we know more about what direction he would like to go. It was overall a great day.

Christa then discussed Operation Green Light- a nationwide event for bringing awareness and support to our Veterans- Green lights are available for any Veterans that stop in. Display the Green light the week of Veterans day- November 7-13.

Christa also discussed the Christmas for VA Home Event. We are planning on getting needs/wish lists for each resident and putting them on tags on our office Christmas Tree. Week of November 14th stop in and pick one up. Bring back by December 12th so we can take them to the home by December 16th.

Christa let the Commission know about the Christmas window painting. We do this every year and the residents and staff at the home appreciate it. We are planning the afternoon of November 30th.

Lastly, the Christmas for Kids event- We have scheduled a meet and greet with a Veteran Santa that would be a gift giving/photo opportunity for our Veterans with little ones. Kids/Grandkids- anyone that would like to bring their kids in to meet Santa. Parents encouraged to bring a small gift in so Santa can present it to the child. Tentatively- December 16th but may move to December 17th due to school schedules.

Christa then let the Commission know that we are close \$5 million in backpay/payment to our Veterans/Families as of this time. Exceeding goals exponentially. By the end of the year we will surpass that and couldn't be prouder of all the work we have done.

Christa discussed we are currently booking into December, James taking his Basic Course in mid-November and Emily coming on December 1st will help bring those appt wait times down.

Christa then made the Commission aware that Lissa was chosen as the Walls 102 Community Spotlight Person of the Month. She can be heard on the radio every Friday around 9am.

James had his Basic/Basic Course- a pre-course to his accreditation. He gave a brief rundown of how that went. James stated that it seemed to be pretty easy to understand, given what he has been studying/learning in office. He is asking questions and taking part in discussions. Seems to be ready for taking the course.

Christa then discussed that we don't have everyone's OMA Certificate yet- please make sure these get to the office ASAP. Also, if anyone has any Veterans Day events that you would like the office to share- please send us the information.

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

# Meeting MINUTES

## Old Business

Jack Leininger asked if we were contacted about a Veteran in need at the LaSalle VA Home. Christa stated that we weren't, but if someone needed help to reach out.

## New Business -

Christa discussed that the new By-laws with changes were sent to posts and went over these changes with the Commission. Understood that a vote was needed to pass the changes.

Board went over changes, and unanimously agreed to them.  
Motion for approval made by Lance Sires, seconded by Harold Olsen.  
Motion passed unanimously for approval of new By-laws.

Christa then brought up that we currently have a Commission meeting scheduled for December. There was talk about not wanting to do that meeting.

Motion for having NO December Meeting made by Elton Murphy, seconded by Jim Ebner.  
Motion passed unanimously. There will be **NO December VAC Meeting**.

## For the Good of the Commission -

Harold Olsen brought up that the VA Home had a retraction in the paper regarding the Scabies claims. That was a false report and although they do still have active COVID cases, they are handling it quite well. Harold also stated that currently the home is using a 1/4 of it for isolation purposes. There is a small staff shortage.

Jim Ebner gave an update about the COVID funds from the County. At this time, there will be no funds given and nothing that is a for-sure for the Veterans Organizations. No applications were filed on their behalf and he will let the Commission know more as he does.

John Duback stated that they are having their Veterans day ceremony starting with a vigil on the 4th. Friday night the ceremony opens at 4:40pm. Flutes for Vets, Tunes of Glory and others will be in attendance.

Jack Leininger stated that the county was sending out Economic statements and urged everyone to comply and fill it out. There is a fine if you do not turn this in.

Elton Murphy stated the LaSalle VFW was having their last burger night on 10/27 so be sure to come out.

Bill Luther informed the Commission that there is now a 5th Booster shot available for COVID and if you get it at the clinic- be sure to call and make an appointment.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Bill Luther.  
Motion passed unanimously at 6:00pm.



#### Green Lights for Veterans:

Overall, we gave out over 120 lights. We plan on providing lights and making this an annual event.

#### Giving Tree Event:

We have our Christmas Tree up with tags for people to grab. These are filled with wants/needs for each resident of the VA Home. We need items back no later than December 12th so we can get them ready to take to the home December 13th. Unwrapped - with the tags included.

#### Christmas Windows for VA Home:

We plan on decorating the VA Home widows for Christmas on November 30th in the afternoon. If you are interested, please call our office and sign up. We will have window chalk available for anyone to use. This is a great event that both residents and staff enjoy very much.

