

**COUNTY OF LA SALLE**  
**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

MARTIN J. RUE  
Superintendent  
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse  
Room 411  
119 W. Madison Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION minutes from January 8, 1986

V.A.C. members present at meeting: Ralph Adler, Post 235; Ernie Patton, Post 217; Leo Cate, Post 217; Fran Perra, Post 78; John Sadowski, Post 883; Carl Kirar, Post 883; Frank Wroblewski, Post 8232; Martin Hess, Post 8232; Al Strozewski, Post 426; Sam Maggio, Marine Corp League; Nick Pacetti, Post 4668; and Supt. Martin Rue.

Meeting opened with proper ceremonies. There where no minutes read from December 11, 1985 meeting.

An amendment to the VAC bylaws was discussed. In the bylaws it states that the bylaws may be amended at a regular meeting of the commission if there is a least seven delegates present providing that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at the last proceeding meeting. Also providing that a copy of the written amendment be mailed to all members of the commission, delegates and alternates, at least ten days prior to the date of such amendment. Had I gone ahead, since it had not been presented at the last meeting, we would have been in direct violation of our own bylaws, so I elected by hold back on it until tonights meeting. We will have it read tonight and if there are any adjustment to be added to the amendment itself we can do it here tonight and then go ahead and mail it out then vote on it at the next meeting.

The Peoria VAC state meeting was discussed. Peoria VAC had to receive state funding. The first thing that the Dept. of Public Aid did when they came into the Commission was to state that the superintendent, according to Public Aid Statutes did not qualify for the position. The superintendent himself was not eligible to be a superintendent. The administrative personnel who was being paid the \$15,000 a year was not qualified by educational standards by the Dept. of Public Aid. In order to protect ourselves and our commission we have been forced to except state law. Under Public Aid guidelines you should have a minimum of three years of college. We have cut ours down to a minimum three years and we then cut if further that in the event that the individual has done some social work they would even need less. They could qualify with two years of college substituting the social service area for a year of college education. This would qualify them under Public Aid guidelines as an equivalent too a position of superintendent. It would not make them a seven or eight which is requiring four years. You could still get by your state statutes with this.

Motion was made by Delegate Ralph Adler that the VAC implement this amendment to go to the legal course thus notifying the post and the delegates about the next meeting. Motion seconded by Delegate Ernie Patton. Unanimously carried.

Supt. Rue stated that the County Board stated that if they pursue legal legal action they have to go through the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners are from LaSalle County. Prairie State Legal Services does want to meet with the Commission as opposed to meeting with the County Board. I told her that the bills are being paid at the County Board. I think that the intent of Gail and Paul was to talk to us thinking that they could get us to go against the County.

Delegate Ralph Adler made a motion to stay with the guidelines of the VAC. Veterans should still be eligible for township assistance for the remainder of the assistance he is entitled too, and to seek legal recourse if not accepted. Motion seconded by Delegate Sam Maggio. Carried unanimously.

Supt. Rue stated that he has been elected Northern Region Vice-President of the V.A.C. The job involves setting up other VAC offices. I have been told by the committee (County Board) that there will be no mileage or per diem for any meeting that I have to attend pertaining to the office of vice-president of the VAC. (State VAC Association) I will be bringing the expenditures if they are high to the Concerned Veterans or the Amvets to be paid.

Motion was made by Delegate Carl Kirar that the meeting was to adjourn, seconded by Delegate Al Strozewski. Motion carried.

The next VAC meeting will be held on February 12, 1986, at the Old Courthouse in Ottawa, the south door will be opened from 7:00 until 7:40 p.m.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION minutes from Febuary 12,1986 meeting

Meeting opened with proper ceremonies Chairman John Sadowski presiding. Minutes from the January 8, 1986 meeting were read and accepted.

Old business was discussed. On the question of the educational requirements of the VAC Superintendent was discussed. Motion made to adopt the amendment to the VAC was made by Delegate Ralph Adler, Post 235. Seconded by Delegate Carl Kirar, Post 883. Carried unanimously.

Supt. Rue discussed the possibility of getting a shelter-care unit in the area for people that don't have anyplace else to go.

