

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda January 24, 2018

- 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 November 2017 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
 - a. Mike Gladd – LaSalle County Veterans Tribute Group
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Year End Report
 - c. Goals for 2018
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 11/15/2017

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Jim Ebner called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Bill Luther – VFW, Ottawa – John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, LaSalle – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Jim Nanouski – American Legion, Ottawa – Jack Leiningner – VFW, Marseilles.

Officers Present

President – Jim Ebner
Vice President – Scott Buennemeyer
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent
Christa Hammers – Assistant Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the October 2017 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

- a. **Office Activity** – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 78 people who visited the office and 185 phone calls for October. The office has brought in \$13,290.92 for November through the end of 2017 - totaling \$1,295,629.15.
- b. Steven Kreitzer talked about the Hines Director meeting and the current parking situation.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



- c. Steven Kreitzer asked for support in running for the SGT of Arms position in the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions. This was motioned by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Scott Buennemeyer.

d.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by George Mason. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – Elections

- a President
- There was a motion to nominate Scott Buennemeyer made by Jack Leininger
 - No further nominations were made and nominations for President were closed
- B Vice President
- There was a motion to nominate Chuck Erb made by Scott Buennemeyer
 - No further nominations were made and nominations for Vice President were closed
- C Guard
- There was a motion to nominate Jim Nanowski made by Nick Nekrosius
 - No further nominations were made and nominations for Guard were closed
- D Chaplin
- There was a motion to nominate George Mason made by Nick Nekrosius
 - No further nominations were made and nominations for Chaplin were closed

Nick Nekrosius made the motion that we cast one unanimous ballot for the elected positions given there was no opposition. This was seconded by John Duback and passed unanimously.

New Business – The 2018 meeting schedule was approved as presented.

For the Good of the Commission

- Veterans groups went over their local events.
- Reminder that meeting was on January 24, 2018 and that there would be no meeting in December.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Buennemeyer and seconded by Nick Nekrosius. Motion passed unanimously at 5:55 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Superintendent Report

December Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
80%	8/2017	12/2018	\$ 24,898.08	\$ 1,556.13	North West
50%	7/2017	12/2018	\$ 14,256.88	\$ 838.64	North East
10%	8/2017	12/2018	\$ 2,137.12	\$ 133.57	North East
70%	9/2017	12/2018	\$ 18,077.10	\$ 1,205.14	North East
DIC	3/2017	12/2018	\$ 26,416.95	\$ 1,257.95	North East
80%	6/2017	12/2018	\$ 28,010.34	\$ 1,556.13	South East
Totals:			\$ 113,796.47	\$ 6,547.56	
Year to Date Total			\$ 113,796.47	\$ 6,547.56	

Office Activity November

Office Visits	64	VA Compensation	34
Phone	161	VA Healthcare	10
Outstation	14	VA Pension	9
LaSalle	5	Other	184
Mendota	3	Property Taxes	2
Streator	6		

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

January Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount		Monthly amount	Location
DIC	4/2017	12/2018	\$	14,337.21	\$ 754.59	North East
100%	10/2014	12/2018	\$	114,539.40	\$ 3,181.65	North East
Totals:			\$	128,876.61	\$ 3,936.24	
Year to Date Total			\$	242,673.08	\$ 10,483.80	

Office Activity December

Office Visits	69	VA Compensation	44
Phone	113	VA Healthcare	9
Outstation	6	VA Pension	10
LaSalle	1	Other	125
Mendota	3	Property Taxes	0
Streator	2		

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

**Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer**



**Office Manager
Christa Hammers**

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting's 2018

Meetings Start at 5:00 PM

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

July 25

August 22

September 26

October 24

November 28

December No Meeting

LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS TRIBUTE GROUP PRESENTS

THE MOVING WALL

JUNE 7-11, 2018 | OTTAWA, IL



LOCATION

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE
UAW REGION 4 PAT
GREATHOUSE CENTER

1000 E CENTER STREET
OTTAWA, IL 61350

CONTACT

MICHAEL GLADD
815-830-3746
michaelgladd1951@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH-
MOVING WALL ARRIVES
- THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH-
OPENING CEREMONY, 5:00PM
- SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH-
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, 8:00PM
- MONDAY, JUNE 11TH-
CLOSING CEREMONY, NOON



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Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
7/6/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

[35 ILCS 200/15-169](#)



Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, for the 2016 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year. Provides that, for the 2015 taxable year and thereafter, the exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption in the current taxable year if he or she had survived. Effective immediately.



Senate Floor Amendment No. 1

Adds provisions to the introduced bill providing that, for taxable year 2016 and thereafter, 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 being a current recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation shall be considered a surviving spouse for the purposes of the exemption for veterans with disabilities. Provides that, for those surviving spouses, the property shall be exempt.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
1/18/2017	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Terry Link
1/18/2017	Senate	First Reading
1/18/2017	Senate	Referred to Assignments
1/24/2017	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Julie A. Morrison
1/24/2017	Senate	Assigned to Veterans Affairs
1/24/2017	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Melinda Bush
1/26/2017	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Dan McConchie
1/27/2017	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Patricia Van Pelt

2/6/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Sue Rezin
2/7/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson
2/10/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Pamela J. Althoff
2/14/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Thomas Cullerton
2/15/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Omar Aquino
2/15/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Wm. Sam McCann
2/16/2017	Senate	Do Pass Veterans Affairs; 006-000-000
2/16/2017	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading February 28, 2017
2/16/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Iris Y. Martinez
2/16/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
2/16/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Bill Cunningham
2/16/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Michael E. Hastings
2/17/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Antonio Muñoz
2/27/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. William R. Haine
3/16/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. Ira I. Silverstein
3/28/2017	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by Sen. Terry Link
3/28/2017	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Referred to Assignments
4/4/2017	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Assignments Refers to Veterans Affairs
4/26/2017	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Recommend Do Adopt Veterans Affairs; 005-000-000
4/26/2017	Senate	Second Reading
4/26/2017	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Adopted; Link
4/26/2017	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading April 27, 2017
4/27/2017	Senate	Third Reading - Passed; 052-000-000
4/28/2017	House	Arrived in House
4/28/2017	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Rita Mayfield
4/28/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Mark Batnick
4/28/2017	House	First Reading
4/28/2017	House	Referred to Rules Committee
5/1/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia
5/2/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Jerry Lee Long
5/3/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Kelly M. Burke
5/3/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Martin J. Moylan
5/3/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Silvana Tabares
5/3/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit
5/3/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Thaddeus Jones
5/9/2017	House	Assigned to Revenue & Finance Committee
5/9/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Sam Yingling
5/16/2017	House	To Property Tax Subcommittee
5/19/2017	House	Committee Deadline Extended-Rule 9(b) May 26, 2017
5/26/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) May 31, 2017
5/29/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Avery Bourne
5/31/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee
6/21/2017	House	Assigned to Executive Committee
6/21/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) June 30, 2017
6/30/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) July 7, 2017
7/6/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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11/10/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

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Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

35 ILCS 200/15-169

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Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities shall be prorated if the property is first used as a qualified residence by a veteran with a disability after January 1 of a taxable year. Effective immediately.



