

PREPARED BY: :  
CHRISTA HAMMERS  
SUPERINTENDENT



# JANUARY 2024

Monthly Report

Fiscal Year 2025

# MEETING AGENDA

1-22-2025

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- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplain's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - a. End of Year Report/Governor Report
  - b. Office Activity - December
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
  - a. Approval of Updated General Assistance Program
  - b. Bylaw Updates for Compliance
  - c. \*\* Closed Session\*\* Budget
- X. For the Good of the Commission
  - a. Delegate/Alternate Update Reminder
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

# Meeting MINUTES

**11/27/2024**

## Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

President Andy Ruggerio called the meeting to order at 5:01pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Roscoe Mazur - AmLeg - Oglesby / Lance Sires - AmLeg - Marseilles / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Mike Harden - AmLeg - Ottawa / Tom Shea - AmLeg - Ottawa / Louis Sekula - AmLeg - LaSalle / Phil Harth - AmLeg - Mendota / Gary Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / Dan Jackson - VFW - Marseilles / OTHER: Jack Leininger (Post 5506) / Bill Luther (Post 2470)

### Officers Present

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

### Employees Present

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

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of previous meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Harold Olsen and seconded by Roscoe Mazur. Motion passed unanimously.

## Public Comment

Bill Luther mentioned that the LaSalle Celebration of Lights is up and worth driving through.  
Be sure to see the office light contribution - its great.

## Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that she and Lissa attended a meeting with Senator Tom Bennett and other Post members, IDVA and VSO's to discuss Veterans issues in Pontiac on November 7th. It went well and we gave ideas on how to better serve the Veteran population.

Christa also discussed that we she was able to attend the LaSalle Veterans Home Veterans Day event as their speaker and it was an honor to get to meet wth teh Veterans, families and staff.

Christa informed the Commission that Kelli, Lissa and herself went to Abraham Lincoln Cemetery for the unaccompanied Veterans ceremony. We were humbled and honored to be allowed to do so and happy to partake in the submariner event after.

Christa then told the commission that the office also attended the Streator Senior Fair on October 16th at the Streator YMCA. There were a lot of people that visited the booth and we look forward to next year.

Christa then stated that we also attendedthe Utica Veterans Day Parade on November 3rd and a flag raising ceremony at IVCC on the 8th for Veterans Day.

The office is gave out many green lights for the third year in a row to light up the county green.

The office has the tags for the Giving Tree and those will be available. We plan on painting the LaSalle VA Home windows on December 4th 1pm-when complete. Santa will also be coming back to the VAC on December 7th 10am-1pm.

# Meeting MINUTES

## Continued:

The VAC continues to see new clients and the amount phone calls average 700+ monthly. The VAC as brought in over \$9.5 million to Veterans and families through the end of October - over \$3.4 million from where we were this time last year.

Christa informed the Commission that many county meetings have taken place and our line item for securing/being able to purchase property and build has been removed via the LaSalle County Finance Committee. Next steps would be to make sure they are aware of the legislation that governs us and continue to prove just and necessary needs for the funds. She stated that she continues to gather evidence and support for the office to continue to be in Peru.

Christa stated that she continues to complete the end of year report and governors letter- but they will be available online once done. No meeting in December.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Dennis Znaniacki and seconded by Roscoe Mazur. Motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

NONE.

## New Business

The Commission expressed interest in learning more about the MVAA. Set a meeting date of January 17th for any post/commission members that would like to know more about it at the Peru office - 3pm.

Lissa went over Delegate and Alternate forms that are to be sent out January first- NEED to be in our hands by March 1st. OMA to be taken by anyone new that has not taken before.

Lissa went over the Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion to approve as written made by Elton Murphy. Seconded by Harold Olsen.

Motion passed unanimously.

# Meeting MINUTES

## Continued:

Christa went over FY25 Holiday schedule.

Motion to approve as presented made by Elton Murphy. Seconded by Dennis Znaniiecki.

Motion passed unanimously.

Christa went over the FY25 Commission meeting schedule.

Motion to approve made by Elton Murphy. Seconded by Harold Olsen.

Motion passed unanimously.

## For the Good of the Commission

Dennis Znaniiecki discussed Pearl Harbor Day would be December 7th at South Shore Boat Club. Short parade followed by speakers/presentation by posts. Mentioned that Superintendent Christa Hammers would be guest speaker.

Harold Olsen mentioned that there is a flu going around at the Veterans Home. Unfortunately not taking many visitors at this time. If anyone wants to volunteer their time, you need to talk to Bailie in activities.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Harold Olsen and seconded by Dennis Znaniiecki.

Motion passed unanimously at 6:01pm.