The J.T.P.A. report was discussed.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade route was discussed. Stop all traffic on parade route. During the Christmas Parade the traffic went through the parade. The parade route should go down Wright Street, grain trucks must go through and bypass Bucklin Street.

After closing ceremonies motion was made by Delegate Carl Kirar that the meeting should be ajourned, seconded by Delegate Ralph Adler. carried

V.A.C. members present at the meeting:

John Sadowski, C.W.V. Post 883; Martin Hess, V.F.W. Post 8232; Carl Kirar, C.W.V. Post 883; Frank Wroblewski, V.F.W Post 8232; Ralph Adler, American Legion, Post 235; James Cappellini, American Legion Post 235; Al Strozewski, American Legion Post 246; Nick Pacetti, V.F.W. Post 4668; and Samuel Maggio, M.C.L. Post 4668.

The next meeting will be held on March 12, 1986 at the Old Courthouse in Ottawa. The south door will be open from 7:00 p.m. until 7:40 p.m.

Another problem is the township supervisor that is denying all veterans. I suggested to the County VAC committee that we change the rent schedule payment. Keep it at \$115 for a single person, but since a couple is entitled to a grant of \$298, raise their rent limit to possibly \$200 to \$220. I went on and broke it down on up to five people. There has been no move yet on a possible change.

Martin Hess, delegate made motion to adjourn the meeting. Sam Maggio, delegate seconded, Carried.

Next meeting will be held at the Old Courthouse in Ottawa on April 9, 1986. The south door will be open from 7:00 until 7:40 p.m.

Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of April 9, 1986 meeting.

Members present: Ernest Patton, Post 217; Ralph Adler, Post 235; James Cappellini, Post 235; Clarence Fessler, Post 375; Nick Pacetti, Post 4668; Sam Maggio, Marine Corp League; John R. Cawley, Post 237; Al Strozewski, Post 426; Terry Leutz, Nam Vets; Martin Hess, Post 8232; Carl Kirar, Post 883; Jim Bump, Post 78; Larry Anderson, Post 8414; and Superintendent Martin Rue.

Carl Kirar filling in for Chairman John Sadowski presided over the meeting.

Minutes of March 12, 1986 meeting were read and approved.

Delegates and Alternates were given copies of a letter dated March 19, 1986 addressed to County Board Chairman Richard J. Hallett. This letter dealt with questions pertaining to the insurance needs of the VAC office. The commission members were told that their office had not recieved any bids in errors and omissions.

It was brought to the attention of the VAC that a few protesters of the Viet Nam War are attempting to find the funding to build a monument to honor the war protesters. Handouts were given to the delegates and alternates so that they can inform their post members.

Supt. Rue advised the commission that a hearing had been set for May 9, 1986, in the courtroom of Judge Flood. Commonwealth Edison has paid its assessed VAC tax under protest. He further stated that he would be present to hear their arguement.

Delegate Terry Leutz stated that Nam Vets will be holding an open house on Sunday, April 13, 1986, at 1:00 p.m. This is open to all veteran organizations and he encourages them to participate. He further stated that the Nam Vets are in the process of planning their second trip to Hines VA Hospital. They are in need of books, toothbrushes, etc. for the veterans that are hospitalized in the facility. Anyone having items that the veterans may need are asked to drop them off at the Nam Vets Post home in Ottawa on any Saturday. They will be planning on going to Hines the latter part of May.

A motion was made by Martin Hess and seconded by Ernie Patton to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 1986 at the Old Courthouse in Ottawa. The south door will be open from 7:00 until 7:45 p.m.

Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of May 14, 1986 meeting.

Members in attendance: Martin Rue, Superintendent; Delegate Al Strozewski; Delegate Ralph Adler; Delegate Carl Kirar; Delegate Martin Stewart; Delegate Alex Pattelli; and Alternate Jim Cappellini.

Meeting opened with proper ceremonies. Minutes from the April 9, 1986 meeting were read and approved. Motion by Pattelli and seconded by Strozewski, passed.

Motion was made by Delegate Adler, seconded by Delegate Kirar to write a letter about indigents inability to get admitted to alcoholic wards in hospitals. Passed.