House Committee Amendment No. 1

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill. Further amends the Property Tax Code. In the Section concerning the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, provides that, for taxable year 2018 and thereafter, "qualified residence" means real property with a fair cash value of less than \$300,000 (currently, an equalized assessed value of less than \$250,000) that is the primary residence of a veteran with a disability. Provides that, for taxable year 2017 and thereafter, for the purpose of the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, "surviving spouse" means (i) the surviving spouse of a veteran who qualified for the exemption prior to his or her death; (ii) the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty; or (iii) the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who applied for a service-connected disability certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense no earlier than January 1, 2007 and would have qualified for the exemption if he or she had survived. Effective immediately.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
2/7/2017	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Sue Rezin
2/7/2017	Senate	First Reading
2/7/2017	Senate	Referred to Assignments
2/8/2017	Senate	Assigned to Revenue
2/22/2017	Senate	Do Pass Revenue ; 007-000-000
2/22/2017	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading February 28, 2017
3/15/2017	Senate	Second Reading
3/15/2017	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading March 16, 2017

4/26/2017	Senate	Third Reading - Passed; 057-000-000
4/26/2017	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Bill Cunningham</u>
4/26/2017	House	Arrived in House
4/26/2017	House	Chief House Sponsor <u>Rep. David A. Welter</u>
4/26/2017	House	First Reading
4/26/2017	House	Referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
5/1/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia</u>
5/3/2017	House	Assigned to <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u>
5/11/2017	House	To <u>Property Tax Subcommittee</u>
5/19/2017	House	Committee Deadline Extended-Rule 9(b) May 26, 2017
5/23/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit</u>
5/23/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Martin J. Moylan</u>
5/23/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Silvana Tabares</u>
5/26/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) May 31, 2017
5/29/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Avery Bourne</u>
5/31/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
6/21/2017	House	Assigned to <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u>
6/21/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) June 30, 2017
6/30/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) July 7, 2017
7/6/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
11/2/2017	House	Assigned to <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u>
11/2/2017	House	Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) November 10, 2017
11/6/2017	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Clerk by <u>Rep. David Harris</u>
11/6/2017	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
11/7/2017	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Rules Refers to <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u>
11/7/2017	House	Motion Filed to Suspend Rule 21 <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u> ; <u>Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie</u>
11/7/2017	House	Motion to Suspend Rule 21 - Prevailed
11/7/2017	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. David Harris</u>
11/7/2017	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Adopted in <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u> ; by Voice Vote
11/7/2017	House	Do Pass as Amended / Short Debate <u>Revenue & Finance Committee</u> ; 011-000-000
11/7/2017	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
11/7/2017	House	Second Reading - Short Debate
11/7/2017	House	Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Short Debate
11/8/2017	House	Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. Martin J. Moylan</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Sara Wojcicki Jimenez</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Jeanne M Ives</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Brian W. Stewart</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Daniel Swanson</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Randy E. Frese</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr.</u>
11/8/2017	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Ryan Spain</u>
11/10/2017	House	Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>

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LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Delegate/Alternate Information Form

COMMANDER _____

POST NAME & NUMBER _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

DELEGATE

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ALTERNATE

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Office Manager
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in January 24, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
R. Mark Heferman	Am Legion 425	Delegate
Scott Brenneman	Marseilles VFW	President
JOHN DUBACK	AMVETS Post 30	ALTERNATE
Jim Ebner	OGLESBY Post 237	DELEGATE
Douglas Grieve	Post 260	Delegate
Bill Lutzler	Post 2470	ALT.
Chad Oak	Post 5506	Delegate
Mike GLAD	LEUTH	GUEST
Tom Vandeyard	V.F.W 2476	Council
Rance C. Long	Post 235 Marseilles	Delegate
Greg Stock	Post 235 Marseilles	ALT
Jim Nankowski	Ottawa Post 33	ALT
Bill Hartman	Mendota Legion 540	Delegate
Tom Troutman	MENDOTA VFW 4079	Delegate
Norold R. Olson	Peru AMVETS	Delegate



Annual Report for Veterans Assistance Commission

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

**Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer**



**Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers**

Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

December 14, 2017

Governor Rauner,

As of 1984 the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission was created and located in the LaSalle County Courthouse. The office has had many achievements over the past 3 decades' lead by Martin Rue. On December 1, 2016 I, Steven Kreitzer, took over to carry on the legacy this office has created.

Since its inception, the office has secured millions of dollars in benefits each year as well as a multitude of other benefits for our local veterans. This has helped the veterans financially and emotionally.

Due to the number of claims filed with the VA, the time frame of a claim from start to finish has been taking approximately 4-6 months. I am extremely proud to report that claims have brought in monetary benefits for veterans and their families totaling \$1,295,629.15. These numbers are only for the calendar year of 2017. In 2018, we will start from scratch again and hope we can be as productive as last year.

We also work with those who have little or no means to care for themselves. We have paid claims for direct financial assistance totaling \$15,618.08 via vouchers to vendors. This includes payments for shelter and utilities.

We believe the 33th year of our Veterans Assistance Commission has provided great benefits for the county and our county veterans. We aspire to play an even greater role in the coming year, as we continue to expand and reach out to a far greater number of veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Kreitzer
Superintendent

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

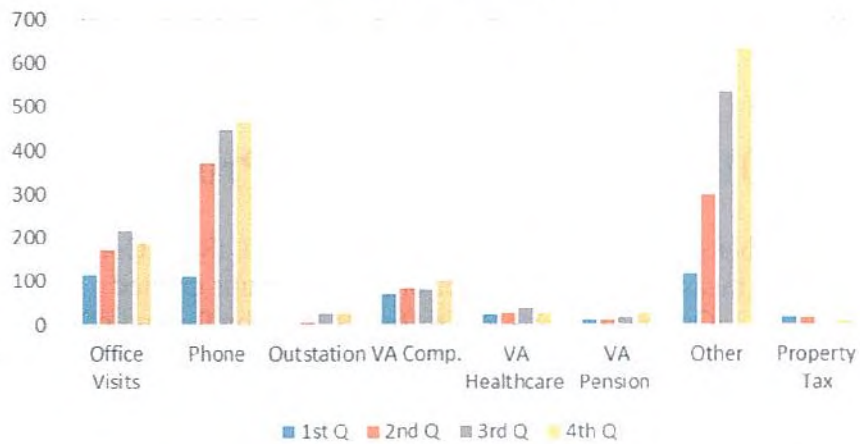
Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



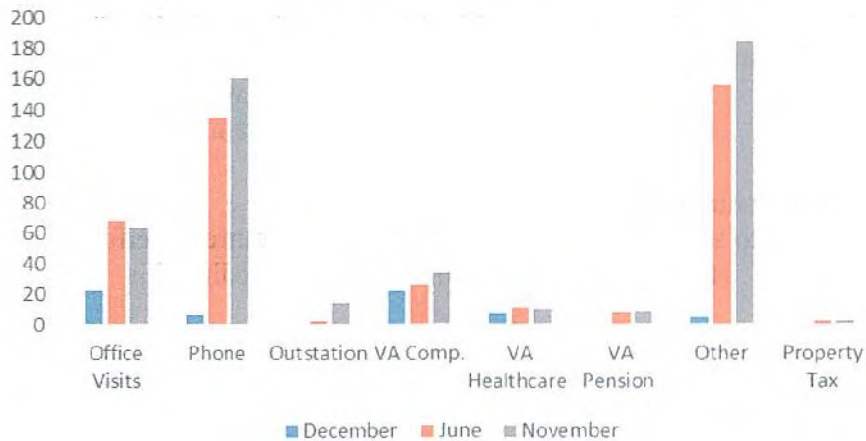
Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

2017 Office Activity

2017 Quarterly Report



3 Month Overview



119 W. Madison St.
 Courthouse Room 103A
 Ottawa, IL 61350
 Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Presented May 24, 2017

Mission: To advocate for veterans and their families.

Vision: To make sure no military family or veteran in LaSalle County goes without knowing we support our troops

2017 Strategic Goals and Progress

- 1) To expand the number of services provided for veterans in LaSalle County
 - a. This will be measured by the number of new programs created
 - Outreach efforts to 3 different cities by the end of the year
 - Facebook account with 302 followers up from 150 in May
 - Scanning and Microfilming of old files

- 2) Promote the services we can provide throughout the community through media and outreach
 - a. Measured by:
 - i. Our goal by the end of 2017 to have 250 Followers
 - Currently have 247 as of 7/24/2017, 268 as of 8/29/2017
 - 272 as of 9/12/2017, 302 as of 1/3/2018
 - ii. Foot Traffic and Phone Call's to the office consistently as compared to January 2017
 - January 2017 we had 22 office visits with 6 phone calls
 - In November we had 64 office visits and 161 phone calls

- 3) Conduct impactful outreach efforts
 - a. Our goal is to see 10 people per month during our outreach efforts.
 - Most months we are meeting or exceeding this.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

In the past 8 months the office has seen tremendous change.