#### Vets Visit with Santa:

We have scheduled a Santa for December 17th from 9-Noon. This will be for Veterans with children to bring in a small gift prior to the event for Santa to give their child and take photos. Please spread the word.

We have received a donation from James Hardie and its employees in the amount of **\$1540.50** for our Programs. We are grateful for every donation and our programs and events rely on these to provide these things for our Veterans and Families.

Our Office  
**EVENTS**

October Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2022 Amount	Monthly Amount
80%	3/14/2022	Dec-22	\$32,945.44	\$1,926.43
70%	1/24/2022	Dec-22	\$32,702.43	\$1,946.95
dependent	7/27/2022	Dec-22	\$1,380.00	\$92.00
dependent	8/1/2022	Dec-22	\$770.00	\$55.00
MOD	8/22/2022	Dec-22	\$4,033.75	\$0.00
20%	10/20/2021	Dec-22	\$7,224.95	\$301.74
70%	9/27/2022	Dec-22	\$19,889.35	\$1,529.95
10%	4/13/2022	Dec-22	\$2,747.52	\$152.64
100% PT IU	1/24/2022	Dec-22	\$36,747.90	\$1,749.90
80%	11/3/2022	Dec-22	\$25,950.12	\$1,926.43
40%	7/11/2022	Dec-22	\$10,788.03	\$837.28
100% PT	9/9/2021	Dec-22	\$92,362.41	\$4,262.11
80%	9/3/2021	Dec-22	\$30,868.48	\$1,926.43
60%	5/2/2022	Dec-22	\$22,525.51	\$1,325.03
50%	7/5/2022	Dec-22	\$14,934.72	\$1,168.77
60%	1/25/2022	Dec-22	\$18,097.08	\$1,325.03
100% Temp	8/4/2022	Dec-22	\$27,567.18	\$747.28
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$381,534.87</b>	<b>\$21,272.97</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$5,270,710.83</b>	<b>\$316,259.11</b>

## OFFICE OVERALL TOTALS:

We have surpassed the \$5 million mark and are ecstatic about that. We keep striving to help our Veterans and Families receive the benefits they deserve.

We have James taking Basic Benefits this week and he tests on Friday. Hoping with his success and the addition of Emily December 1st, we will bring our appointment wait time down significantly.

Our Office  
**OVERVIEW**

Group Numbers:  
PTSD: 23 Flutes for Vets: 12

<b>October Office Activity</b>				
Office Visits	84		Initial Claims	38
Phone	827		Appeals	16
Outstation	18		Board Appeals	0
Mendota	9		VA Healthcare	0
Streator	9		VA Pension	3
Intent to File	23		Other	46

This is the last meeting of the year, we will have overall total numbers come January Meeting. The 2023 schedule is attached to the minutes.

Dates are as follows:

January 25  
February 22  
March 22  
April 26  
May 24  
June 28  
July 26  
August 23  
September 27  
October 25  
November 22  
NO DECEMBER MEETING

Update On  
**OFFICE NTK**

# **LASALLE COUNTY VAC OPEN MEETING SCHEDULE**



**January 25**

**February 22**

**March 22**

**April 26**

**May 24**

**June 28**

**July 26**

**August 23**

**September 27**

**October 25**

**November 22**

**NO DECEMBER MEETING**

All Meetings Located:  
4231 Progress Blvd, Unit 4-Peru  
[www.lasallecountyvac.com](http://www.lasallecountyvac.com)



LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2022

A Annual Overview of the Lasalle County VAC Events, Claims and Programs.



ADVOCATING FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



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## **LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

# **OFFICE SUMMARY**

## **OVERVIEW**

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) assists Veterans and their Families find and apply for any benefits they may be eligible for.

## **IMPACT STATEMENT**

By assisting the Veterans and Families with benefits, the LaSalle County VAC brings in compensation payments to those who are eligible. This in turn allows for the Veterans and Families to stay in their communities and helps the area in which they reside thrive.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022 RESULTS**

In fiscal year 2022, the LaSalle County VAC netted over \$5.8 million dollars in benefits paid directly to our Veterans and Families. The office also assisted in paying over \$13,000 in rent/utility payments for Veterans in need. Overall, the office has increased payouts to Veterans by over double of what was produced in FY2021.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The LaSalle County VAC not only assisted Veterans and Families financially, we also hosted, created and held events/programs that benefited our Veterans as well. This year we partnered with AllenForce, Hines VA Medical Center, Leashes for Living Assistance, local gyms, Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E), BEST, inc, VA Home Loans, National Louis University, Hines Caregiver Team, Hines Mental Health Team and more.