Motion by Del. Adler, seconded by Del. Strozewski to write a resolution to county V.A.C. showing opposition to Public Aid directive. Passed.

Motion to support by resolution the Streater Correctional Facility, made by Del. Marty Stewart, seconded by Del. Adler. Passed. Make copies of the resolution and send it in to the V.A.C.

The June 1986 V.A.C. meeting will be canceled. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 1986, at the Old Courthouse in Ottawa. The south door will be open from 7:00 until 7:40 p.m.

## EDITORIAL

# Let's clear the final hurdle for veteran's care facility

Tomorrow is the Fourth of July, the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty. God HAS blessed America, and our veterans have protected that blessing through two world wars, and more. Now it's time for a little blessing of their own.

The fate of the Veteran's Skilled Care Nursing Facility in La Salle will be in the hands of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board when it meets in Chicago next week. They will be discussing whether to issue a certificate of need for the La Salle facility.

When our young men were needed to fight in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War, they responded. It is now time that Illinois responds to an ever-increasing need for skilled care nursing home beds.

At the present time, the Veteran's Administration is unable to provide treatment for approximately 35,000 veterans every month. Since the state of Illinois ranks fourth in veteran population, the problem is more acute in Illinois.

There are currently 1,107,674 war veterans located in Illinois with approximately 50 percent of those being WWI and WWII veterans. The average age of these vets is over 65. One can readily see that the need for skilled care

nursing home facilities, such as those proposed for La Salle, will be on the increase each year. Without sufficient resources or payment, the private nursing homes are not a solution to this ever-increasing problem.

The News-Tribune fully supports the location of a Veteran's Skilled Care Nursing Home in La Salle at the site of the former St. Mary's Hospital. La Salle's location, within close proximity to all major metropolitan areas of the state, together with being at the crossroads of two major interstate systems, makes La Salle the most logical location for this facility.

In addition to the obvious need for this facility, there is also the economic benefits to be derived. It is anticipated that 100 people will be employed at this new facility, much needed due to the high unemployment rate in the Illinois Valley. The cost of construction is estimated at \$7.2 million, which will be a boost to the local economy. It is also anticipated that local business establishments will benefit as a result of the influx of out-of-town visitors.

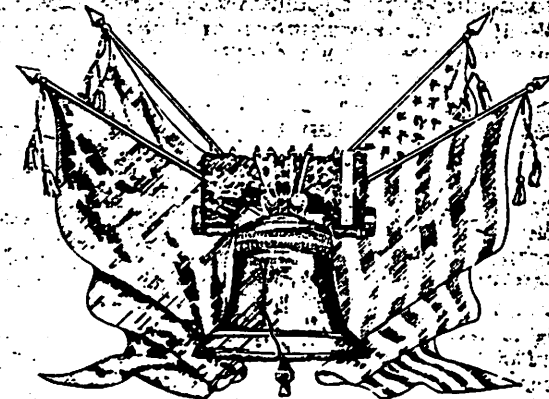
Everything appears to be moving forward. Gov. James R. Thompson has stated his commitment toward this facility. The city of La Salle has made available the land needed. The building plans and specifications have

been prepared and the project has received the support and endorsement of every veterans organization. The state of Illinois has appropriated the necessary funds for construction.

Only one hurdle remains. The certificate of need must be issued by the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board.

We urge the board to proceed with all due diligence in the issuance of that certificate.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, let us not forget those men and women who have served this country to preserve liberty and justice for all.



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Ottawa, Illinois 61350

V.A.C. meeting July 9, 1986

Members present: Nick Pacetti, Delegate Post 4668; John Cawley, Delegate Post 237; Paul Koenig, Alternate Nam Vets; James Cappellini, Alternate Post 235; Ralph Adler, Delegate Post 235; and Martin J. Rue, Superintendent.

Due to no quorum at our last VAC meeting an informal discussion of our office activities were held.