- Started a file tracking system to figure out when to archive files
- Claims management database to access information and help veterans more efficiently when they come into our office. As well as providing us quantifiable information we can track and report to the commission
- We have started the process to scan and microfilm all of our old files so that we can destroy the hard copies. Getting away from having all this paper and file cabinets
- We hired a new Veterans Service Officer Christa Hammers– She has gone to Nebraska and is now accredited by the VA. And Christa is going to Hines to find out more on how we can serve our Women veterans better. Brochures on our services
- We are now on Facebook with 247 Followers
- Featured in the local newspaper 7 times in 8 months
- Increased foot traffic every month since I took over in December
- Hines VA Director came out June 1, 2017 to the LaSalle VFW. First time the director has come out to address to concerns of veterans in an open format.
- Working on getting more veterans to go to Joliet instead of Hines for their specialized care
- Open House May 19th 1-4pm
- Working with the Assessors office on Property taxes
- Steven Kreitzer visiting every active veterans organization in LaSalle County to let them know of the changes and what's going on.
- Oversaw the design and work for the remodel.
- Working with Hines VA Medical Center to get bus transportation from the LaSalle Clinic to Joliet VA Clinic
- Started our outreach efforts to LaSalle and Streator with Mendota starting in August. More locations will be added as time allows.
- Working towards more outreach at community events.
- Have received over a Million dollars for veterans in LaSalle County through Compensation and Pension benefits.
- Working with Compensated Work Therapy at Hines who just received a grant to help LaSalle County Veterans.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Mission: To advocate for veterans and their families.

Vision: To make sure no military family or veteran in LaSalle County goes without knowing we support our troops

2018 Strategic Goals and Progress

- 1) To expand the number of services provided for veterans in LaSalle County
 - a. This will be measured by the number of new programs created
 - i. Outreach efforts at local festival
 - ii. Expand outreach locations for convenience of our local veterans
- 2) Promote the services we can provide throughout the community through media and outreach
 - a. Measured by:
 - i. Our goal by the end of 2018 to have 600 Followers
 - ii. Through data analysis find trends in activity and determine ways to capitalize
 - iii. Create a website that will allow new features
 1. History of Veterans in LaSalle County
 2. Allow Veterans events to be added to our page calendar
- 3) Conduct impactful outreach efforts
 - a. Our goal is to see 12 people per month during our outreach efforts.
 - b. We are planning to start with 3 community events to participate in
 - i. LaSalle County Veterans Tribute Group hosting the Vietnam Wall June 7-10
 - ii. The Freedom Run Marseilles June 16
 - iii. Burgoo Festival October 6-7

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda February 28, 2018

- 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 November 2017 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Hines VA Director Meeting
 - c. VA Primary Care Update
 - d. Target and Hy-Vee pharmacy contracts
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 1/24/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Bill Luther – VFW, Ottawa – John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, LaSalle – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Jim Nanouski – American Legion, Ottawa – Doug Grieve – American Legion, Tonica – Greg Stock – American Legion, Marseilles – Harold Olsen – AMVETS, Peru.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent
Christa Hammers – Assistant Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the November 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

Mike Gladd from the LaSalle County Veterans Tribute Group presented on bringing the Moving Wall to Ottawa on June 7-11, 2018. There will be lots of help needed and any support would be appreciated.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent's Report

- e. **Office Activity** – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 64 people who visited the office and 161 phone calls for November. The office has brought in \$113,796.47 for December through the end of 2018 - totaling \$113,796.47.
- f. **Office Activity** – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 69 people who visited the office and 113 phone calls for December. The office has brought in \$128,876.61 for January through the end of 2018 - totaling \$242,673.08.
- g. Steven Kreitzer went over the year end report and everything that was accomplished in 2017.
- h. Lastly, Steven Kreitzer went over the goals for 2018

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Nick Nekrosius. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

For the Good of the Commission

- a. Scott Buennemeyer reported that every veteran should follow up with the office on property tax exemptions.
- b. Martin Rue – in Peoria ICU and a sympathy card was passed around to be sent to him.
- c. Steven Kreitzer gave Jim Ebner an award for all his help as Chairman of the Commission over the last year. If it wasn't for his leadership and the help of all the veterans organizations the office would not be where it is today.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Ebner and seconded by Chuck Erb. Motion passed unanimously at 5:30 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

Feburary Claims Summary					
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
80%	6/1/2017	12/2018	\$ 28,010.34	\$ 1,556.13	South East
		Totals:	\$ 28,010.34	\$ 1,556.13	
		Year to Date Total	\$ 270,683.42	\$ 12,039.93	
Office Activity January					
Office Visits	103		VA Compensation	42	
Phone	110		VA Healthcare	6	
Outstation	11		VA Pension	11	
LaSalle	2		Other	165	
Mendota	3		Property Taxes	41	

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Hines Director Meeting

- 1) Employee was arrested for unpaid parking tickets and stated that the Hines Police used excessive force. This is Hines Response to that and have been cleared of all wrongdoing.

Good afternoon,

We have been made aware that ABC-7's I-Team is airing a promotion alleging that a Hines VA employee was arrested and handcuffed for parking tickets. The full story is scheduled to air tonight during the 10 O'clock news.

We take these allegations very seriously and since being made aware of these claims, we have conducted a local review of the arrest and are cooperating fully with a formal investigation being conducted by the VHA Office of Security and Law Enforcement (OSLE). A preliminary report by the investigating officer from OSLE shows that our officers acted appropriately.

The arrest was made by two Hines Police officers, a male and female, executing a bench warrant issued by a federal magistrate. The arrest warrant stems from the employee's failure to appear in court multiple times related to more than 15 parking citations dating back to at least 2012. The violations included unauthorized parking in posted handicap spaces and no parking zones at Hines VA Hospital.

The employee has claimed that the male officer involved in the arrest targeted her for the parking citations and the arrest. She further alleges that he used excessive force causing her injury.

The employee's claims of retaliation don't add up. First, her parking citations pre-date her initial allegations against the officer by several years. Second, those allegations were shown to be false. And third, the male officer involved was not responsible for writing even one of this employee's 15-plus parking citations.

Additionally, this officer didn't choose to arrest the employee. As the Hines Police Court Liaison, he was simply doing his job when he executed the arrest warrant issued by the federal magistrate. He followed protocol that required a female officer be present and he was assisted by her in the arrest and transport.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



The female officer placed the handcuffs on the employee, not the male officer as alleged. Our female officer used two sets of cuffs linked together to provide the employee additional flexibility, while complying with policy during transport to federal court. Hines Police SOP manual states clearly that "All arrestee(s) transported will be handcuffed at all times. Arrestee(s) will be handcuffed with their hands behind their back with the handcuffs double locked."

A formal investigation is still underway and we will not get in front of that process. Our intent here, however, is to make you aware of this situation and the information we provided to ABC's reporting team. We remain confident that based on internal reviews at the local level and the preliminary report from VHA's national investigation that our Hines police officers acted appropriately and were following VA policies when they executed the arrest warrant and transported this employee to federal court.

We appreciate your continued support and are here if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Braverman, M.D.
Hospital Director

- 2) The cockroaches in the Kitchen issue from 2 years ago has finally been cleared by the inspector General. Their facilities are now above standards on cleanliness. They are doing some remodeling of the kitchen though so they have a temporary kitchen set up on Scott Drive in a couple trailers.
- 3) Hines Hospital is upgrading their Dialysis equipment to be state of the art.
- 4) Hines research week is going to be May 14-18th. Topics to be presented are still yet to be determined but topics may include Gulf War Syndrome, Million Veteran Program Findings, and New innovative treatments.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2018

'We want to connect with Veterans before they know they need us': VA launches *Concierge for Care* program

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of Concierge for Care, a health-care enrollment initiative that connects with former service members shortly after they separate from the service.

"Our goal is to give transitioning service members one less thing to worry about," said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin. "We know that more than a third of Veterans who haven't yet visited our facilities indicated they are not aware of VA health care benefits, while a quarter reported they do not know how to apply."

As part of Concierge for Care, VA staff members are personally contacting recently separated service members to answer questions, process their health-care enrollment applications over the phone and help schedule eligible Veterans' first VA medical appointment, if needed.

Each week, VA receives a list of separating service members from the Department of Defense. The goal is to make contact with them within a month of discharge.

Certain Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations are eligible to enroll and receive cost-free health care for medical conditions related to their military service during the five-year period after discharge.

Information about VA health care and the application process can be found at <https://www.vets.gov/health-care/apply/>.