## **FUTURE GOALS**

The goal of the LaSalle County VAC has always been, and will continue to be, that of assisting our Veterans and their Families in every way possible. Our office has provided great benefits for the county and our Veterans this past year and we will continue to do so for years to come.

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# STAFF

The LaSalle County VAC had a change in staff over FY 2022- Previous Superintendent, Steven Kreitzer, left the office on 6/1/2022. Christa Hammers was elected into the position.

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## Christa Hammers- USAF Veteran

### Superintendent

- Employed at LCVAC since 2017
- Acquired CVA in 2022



## Lissa Olson

### Assistant Superintendent

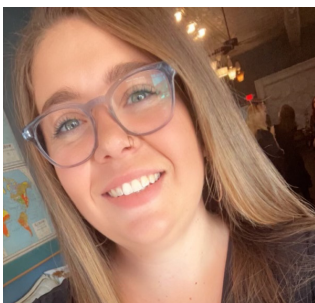
- Employed at LCVAC since 2019
- IVAC Ambassador
- Secretary of IACVAC



## James Sturtevant, USN Veteran

### Veterans Service Officer

- Employed at LCVAC since 2022
- Accredited 2022



## Emily Hackler

### Veterans Service Officer (future outreach VSO)

- Employed at LCVAC since 2022
- Will take Accreditation in 2023
- Spouse of National Guardsman / Daughter of Veteran

Our office is currently hiring for an Administrative Assistant.

# Measuring Progress

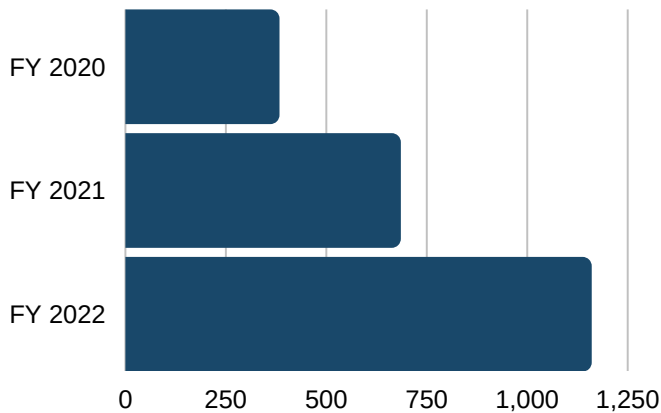
Claims processing has now reached a 8-12 month wait time from start of the claims process until decision is made with Veterans Affairs. With that, our office was still able to secure over \$5.8 million dollars in benefit payouts for our Veterans and Families. Below is a break down of number claim type submitted by the last 3 fiscal years and the total payout to Veterans/Families for that year.

FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020
Total Forms: 1,529	Total Forms: 975	Total Forms: 666
Compensation: 303	Compensation: 282	Compensation: 117
Pension: 44	Pension: 22	Pension: 23
Survivors Pension: 6	Survivors Pension: 5	Survivors Pension: 7
Appeals: 233	Appeals: 98	Appeals: 88
Healthcare: 28	Healthcare: 37	Healthcare: 17
TOTAL PAYOUT: \$5,832,997.81	TOTAL PAYOUT: \$2,492,678.47	TOTAL PAYOUT: \$1,710,419.59

Office Visits and phone calls are one of the many ways we connect with our Veterans/Families. These numbers have increased significantly since our move to Peru (just South of the LaSalle VA Clinic). Our Veterans have repeatedly stated that our location is much more convenient and friendly than our place in Ottawa. We also offer outreach for our Veterans/Families that may not be able to drive. Below is the office visit number for the past 3 fiscal years, along with our outreach numbers for each location.