A. We were told that the Department of Public Aid was refusing to give medical cards to any client receiving total general assistance from a township supervisor or VAC office. This would mean that the general assistance office would be forced to pick up all medical expenditures of its client. (inpatient, outpatient, and prescriptions) What this would do is force general assistance offices to become receivers of the State of Illinois. Motion by Ralph Adler second by John Cawley that our office pursue the possibility of having the Dept. of Public Aid, State of Illinois change their directive. All present voted except Paul Koenig, Nam Vets, who abstained.

B. The decision rendered by the Public Aid Committee against Bruce Township and the VAC Committee was discussed. We were told that our shelter payment standard was too low and must be changed. The effects of that would relieve the township supervisors of paying any assistance and force the VAC to pick up all medical payments should our clients elect only VAC assistance. We were also told that our due process of law was violated. Motion by Pacetti, seconded by Alder that we appeal the Public Aid Committee's decision pertaining to the VAC. All present voted ~~PA~~, except Paul Koenig.

The next meeting will be held on August 13, 1986, at the Old Courthouse in downtown Ottawa. The south door will be open from 7:00 until 7:40 p.m.



BUDGET 1987

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Dept. 01	1986 appropriations	VAC 1986 expenditures	VAC Recommendations
511.001 Telephone	\$1,500.00	\$1,501.32	
517.001 Bldg Rental/utilities	\$2,760.00	.00	
540.001 Postage	\$700.00	\$17.27	
550.001 Conferences & Seminars	\$500.00	\$95.64	
554.001 Travel & Transportation	\$2,500.00	\$903.70	
570.001 Dues & Membership	\$200.00	.00	
582.001 New Programs	\$30,000.00	.00	
601.001 Office Equipment	\$2,250.00	\$1,897.31	
.002 Books & Periodicals	\$200.00	\$77.00	
.003 Office Equipment repair	\$200.00	.00	
640.001 Printing	\$0.00	.00	
717.001 Loan to repay	\$0.00	.00	
806.001 Emergency relief	\$50,000.00	\$35,086.37	
810.001 Health & Life insur.	\$2,040.00	\$960.00	
.002 Unemployment	\$0.00	.00	
875.001 Contingencies	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	
907.001 Superintendent	\$20,000.00	\$12,999.98	
965.001 Office Supervisor	\$9,360.00	\$6,076.80	

Appropriation expenditures as of July 29, 1986.

Veterans Assistance Commission minutes from August 13, 1986

Members present: Delegates Nick Pacetti, Post 4668; Ralph Adler, Post 235; Al Strozewski, Post 426; John Cawley, Veterans Memorial Group, Carl Kirar, Post 883; Sam Maggio, Marine Corp League. Chairman Al Strozewski, Post 883; and Alternate Bob Eide.

All delegates and alternates were reminded that their posts election of representatives to the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission should be held prior to October of 1986. The names of the newly elected delegates and alternates should be presented at our October meeting. Those post who have not had their elections are running out of time.

We spent the rest of the time finalizing the 1987 budget. The following byline items was accepted by the delegates and alternates.

1. telephone - \$4500 motion by Adler, seconded by Kirar, passed.
- \* 2. Building rental/utilities - \$2760
3. Postage - \$700, motion by Sadowski, seconded by Maggio, passed.
4. Conferences and Seminars - \$500
5. Travel and Transportation - \$2500
6. Membership and Dues - \$200
7. New Programs - \$30,000
8. Professional services and legal fees - \$10,000, motion by Sadowski, seconded by Adler, passed
9. Office Equipment - \$2500, motion by Cawley, seconded by Strozewski, passed.
10. Books and Periodicals - \$200
11. Office Supplies - \$200, motion by Adler, seconded by Cawley, passed
12. Emergency Relief - \$150,000, motion by Sadowski, seconded by Eide, passed.
- \* 13. Health and Life Insurance - \$2040
14. Errors and Omission Insurance - \$15,000, motion by Adler, seconded by Strozewski, passed.
15. Contingency - \$5000, motion by Maggio, seconded by Cawley, passed.
16. Superintendent - \$35,000, motion by Strozewski, seconded by Eide, passed.
17. Office Supervisor - \$15,000, motion by Strozewski, seconded by Maggio, passed.

\* Should these line items increase in cost we expect the line item to be increased.