###

REMEMBER
THOSE WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED THIS

Memorial Day

LOCAL EVENTS

Post	Time	Location
Marseilles VFW Post 5506	May 29th at 10:00AM	Post 5506
Marseilles AM Legion Post 235	May 29th at 9:30AM	Post 235
Leland AM Legion Post 570	May 29th at 9:30AM	Parade to Cemetery
Oglesby AM Legion Post 237	May 29th at 10:00PM	Memorial Park, Oglesby
Ottawa AM Legion Post 33	May 29th at 9:30AM	Fox Memorial Bridge
Tonica AM Legion Post 260	May 28th at 1:30pm	United Methodist Church

LASALLE COUNTY VETERANS TRIBUTE GROUP PRESENTS

THE MOVING WALL

JUNE 7-11, 2018 | OTTAWA, IL



LOCATION

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE
UAW REGION 4 PAT
GREATHOUSE CENTER

1000 E CENTER STREET
OTTAWA, IL 61350

CONTACT

MICHAEL GLADD
815-830-3746

michaelgladd1951@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH-
MOVING WALL ARRIVES
- THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH-
OPENING CEREMONY, 5:00PM
- SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH-
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, 8:00PM
- MONDAY, JUNE 11TH-
CLOSING CEREMONY, NOON

Find us on FaceBook @LaSalleCountyVeteransTributeGroup

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in February 28, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
John Duzack	AM VETS Post 30	ALTERNATE
Scott Buennemeyer	Marseilles VFW Post 5306	President
Night Nekrasine	Legion - 426	Delegate
Rance C. Lewis	Marseilles Post 235	Delegate
George Mason	Ottawa V.F.W 2470	Delegate
Jim Ebner	Oglesby A.L. Post 237	Delegate
Bill Patterson	Legion 540	Delegate
Chuck Erb	VFW 5506	Delegate
Howard H. Gast	Earbrella 549	Delegate
Sara Namouski	Legion Post 33	Delegate
Douglas Grieve	Legion Post 260	Del.
Bill Butler	VFW 2470	ATT

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda March 28, 2018

- 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 February 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Superintendent's Report**
 - a. Office Activity**
 - b. Hines VA Director Meeting**
 - c. Secret Shopper**
- VIII. Old Business**
- IX. New Business**
- X. For the Good of the Commission**
- XI. Closing Prayer**
- XII. Adjournment**

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 1/24/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

Bill Luther – VFW, Ottawa – John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, LaSalle – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Jim Nanouski – American Legion, Ottawa – Doug Grieve – American Legion, Tonica – Harold Olsen – AMVETS, Peru.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent
Christa Hammers – Assistant Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the January 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

None

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent's Report

- d. **Office Activity** – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 103 people who visited the office and 110 phone calls for January. The office has brought in \$28,010.34 for February through the end of 2018 - totaling \$270,683.42.
- e. Steven Kreitzer went over the Hines Director meeting and the notes handed out.
- f. There is a new gap fill MD assigned to the LaSalle Clinic.
- g. If you have a common cold or Emergency you can go to the clinic and they can write you a prescription to pick up at Target or Hy-Vee.
- h. Made sure the Memorial Day Calendar Advertisement is correct.

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

Old Business – None

New Business – None

For the Good of the Commission

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Lance Sires and seconded by Chuck Erb. Motion passed unanimously at 5:35 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

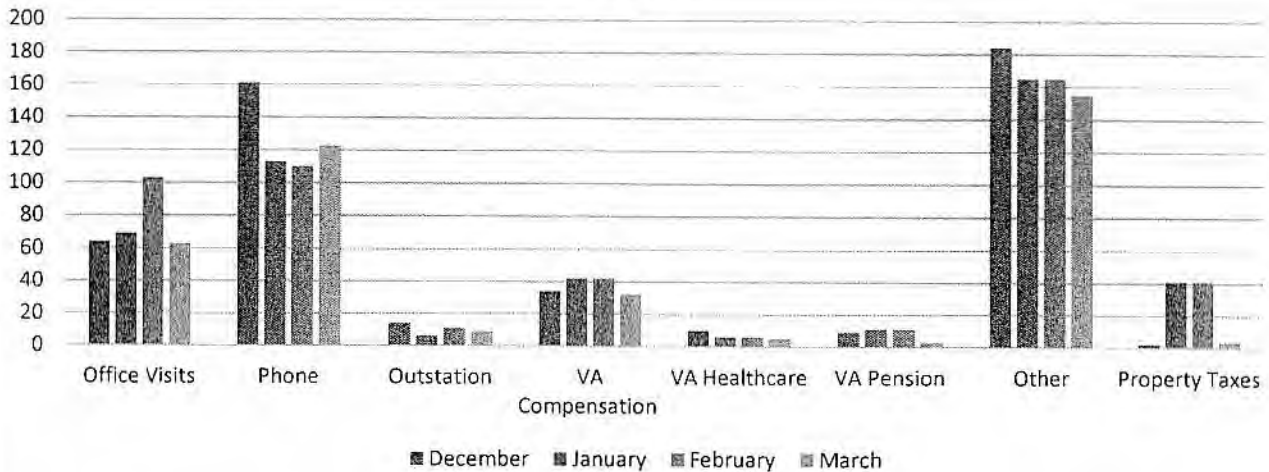
March Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount		Monthly amount	Location
100% + SMC	3/2018	12/2018	\$	16,998.40	\$ 4,249.60	North East
		Totals:	\$	16,998.40	\$ 4,249.60	
		Year to Date Total	\$	456,641.82	\$ 22,433.53	

Office Activity February

Office Visits	63	VA Compensation	32
Phone	123	VA Healthcare	5
Outstation	9	VA Pension	3
LaSalle	3	Other	155
Mendota	4	Property Taxes	4
Streator	2		

2018



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



LaSalle VA Secret Passenger on the Hines Transportation

I did a somewhat secret shopper ride to Hines VAMC from the LaSalle CBOC to try and get an idea of what is going on with all the complaints I have been getting. Many of the complaints I have been getting were that he was speeding, driving erratically, swerving all over the place, and on instance where he would not stop to let a veteran go to the bathroom in which resulted in the veteran taking a dump into a bag.

When I arrived at the LaSalle VA Clinic on 3/27/2018 I was checked in but they didn't have my name down correctly. I was able to let her know that I had meetings not appointments so I could ride. The driver was standing behind her so I do suspect that he was able to piece together who I was. Once I got into the vehicle most of the veterans were already seated and waiting. We took off for Hines and as we got onto the highway I began to notice the swerving. However, this was not the drivers fault as the vehicle is an extra tall panel van and really catches the wind. Another contributing factor is that the shocks on the vehicle seem to be shot. The vehicle would tip and not really give as it should while going over bumps. This again contributed to the so called erratic driving but is no fault to the driver. While on the Highway there was no time in which I felt he was speeding. We did pass trucks that have a lower speed limit, but at the same time we were getting passed by cars like we were standing still. Once we got close to Hines the driver did take multiple side streets in order to avoid traffic. This included a lot of stop signs braking and accelerating. There was no time while he was doing this that I felt anything out of what I would expect. I truly believe in not micromanaging people and if taking side streets is how he wants to safely get people from point A to point B so be it.

While at Hines and I did talk to the other passengers and asked them if this was his normal driving and they stated that it was. I had two veterans complain about him taking the side streets, but I was able to ask if they ever felt like he was out of control and they stated no. One thing the driver had no control over is how the veterans treated him. Everyone of the regular travelers knew him by name and greeted him. He also knew them by name and seemed to have pleasant conversation with those in the front of the vehicle while on the trip. The trip home was no different than the way up there.

So if I had suggestions on how to improve things I would do the following.

- 1) Every first time riders sign a sheet about the rules and codes of conduct while on the transportation. This would include departure and arrival estimated times, if your more than 15 minutes late the bus will leave without you, be courteous to the driver and other passengers, confidentiality of those on the trip, and of course the policy of not stopping once the trip has begun so make sure to use the facilities beforehand. Also, Let the driver know and give him the authority in an emergency to be able to stop if needed.

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



-
- 2) Have the shocks looked at on the van.
 - 3) Give everyone an anonymous survey to do after every trip that could be completed on a tablet or something of that fact that is locked and goes directly to Phil with his daily report on how the trips went. This will give you hard data to support or defend against any future complaints. Another option is to give everyone a phone number to contact if they have any further issues.

I hope this helps you as I know it has truly given me some insights.