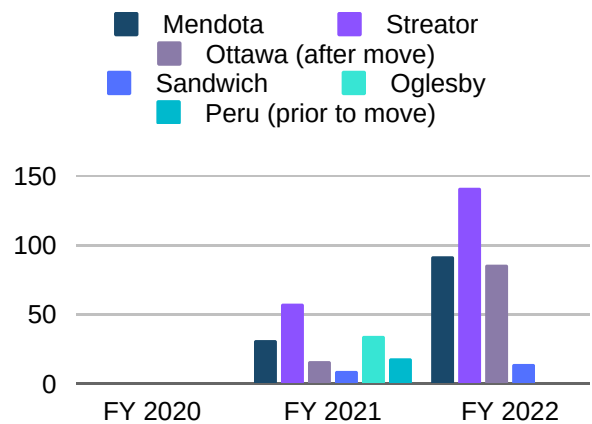
## Office Visits per Fiscal Year

In Person Visits - Main Office



Peru Location: August 2021 - Current  
Ottawa Location prior.

In Person Visits - Outreach



No outreach during FY 2020 (COVID)

**99%**  
**Overall**

Since moving locations from 119 W Madison St, Ottawa to 4231 Progress Blvd, Peru - our office has seen an increase of in-office visits of 41% overall. Our outreach locations have seen an increase of 58% as well. We contribute this to being better situated for our Veterans, ease of parking and a quieter space for our Veterans and Families to feel comfortable coming into. The outreach location increase, we feel, is due to more knowledge of where we are located and better marketing for these locations.



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# Events/Programs

Not only does the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission assist Veterans and Families with finding and applying for benefits- we also host, create and hold events for our Veterans to connect with resources and build programs to assist our Veterans with needs that may otherwise go unmet.

## Fiscal Year 2022 Events:

- HWAVE
- VA S.A.V.E
- Hines Caregiver
- VA Home Loans
- Humana Health Insurance & Medicare
- VR&E
- Women's Veterans Stand Down (Louis University)
- Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemorative Pinning Ceremony
- Health and Wellness Fair
- Bowling for Veterans Fundraiser
- Veterans Expo 2022
- Operation Green Light
- Veterans Giving Tree (LaSalle Veterans Home Residents)
- Christmas Window Painting (held at LaSalle Veterans Home)
- Vets Visit with Santa



## Fiscal Year 2022 Programs:

- PTSD - Battle Buddy Program (Gym Memberships)
- Paws for Veterans (Service Dog Program)

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**We also would like to  
thank all who donated to  
our office this year:**

- TBM Avengers
- Connecting Point Computer Center
- Veteran Michael Hooper
- James Hardie
- Bill Walsh Automotive

Contributions go towards our Events and Programs.

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# Education

We continue to push further education with our staff so we can stay up to date with the new legislature and best practices for our clients. Our office has had one new Veterans Service Officer (VSO) complete the Basic course and get accredited through NACVSO, one VSO take a course on Advanced Appeals and one VSO complete and pass the Certified Veterans Advocate (CVA) course taught by a Veterans Law Attorney. We also continue to attend annual training courses and meetings - both state and nation-wide. Our office has attended the Illinois Association of County Officials (IACO) Conference, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Conference, Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions (IACVAC) Trainings, and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) Trainings this past year and will continue to do so in the future.

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## Financial Aid

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission not only offers claims assistance, programs and events- we also assist Veterans in their time of need. Whether it is a one-time event or monthly occurrence. In FY 2022, our office has paid claims for direct financial aid totaling \$13,608.85 via vouchers to vendors. These payments are to assist Veterans with either rent/mortgage or utilities payments. It is this office's aim to not only see these Veterans and make sure they are receiving every benefit they are eligible for, but also connect them with other community resources that may be able to further assist them.

Community resources our office has worked with:

- Business Employment Skills Team (BEST), Inc - resume writing
- North Central Area Transit (NCAT)- rides for appointments
- TriCounty - Bill pay/clothing/food vouchers
- MidWest Shelter Freedom Commissary - household goods
- LiHeap- Bill payments (utilities)
- Social Security- Benefit payments/Unemployable Veterans

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## Looking Ahead

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission will continue to strive to do everything we can for our Veterans and Families. It is our aim to keep education and knowledge a priority to best assist any client. In the future it is our mission to keep our office effective and make sure that anyone who walks in our doors leaves more understanding of benefits and resources available to them. We will continue to hold events, create programs and reach out to our Veterans/Families that may not be able to make it into our main office. It is our honor to serve our Nation's hero's and their families, and we will continue to expand our services in the hopes of filling needs of even a greater number of Veterans.





Advocating for Veterans & Their Families

815-433-1761  
[www.lasallecountyvac.com](http://www.lasallecountyvac.com)

Prepared by: Christa Hammers, Superintendent  
December 30, 2022