Salaries that were recommended were not considered as raises, but as adjustments due to the fact that we were told that the county officials needed time to appraise the operation of the Veterans Assistance Commission office. We have now been in operation practically three years and feel they have had adequate time to evaluate our office. We feel strongly that those employed by the commission should be justly compensated for their work. They have proven themselves and we feel that the county has had adequate time and should fulfill their commitment. Our employees should be justly compensated for their work.

1987 Budget  
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

DEPT. 20-01	1986 appropriations	1986 VAC expenditures	1987 VAC recommendations	County VAC Recommended
511.001 Telephone	\$1,500.00	\$1,501.32	\$4,500.00	\$3,000.00
* 517.001 Bldg Rental/utilities	\$2,760.00	.00	\$2,760.00	\$3,000.00
540.001 Postage	\$700.00	\$17.27	\$700.00	\$100.00
550.001 Conferences & Seminars	\$500.00	\$95.64	\$500.00	\$500.00
554.001 Travel and Transportation	\$2,500.00	\$903.70	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
570.001 Dues & Membership	\$200.00	.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
582.001 New Programs	\$30,000.00	.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
586.001 Professional Services (legal fees)	.00	.00	\$10,000.00	eliminate
601.001 Office <del>equipment</del> supplies	\$2,250.00	\$1,897.31	\$2,500.00	\$800.00
601.002 Books & Periodicals	\$200.00	\$77.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
601.003 Office Equipment Repair	\$200.00	.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
640.001 Printing	.00	.00	.00	eliminate
717.001 Loan to Repay	.00	.00	.00	eliminate
806.001 Emergency Relief	\$50,000.00	\$35,086.36	\$150,000.00	\$60,000.00
* 810.001 Health & Life Insurance	\$2,040.00	\$960.00	\$2,040.00	\$2,040.00
810.002 Unemployment	.00	.00	.00	eliminate
810.003 Errors & Omissions	.00	.00	\$15,000.00	eliminate
875.001 Contingencies	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
907.001 Superintendent	\$20,000.00	\$12,999.98	\$35,000.00	
965.001 Office Supervisor	\$9,360.00	\$6,076.80	\$15,000.00	

Appropriation expenditures as of July 29, 1986

\$106,040.00

\* Should these line items increase in cost we expect the increase to be added to the appropriation.

September 8, 1986

TO: Concerned Veterans of the Illinois Valley  
FROM: Martin J. Rue, Spokesperson

Dear Commanders:

Please advise your members and auxiliary of the Concerned Veterans meeting on September 25, 1986. It will be held at the Ottawa American Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. We would appreciate representation from your organization. This is a special meeting in which public servants who are running for office will be addressing the veterans. This will be your opportunity to hear what these individuals will do for you should they be elected this coming November. As I travel to veterans organizations throughout the county I hear constant complaints of how the veteran populous have been slighted. As their complaints continue in our discussions it becomes obvious that many had not even voted in the past election, or else they knew nothing about the individual they voted for. These members now have an opportunity to hear what these individuals will do for them, so that their vote is not wasted. If we do not take the time or opportunity who support those who will support us, then we really have nothing to complain about. It is our elected officials that can end our plight or will make life more miserable for us. We are looking forward to seeing those concerned veterans and their spouses on the 25 of September. As you know, many politicians are merely concerned with numbers. Let us show them that we have numbers.

We will also discuss the present status of the LaSalle Veterans Home Program.

Sincerely yours,

Martin J. Rue, Spokesperson  
Concerned Veterans of the  
Illinois Valley

I received a call from Dr. Kuftca from I.V.C.C.. He told me that J.T.P.A. at this time is not interested in setting up a V.O.I.C. They apparently do not know the benefits that can be obtained from this type of office. Dr. Kuftca did state that he is going to apply for a \$75,000 grant which will permit the college to train veterans in the operations of small business. They will use the Vietnam Era Veterans as a target group. They plan on educating, counseling, and placing the veteran. He implied that J.T.P.A. would be willing to accept this type of programing. He asked if we would be willing to give a letter of support should it be needed.