Steven Kreitzer
Superintendent
LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission
119 W. Madison St
Courthouse Room 103A.
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone: 815-488-1761
Fax: 815-433-6209



VA Online Scheduling

User Manual

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Connected Care

November 2017

User Manual

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Overview

VA online scheduling (formerly known as the Veteran Appointment Request (VAR) App) allows Veterans who are in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system to self-schedule and request primary care appointments. Depending on if the facility supports self-schedule/appointment requests, Veterans may also use online scheduling to self-schedule or request audiology, optometry or outpatient mental health appointments. Veterans can also view appointment details, track the status of requests, send messages about the requested appointments, get notifications about appointments, receive recall reminder notifications and cancel appointments.

Additional types of appointments will be added in future versions of online scheduling.

NOTE: Submitting a request does not mean an appointment has been booked; VA schedulers review the requests and officially schedule appointments by clinic availability. Veterans should always dial 911 or call their local VA facility in case of an emergency.

Online Scheduling is available for iOS, Android and Windows operating systems, and is supported by these Internet browsers:

1. Internet Explorer 10 and higher
2. Safari 8 and higher
3. Firefox 24 and higher
4. Google Chrome 47 and higher

This user manual provides an in-depth, step-by-step guide for using online scheduling.

The Basics

Prerequisites

To use online scheduling, you must:

1. Be enrolled in VA health care and be seen for care at a VA Medical Center (VAMC) or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). If you would like to learn more about the enrollment process, visit va.gov/healthbenefits/apply or call **1-877-222-VETS**. To find a facility near you, visit VA's Facility Locator: <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>.
2. Have either a My HealtheVet Premium Account or a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account. Online scheduling accesses your VA Electronic Health Record (EHR) and therefore, for your security, requires either a My HealtheVet Premium Account or a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account. If you do not have a My HealtheVet Premium Account or a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account, or you are not sure, visit myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/user-login or mobile.va.gov/dslogon for more information.
3. Be registered at a VA health care facility that supports self-scheduling and/or appointment requests for the type of appointment you are making. Eligibility requirements vary by VA facility (e.g., some sites might require you to be an established patient within a service line while others might be open to anyone enrolled at the facility). Other eligibility requirements include:
 - For Primary Care self-scheduling:
 - you must be aligned with a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT). Your appointment will always be at your PACT clinic.
 - you can only self-schedule primary care appointments at participating VAMCs where you have had a primary care appointment in the past two years.
 - Not all types of appointments are available to be self-scheduled or requested to be scheduled. Each facility determines what type of care may be scheduled at its site and how (i.e., self-schedule or request) that type of care may be scheduled.

Logging in

You may log into online scheduling with either a My HealtheVet Premium Account or a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account.

- My HealtheVet Premium Account users: Access online scheduling > If asked to confirm which type of logon you are using, tap My HealtheVet > You will be taken to an End User License Agreement (EULA). Read the EULA, and tap **Accept** > You will arrive at the VA Appointments Welcome screen.
- DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account users: Access online scheduling > Read the End User License Agreement ("EULA") and the Notice of Privacy Practices ("Notice") > Tap **Accept** > Tap **Login** > Enter your DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) credentials > Tap **Sign In** > You will proceed into the online scheduling.

NOTE: If this is your first time using a VA tool that requires a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account, you may have

to provide your Right of Access as part of the log in process. Online scheduling will prompt you if this is necessary. If it is necessary, you will be taken to a Right of Access screen > Read the Request for Access to Your Health Information > If you would like to continue, tap **Next** > You will go to a Review screen > Read VA Form 10-5345a > If you agree, tap **Verify** to “sign” the form > You will proceed into online scheduling.

NOTE: You can access online scheduling either directly or through the VA Launchpad. The VA Launchpad contains links to all VA apps that access information from your VA EHR. By signing in to the VA Launchpad once with your DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account credentials, you can access multiple apps without signing into each app separately. If you are accessing online scheduling through the VA Launchpad and have already signed in to another app, you will not need to re-enter your credentials.



Getting to know the Home screen

When you log into online scheduling, you will see four main navigation sections of online scheduling:

- Appointments/Requests – A list of appointments and requests, which allow you to track statuses easily or tap on each appointment/request for more details.
- Appointments – Upcoming, confirmed appointments that you have booked through online scheduling, or that a VA scheduler has booked for you. **NOTE:** This includes all appointments, not just those scheduled through online scheduling.

- Requests – Pending requests for primary care or mental health appointments that you have requested through online scheduling, but that have not yet been booked by a VA scheduler.
- New Appointment/Request – Buttons at the top right and bottom right of your screen, which allow you to schedule or get help scheduling a primary care, mental health, audiology or optometry appointment.
- User Menu (four-line icon with a silhouette) – A slide-out menu in the upper right corner of your screen that allows you to access About, Help, Feedback, Preferences, Launchpad and Logout.
- Notifications – A button under New Appointment/Request shows you notifications about scheduled and requested appointments.

Tap the circular arrow going counter-clockwise in the upper left corner to refresh the home screen and view the most current appointment and request information.

VA Appointments

Appointments/Requests New Appointment/Request

Appointments Notifications

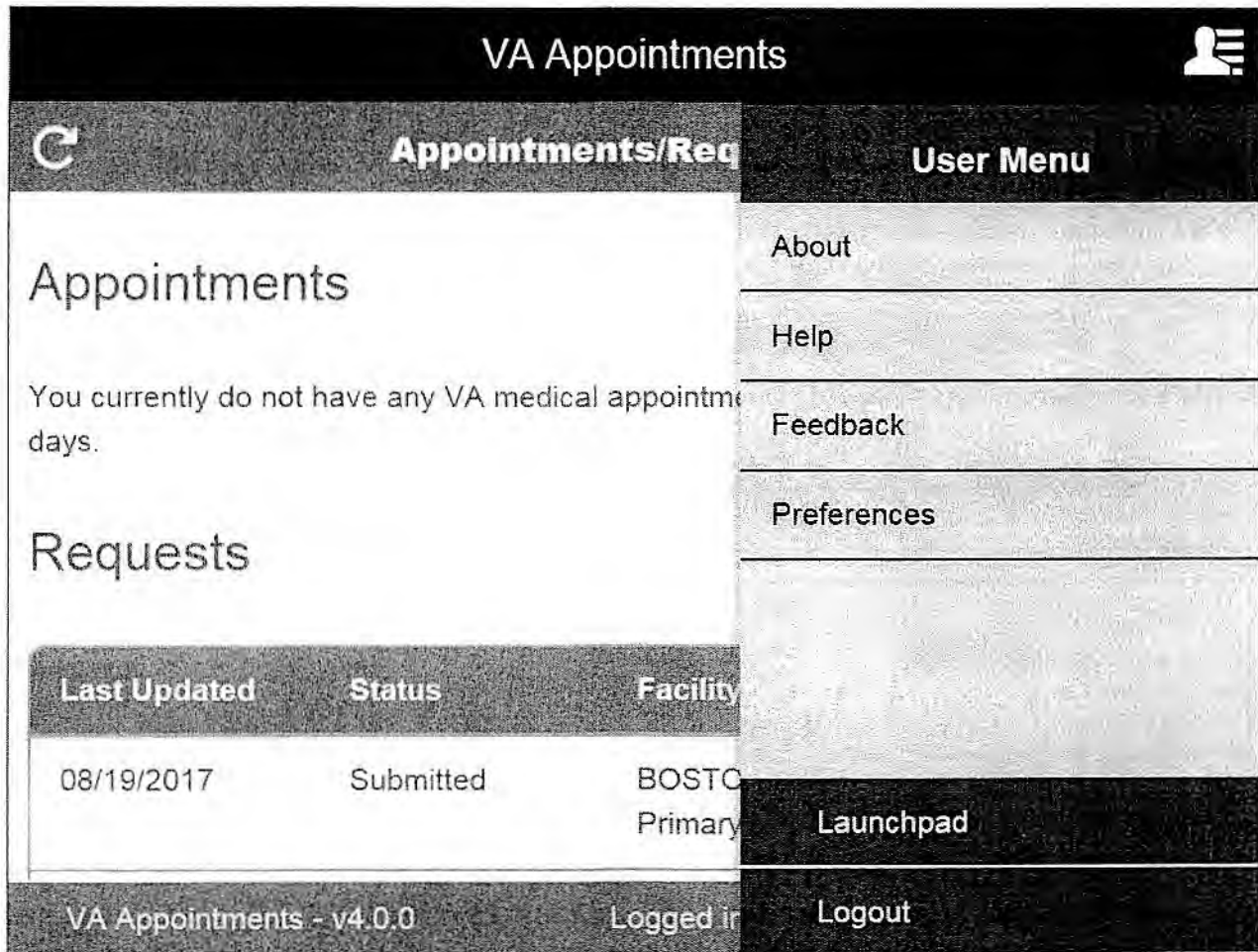
You currently do not have any VA medical appointments scheduled in the next 120 days.