DECEMBER**Office Activity:**

On December 7th our office had Santa visit. We were able to bring joy to a few Veterans/families over the holiday season.

Also on that day - Christa was able to attend the 83rd Pearl Harbor Day Event at South Shore. She was honored to speak and throw the wreath. It was an amazing experience.

Once again we were able to paint the windows of LaSalle Veterans Home on December 4th and spread some cheer. VP Harold Olsen joined us and we appreciate his creative skills.

We were able to get all 88 Veterans their Christmas gifts. Due to the generosity of our community - each Veteran recieved at least 4 gifts each. Thank you to our Admin Kelli for making sure each one was wrapped and sorted for an easy distribution process.

We worked hard to get all end of year reports completed along with some changes to bylaws and the general assistance program. The governors report was submitted on December 27th.

The office sent out the Delegate/Alternate forms for the posts to complete. Make sure these are in our hands no later than March 1st.

Office had our meeting for MVAA training with anyone that had interest in learning more on January 17th. It was a great turn out and we hope that if anyone has questions - they reach out. We would be happy to do another training.

Christa and Lissa will be in Peoria Jan 23-24 for the State Association Winter Meetings.

Our Office  
**EVENTS**

# Meeting MINUTES

DECEMBER Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2025 Amount	Monthly Amount
70%	4/25/2024	Dec-25	\$ 36,886.00	\$ 1,858.19
SMC	3/12/2024	Dec-25	\$ 11,853.92	\$ 937.16
50%	6/20/2024	Dec-25	\$ 14,823.88	\$ 1,102.04
80% IU P&T	7/3/2023	Dec-25	\$ 82,586.92	\$ 4,180.97
100%	8/15/2024	Dec-25	\$ 50,463.42	\$ 3,831.30
80%	4/8/2024	Dec-25	\$ 31,978.66	\$ 2,161.01
50%	11/12/2024	Dec-25	\$ 6,704.00	\$ 1,179.16
90%	8/22/2024	Dec-25	\$ 31,486.92	\$ 2,489.96
40%	7/20/2023	Dec-25	\$ 15,906.88	\$ 774.16
80% P&T IU	3/16/2009	Dec-25	\$ 261,384.59	\$ 4,078.99
50%	8/12/2024	Dec-25	\$ 29,283.12	\$ 1,287.04
DIC	9/1/2024	Dec-25	\$ 28,057.26	\$ 2,004.09
MOD	9/1/2024	Dec-25	\$ 4,524.99	\$ -
Burial	9/1/2024	Dec-25	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
20%	8/15/2024	Dec-25	\$ 4,665.18	\$ 346.95
70%	6/2/2022	Dec-25	\$ 64,503.11	\$ 1,759.19
SMC	4/19/2024	Dec-25	\$ 2,223.16	\$ 96.77
Dependent	12/2/2024	Dec-25	\$ 2,040.00	\$ 170.00
SMC	8/29/2024	Dec-25	\$ 58,731.66	\$ 4,638.12
90%	6/16/2023	Dec-25	\$ 57,626.21	\$ 2,297.96
Dependent	12/14/2022	Dec-25	\$ 3,664.00	\$ 128.00
80%	7/24/2024	Dec-25	\$ 34,563.61	\$ 2,044.89
Date of claim	4/14/2022	Dec-25	\$ 45,959.17	\$ -
DIC	10/21/2024	Dec-25	\$ 25,417.73	\$ 2,004.09
Burial	6/25/2024	Dec-25	\$ 948.00	\$ -
10%	8/27/2024	Dec-25	\$ 2,619.81	\$ 175.51
10%	6/27/2023	Dec-25	\$ 4,990.48	\$ 175.51
40%	12/5/2023	Dec-25	\$ 26,153.28	\$ 1,102.04
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$942,045.96</b>	<b>\$40,823.10</b>
	<b>Year to Date Total</b>		<b>\$942,045.96</b>	<b>\$40,823.10</b>

The VAC has brought in just under \$1 Million in new benefits paid out to our Veterans and Families this past month! We continue to see new clients daily and thank all our Veterans and Families for trusting us with their claims process.

<b>DECEMBER Office Activity</b>			
Office Visits	56	Intent to File	9
Phone	490	Intital Claims	25
Outstation	19	Appeals	13
Mendota	3	VA Healthcare	6
Streator	8	Pension/DIC	1
Marseilles	8	Other	115

Our December numbers are low due to holiday season and winter weather. We see this trend every year. We will see a rise in Property Tax exemptions here these next few months and our numbers increase throughout the year.

<b>DECEMBER OTHER OFFICE ACTIVITY</b>			
PTSD GROUP	36	WALK-INS:	67
FLUTES	5	APPT MADE	14
VHA	5	QUESTIONS	48
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>113</b>