**COUNTY OF LA SALLE**  
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Superintendent  
(815)433-1761

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Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Minutes from the November 12, 1986, meeting.

Members present:

Delegates: Al Strozewski, Post 426; Nick Pacetti, Post 4668; Sam Maggio, Marine Corp League; Ed Robinson, Post 33; Ralph Adler, Post 235; Ernie Patton, Post 217; Carl Kirar, Post 883; Alternates James Cappellini, Post 235; Ed Wroblewski, Post 8232; Joe Gerace, Post 4668; and Chairman John Sadowski.

At our last meeting a few upcoming dates were discussed.

1. Nov. 29, 1986, the City of LaSalle will be holding its Christmas Parade. They had asked if any veteran posts would send their color guards. The LaSalle and Oglesby Memorial groups said they would participate along with the Peru Memorial group and Amvets. It was suggested at our meeting that we ask the City of LaSalle if the parade route could turn south on Wright Street instead of Bucklin. It was also suggested that the news media should get a picture of the veterans who participate in printage.

2. On December 7, 1986, there will be a Pearl Harbor Survivors Parade in Peru, Illinois. The Peru Memorial group has requested that the local veteran organizations join with the Pearl Harbor survivors in a salute to the living and the dead. These men and women must always be remembered.

3. On December 7, 1986, the LaSalle-Peru Amvets Post 78 will be holding its Grand Opening at approximately 1:00 p.m. There will be free hors d'oeuvres served at there post home. All veterans are encouraged to join with the Amvets in sharing their happiness.

Once again the salary adjustments of the V.A.C. Superintendent and his Administrative Assistant were discussed. We were informed that in other LaSalle County departments secretaries had been hired at a starting wage of \$10,400. We were also advised that elected County department heads were getting a raise which will bring their salaries to \$28,500 per year by 1988. We were also told that some department heads receive salaries of \$35,000 to \$45,000 per year. Our superintendent stated that he would be meeting with Fee and Salary for the second time in the past month. He informed us that after the first meeting the Fee and Salary Committee went into executive session after his presentation. They had denied his requests due to the fact that if they were approved the Fee and Salary Committee would have to grant additional staff personnel to two other departments. One of our committee members then added that a member of the Fee and Salary Committee told him that our VAC office was only part-time.

Our superintendent explained about some of the new cases that his office was working on. The largest number of cases involved VA student loan collections. He stated that the VA, nationwide will be turning over approximately 213,000 overpayment debts to Data-Con Systems, Inc. Data-Con is adding additional fees to the original debts. This appears to be in direct violation to the State of Illinois Criminal Code. He has contacted the States Attorney's Office and the VA in an attempt to find out what federal regulation supercedes the above mentioned Illinois Statute. He has not been able to obtain the federal regulation.

Once again the State of Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions is submitting changes in the Bogardus Act to the Illinois legislators. We are hoping that the veterans organizations throughout the State of Illinois will support this legislation.

Our VAC held it annual election of its officers. The officers of the LaSalle County VAC for the years of 1986-87 are as follows:

Joe Cawley - Chairman of the Commission  
Nick Pacetti - Chaplain  
Carl Kirar - Vice Chairman  
Ralph Adler - Sgt. at Arms

Veterans Assistance Commission minutes from the December 10, 1986 meeting

Members present:

Delegates Ed Robinson, Post 33; Sam Maggio, Marine Corp League; Nick Pacetti, Post 4668; John Cawley, Post 237; Ralph Adler, Post 235, Carl Kirar, Post 883; Alternates John Sadowski, Post 883; and James Cappellini, Post 235/

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Motion made by Ralph Adler, seconded by John Sadowski to accept minutes, passed.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Delegates and alternates present were insistent that a letter must be sent to States Attorney Gary Peterlin explaining that the VAC expects their elected superintendent and administrative assistant to be justfully compensated for their services. Our elected office must be treated equally with other elected offices.

Our Superintendent has been directed by the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission to write a letter to States Attorney Gary Peterlin explaining our demands. Motion by Alder, seconded by Maggio to have Mr. Rue write to States Attorney Gary Peterlin and request litigating proceedings start. Motion un-animously passed.