Requests

Last Updated	Status	Facility/Type of Care
08/19/2017	Submitted	BOSTON HCS VAMC Primary Care
08/18/2017	Submitted	BOSTON HCS VAMC Express Care

Learning about online scheduling

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **About** > A pop-up About box will appear that provides an overview of online scheduling. To close the About box, tap **OK**.



Accessing help for online scheduling

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Help** > A pop-up Help box will appear that provides information about the Help Desk, DS Logon and what to do in an emergency > Tap the hyperlink to access the VA Mobile App Store. Tap **VA's Facility Locator** to locate your local VA facility. To get detailed instructions for how to use online scheduling, tap **User Guide** > A user guide will open in a new tab. To close the Help box, tap **OK**.

Submitting feedback about online scheduling

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Feedback** > Tap the circle next to the answer that best describes your wait time for a confirmed appointment > Slide the circle along the bar to indicate how likely you are to recommend online scheduling > Type your comments into the box > Tap **Submit** > You will return to the Home screen. You can also hit the back arrow in the upper left corner to return to the Appointments screen without submitting feedback.

VA Appointments

How likely are you to recommend this application to someone else?

6

1 Not at all likely – 10 Extremely likely

Comments

I really appreciate having the ability to make an appointment via an app and not having to call my clinic.

Cancel **Submit**

Updating email notification preferences

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Preferences** > A pop-up Preferences box will appear > Tap **Yes** or **No** to receive emails on updates regarding your appointments and requests. If you tapped Yes, tap the bar under Email, and type in your email address > Tap **Save** to save your settings, or tap **Cancel** to return to the Home screen without saving.

Accessing the VA Launchpad

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Launchpad** > You will go to the VA Launchpad and stay signed into online scheduling.

Logging out

Tap the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Logout** > You will go to the VA Launchpad and be logged out of online scheduling and the Launchpad.

New Appointments/Requests

Self-schedule or request dates and times for audiology, primary care, optometry and outpatient mental health appointments.

NOTE: Requesting an appointment does not mean your appointment is scheduled; a VA scheduler will review your request, check availability and officially book the appointment. Not all appointment types will be available to schedule or request for your location.

Scheduling a primary care appointment yourself

First you must be a member of a PACT team to self-schedule a primary care appointment. Tap **New Appointment/Request** in either the top right or bottom right of your screen > Tap the drop-down menu under Type of Care > Tap **Primary Care**, and you will see the name of your provider(s) and a link to view PACT Team Members > Tap **View Your Care Team (PACT)**, and a pop-up box showing your primary care providers and team list will appear > Tap **Close** to close the pop-up box > Tap the circle next to Schedule Myself under Scheduling Method > More information will populate below, and you will see your primary facility and care team based on your VA health records > Fill out the following details:

- Select Facility – The facility information will likely default to your primary care facility. If you are given the option to select a facility, tap the circle next to the facility where you would like to schedule an appointment.
- Select Clinic – Tap the circle next to the clinic where you would like to schedule an appointment. After you have selected a clinic, the following will populate:
 - Reason for Appointment – Type the reason for the appointment in the text box (up to 150 characters).
 - Preferred Date – Either (1) type in the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or (2) tap the calendar icon > A pop-up calendar will appear > Tap your preferred date on the calendar > Tap **Show Availability** > If there is no availability for your preferred date, you will see the closest available dates to the one you entered > To see all dates, tap **Show all Dates** > Based on the date you choose, a drop-down menu will appear with available times > Tap on your time of choice.

- Email Preferences – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No whether you would like to receive email updates notifying you of changes/updates made to your appointments and requests.
- Email – Type your email address into the bar. **NOTE:** Your email address may automatically populate if you have entered it before.

Tap **Schedule Appointment** > You will go to an Appointment Details screen that confirms your request has been submitted and provides an overview of the details. To add the appointment to your calendar, tap **Add to Calendar**, and an .ics file will download to open and add to your calendar. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner, and your appointment request will appear in the list on the Home screen.

VA Appointments

11:30
12:00
12:30
13:00
13:30

Show All Dates

You are scheduling an appointment for: Monday, 06/26/2017 12:30

Email Preferences

Send me updates on my appointments and requests:

Yes No

* Email:

MobileAppsVeteran.One@va.gov

Schedule Appointment Cancel

Scheduling a primary care appointment with help

Tap **New Appointment/Request** in either the top right or bottom right of your screen > Tap the drop-down menu under Type of Care > Tap **Primary Care** > Tap the circle next to Submit a Request to VA Scheduler > More information will populate below, and you will see your primary facility based on your VA health records > Fill out the following details:

- Purpose of Visit – Tap **Select** > Tap either **Routine/Follow-up, New Issue, Medical Concern** or **Other** (if Other, type in the reason under Other Purpose).
- Preferred Type of Visit – Tap the circle next to either Office Visit, Phone Call or Video Conference. **NOTE:** Video Conferences are not available in all VA clinics. If Video Conference appointments are not available, your request will be treated as a Phone Call request.
- Date/Time – Either (1) type in the date in MM/DD/YYYY format, or (2) tap the calendar icon > A pop-up calendar will appear > Tap your preferred date on the calendar > Tap the circle next to either AM or PM (You must enter in at least one date/time option, but can enter up to three choices).
- Phone/Verify Phone – Type in your preferred number of contact (these must match).
- Best Time for VA to Call – Tap to check the box next to Morning, Afternoon or Evening.

- Calls from VA – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No whether you would like VA to call you regarding the appointment request.
- Message – Type an optional message (up to 100 characters) to the VA Scheduling Clerk.
- Email Preferences – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No whether you would like to receive email updates notifying you of changes/updates made to your request. **NOTE:** Your email address may automatically populate if you have entered it before.
- Email – Type your email address into the bar.

Tap **Submit Request** > You will go to a Request Details screen that confirms your request has been submitted and provides an overview of the details. When your appointment has been scheduled, to add the appointment to your calendar, tap **Add to Calendar**, and an .ics file will download. Open the file to add the appointment to your calendar.

To cancel the request, tap **Cancel Request**. To add an optional message to the VA Scheduler, type the message (up to 100 characters) into the box (you can send two messages total per request) > Tap **Send**. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner, and your appointment request will appear in the list on the Home screen. **NOTE:** You may only request to schedule one primary care appointment at a time.

The screenshot shows the 'VA Appointments' interface. At the top, there's a title 'VA Appointments' and a user profile icon. Below that, a navigation bar contains a back arrow, 'Appointments/Requests', 'Appointment Details', and an 'Add to Calendar' button with a calendar icon. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section shows 'Status: Scheduled'. The bottom section contains appointment details: 'Appointment Date/Time: 06/29/2017 @ 10:30', 'Facility/Clinic: BOSTON HCS VAMC OPTOMETRY 179', and 'Reason for Visit: Testing'. A '* required field' label is visible in the top right of the details section.

Scheduling an audiology, optometry or outpatient mental health appointment yourself

Tap **New Appointment/Request** in either the top right or bottom right of your screen > Tap the drop-down menu under Type of Care > Tap **Audiology, Optometry** or **Outpatient Mental Health** (**NOTE:** Not all appointment types will be available to schedule for your location. You must be registered at a VA health care facility that supports scheduling for the type of appointment you are making. Eligibility requirements vary by VA facility.) > Tap the circle next to Schedule Myself under Scheduling Method > More information will populate below > Fill out the following details:

- Select Clinic – Tap the circle next to the clinic where you would like to schedule an appointment. After you have selected a clinic, the following will populate:
 - Reason for Appointment – Type the reason for the appointment in the text box (up to 150 characters).
 - Preferred Date – Either (1) type in the date in MM/DD/YYYY format, or (2) tap the calendar icon > A pop-up calendar will appear > Tap your preferred date on the calendar > Tap **Show Availability** > If there is no availability for your preferred date, you will see the closest available dates to the one you entered > To see all dates, tap **Show all Dates** > Based on the date you chose, a drop-down menu will appear with available times > Tap on your time of choice.

- Email Preferences – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No to indicate if you would like to receive email updates notifying you of changes/updates made to your appointments and requests.
- Email – Type your email address into the bar. **NOTE:** Your email address may automatically populate if you have entered it before.

Tap **Schedule Appointment** > You will go to an Appointment Details screen that confirms your request has been submitted and provides an overview of the details. To add the appointment to your calendar, tap **Add to Calendar**, and an .ics file will download to open and add to your calendar. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner, and your appointment request will appear in the list on the Home screen.

Scheduling an audiology, optometry or outpatient mental health appointment with help

Tap **New Appointment/Request** in either the top right or bottom right of your screen > Tap the drop-down menu under Type of Care > Tap **Audiology, Optometry** or **Outpatient Mental Health** (**NOTE:** Not all appointment types will be available to request for your location. You must be registered at a VA health care facility that supports appointment requests for the type of appointment you are making. Eligibility requirements vary by VA facility.) > Tap the circle next to Submit a Request to a VA Scheduler under Scheduling Method > More information will populate below > Fill out the following details:

- Purpose of Visit – Tap Select > Tap either **Routine/Follow-up, New Issue, Medical Concern** or **Other** (if Other, type in the reason under Other Purpose).
- Type of Visit – Tap the circle next to either Office Visit, Phone Call or Video Conference. **NOTE:** Video Conferences are not available in all VA clinics. If Video Conference appointments are not available, your request will be treated as a Phone Call request.
- Date/Time – Either (1) type in the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or (2) tap the calendar icon > A pop-up calendar will appear > Tap your preferred date on the calendar > Tap either **Morning, Afternoon** or **Evening** (You must enter in at least one date/time option).
- Phone/Verify Phone – Type in your preferred number of contact (these must match).
- Best Time for VA to Call – Tap to check the box next to Morning, Afternoon or Evening.
- Calls from VA – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No whether you would like VA to call you regarding the appointment request.
- Message – Type an optional message (up to 100 characters) to the VA Scheduling Clerk.
- Email Preferences – Tap the circle next to either Yes or No whether you would like to receive email updates notifying you of changes/updates made to your request. **NOTE:** Your email address may automatically populate if you have entered it before.
- Email – Type your email address into the bar.

Tap **Submit Request** > You will go to a Request Details screen that confirms your request has been submitted and provides an overview of the details. When your appointment has been scheduled, to add the appointment to your calendar, tap **Add to Calendar**, and an .ics file will download. Open the file to add the appointment to your calendar.

To cancel the request, tap **Cancel Request**. To add an optional message to the VA Scheduling Clerk, type the message (up to 100 characters) into the box (you can send two messages total per request) > Tap **Send**. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner, and your appointment request will appear in the list on the Home screen.

NOTE: You may only request to schedule two mental health appointments at a time.

VA Appointments ☰

Request Details

Status: Submitted Updated: 06/23/2017 13:44

View status updates for this request under the "Requests" section of the Appointments and Requests page. Once scheduled, the resulting appointment will be displayed under the "Appointments" section of the same page.

Request Details

Submitted: 06/23/2017 @ 13:44	Facility: BOSTON HCS VAMC
Type of Care: Primary Care	Type of Visit: Office Visit
Preferred Appointment Date/Time	
1st Choice: 06/29/2017 PM	
Phone: (555) 555-0000	Best Times for VA to Call: Afternoon, Evening
Preference: Call before booking appointment	Purpose of Visit: New Issue

Requests and Confirmed Appointments

Easily review the details of your appointment requests and scheduled appointments.

VA Appointments

Appointments/Requests Appointment Details Add to Calendar

* required field

Appointment Date/Time: 06/29/2017 @ 10:30 Facility/Clinic: BOSTON HCS VAMC OPTOMETRY 179

Reason for Visit: Testing

I need to cancel this appointment

Yes No

* Reason for Cancellation

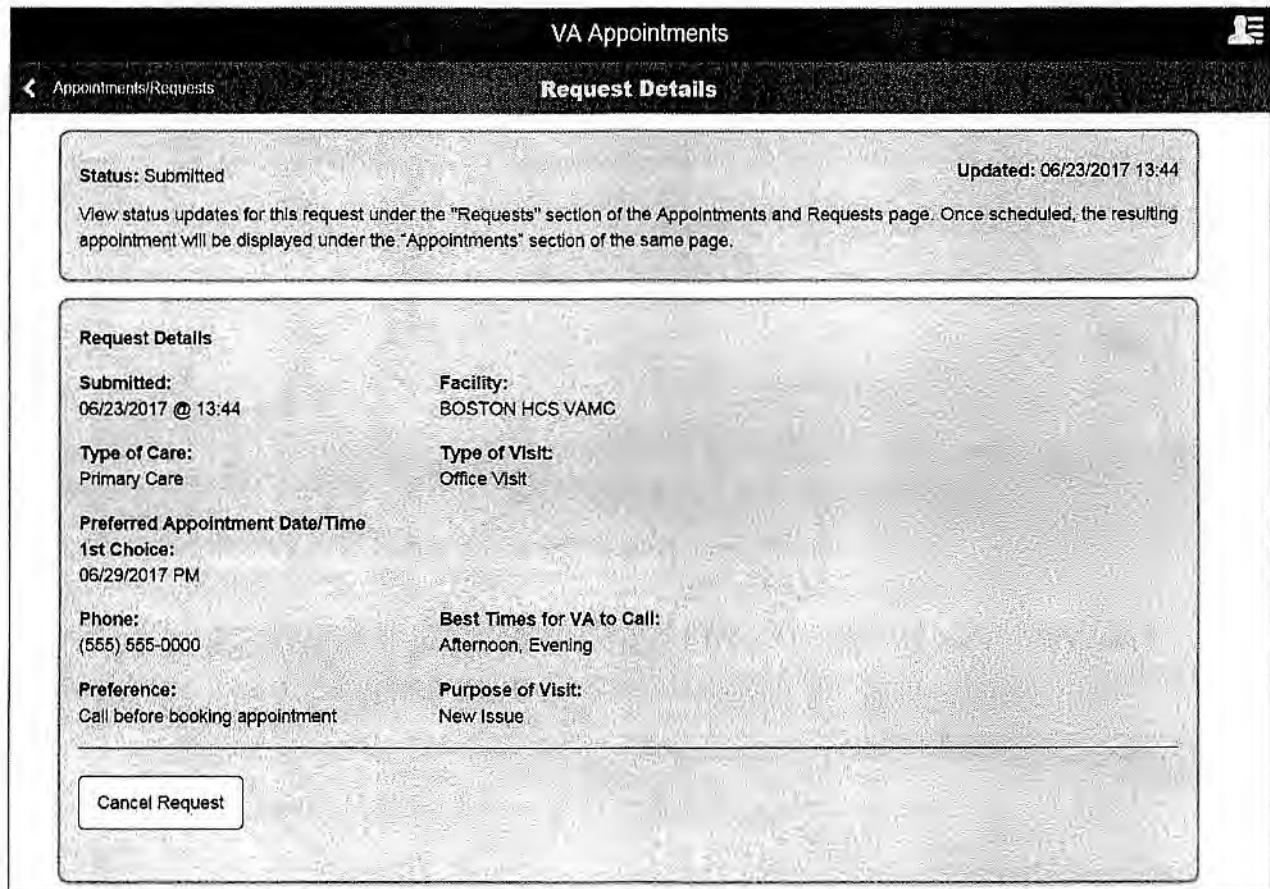
TRAVEL DIFFICULTY

Cancel Appointment

Reviewing booked appointments

On the Home screen, you will see a list of booked appointments, which shows you the date, time and location of the appointment. (If you had requested an appointment and it was booked by a scheduler, it will move from the Requests section and into the appointment section as a booked appointment.) To view more details, tap the specific appointment you would like to view > You will go to an Appointment Details screen, which provides an overview of your appointment. When your appointment has been scheduled, to add the appointment to your calendar, tap **Add to Calendar**, and an .ics file will download. Open the file to add the appointment to your calendar.

If you would like to cancel the appointment, tap the circle next to Yes under "I need to cancel this appointment," > A Reason for Cancellation bar will appear > Tap **Select** > Tap the reason from the drop-down menu > Tap **Cancel Appointment** > A pop-up Confirmation box will appear > Tap **Yes** > You will go to a screen that confirms your appointment has been canceled. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner.



Reviewing appointment requests

Below the booked appointments list on the Home screen, you will see a list of requested appointments, which shows you the date the request was last updated, the status of its booking and the location of the appointment request. (If you had requested an appointment and it was booked by a scheduler, it will move from the Requests section and into the appointment section as a booked appointment.) To view more details, tap the specific appointment request you would like to view > You will go to a Request Details screen, which provides an overview of your request. If your appointment request is pending, you can also:

- Cancel the request – Tap **Cancel Request** > A pop-up Confirmation box will appear > Tap **Yes** to confirm the cancellation, or tap **No** to keep the request.
- Send a message – Type the message (up to 100 characters) into the box (you can send two messages total per request) > Tap **Send**.

If your appointment status is Canceled or Not Booked, you will see a summary of the request and your interaction with VA, but will not be able to message a scheduler. To return to the Home screen, tap **Appointments/Requests** in the upper left corner.

Help and Additional Information

Additional Training Materials for online scheduling

More resources, such as a Quick Start Guide, Slideshow and FAQs, can be found on the VA App Store. Visit mobile.va.gov/appstore, and search for online scheduling to access the resources. You can also view online scheduling's built-in User Guide by tapping the four-line menu icon with a silhouette in the upper right corner of the screen > A slide-out User Menu will appear > Tap **Help** > A pop-up Help window will appear. To get detailed instructions for how to use online scheduling, tap **User Guide** > A user guide will open in a new tab. To close the Help box, tap **OK**.

Help Desk Information

If you need assistance with online scheduling, dial **1-877-470-5947** to speak with a VA representative. The Help Desk is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT. For TTY assistance, dial **711**. For clinical questions regarding your personal medical information, please contact your VA care team.

My HealthVet Help

If you have questions about your My HealthVet Account, visit myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/user-login or dial **1-877-327-0022** for assistance.

DS Logon Help

If you have questions about your DS Logon account, visit mobile.va.gov/dslogon or dial **1-800-983-0937** for assistance.

Emergencies

If you feel your information may have been compromised, contact your local VA facility to get contact information for your Privacy Officer. To locate your local VA facility, visit VA's Facility Locator: <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>
NOTE: You should never use this app in an emergency. If you encounter an emergency, call your local medical center or dial 911 immediately.

Appendices

Appendix #1: Project References

Online Scheduling was developed according to an approved concept paper. It was tested in a demo environment to ensure optimal functionality.

Appendix #2: Glossary

App – an application, or software program, that can be accessed through a website or mobile device and is designed to fulfill a particular purpose

DS Logon (Department of Defense Self-Service Logon) – a secure logon ID, created by the Department of Defense (DoD), that verifies the identities of individuals affiliated with DoD or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and allows them to access secure websites and digital resources across DoD and VA using a single username and password

DS Logon Level 1 (Basic) Account: Provides limited access to website features

DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account: Offers the highest level of access to website features, including access to your VA Electronic Health Record.

PACT – Patient Aligned Care Team

VA – Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Mobile Health – an initiative that aims to improve Veterans' health by providing technologies to expand care beyond the traditional office visit and that includes the creation of secure mobile apps to leverage the popularity of wireless technologies to support Veterans, Caregivers and VA care teams [More at: mobile.va.gov]

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in March 28, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
R. Nick Nekrosius	Legion LaSalle P-426	Delegate
Scott Brenneman	Maxwell VFW 5306	President
JOHN DUBACK	AMVETS Post 30	ALTERNATE
Chuck Erbe	VFW 5506	Delegate
Jain Nambh	Layton Post 33	Ottawa Del
Douglas Grieve	Legion Post 26	Del
Howard Gatz	POST 549	Delegate
LANCE SIROS	POST 235	DELEGATE
Tom TRAUTMAN	POST 4079	DELEGATE
Bill Patterson	American Legion 540	Delegate
Harold Olsen	AMVETS 26	Peru

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda April 25, 2018

- 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 March 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Hines VA Director Meeting
 - c. IACO / IACVAC Training Report
 - d. Hines upcoming classes
 - e. RAMP Overview
 - f. Saunders V. Wilkie – Precedent Setting case for pain and no diagnosis
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. By-Laws Update – Tentative vote to approve will be May 23, 2018 at the regular meeting time and location.
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 3/28/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, LaSalle – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – Jim Nanouski – American Legion, Ottawa – Doug Grieve – American Legion, Tonica – Harold Olsen – AMVETS, Peru.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason - Excused

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the February 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

- a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 63 people who visited the office and 123 phone calls for February. The office has brought in \$16,998.40 for March through the end of 2018 - totaling \$456,641.82.
- b Steven Kreitzer went over the Hines Director meeting.
- g. Went over the Secret Shopper information and a copy of the letter sent to the Hines Director was given out.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



-
- h. We discussed the new VA Online Scheduling APP and a user manual was handed out.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Doug Grieve. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

For the Good of the Commission

- a. Harry Sawyer went over what he found out at the Nursing Home Meeting. They have 185 beds and are in need of a lot of CNA's
- b. Steven Kreitzer stated that the By-Laws new and old would be handed out next meeting as well as mailed to every post. We are hoping to vote on them at the June meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Nanowski and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously at 5:21 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

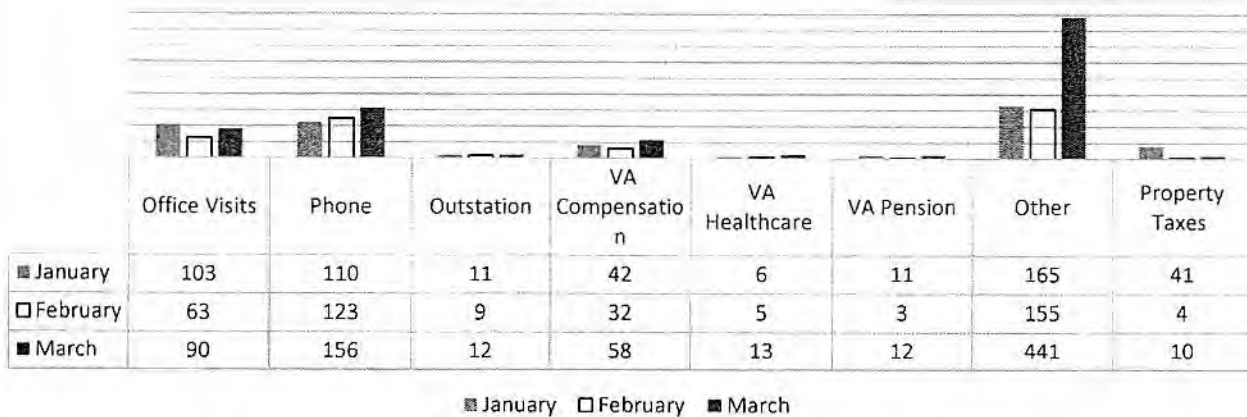
April Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
60%	5/2017	12/2018	\$ 18,419.84	\$ 1,083.52	South East
100%	3/2012	10/2017	\$ 111,558.00	\$ 2,973.86	North East
Totals:			\$ 129,977.84	\$ 4,057.38	
Year to Date Total			\$ 586,619.66	\$ 26,490.91	

Office Activity March

Office Visits	90	VA Compensation	58
Phone	156	VA Healthcare	13
Outstation	12	VA Pension	12
LaSalle	4	Other	441
Mendota	3	Property Taxes	10
Streator	5		

2018



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Hines VA Director Meeting

LaSalle County will be hosting the Director again in August. Location and time TBD.

The kitchen remodel is going along as planed

IACO / IACVAC Conference

Met many leaders throughout the state as well as saw many LaSalle County Leaders.

I got to sit in on the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee's to see how they were run as well as meet some of the board members.

Helped in planning out annual accreditation training to invite VA leadership to teach classes.

Hines VAH/Lovell FHCC

VA Research Week Events

May 14 - 18, 2018



Veteran/General Audience

May 14 Monday.....AUDITORIUM

- 10:00 am *Gulf War Illness Epidemiologic Research: Past, Present, and Future* - Erin Dursa
- 11-1:00 pm *Posters on Display of Local Research*
- 1:00 pm *Veteran Engagement in VA Research: How It Can Benefit You and Your Fellow Veterans* - Bella Etingen
- 2:00 pm *VA Research – Cooperative Studies Program* – Domenic Reda

May 15 and 16 Tuesday, Wednesday.....ATRIUM

- 10-1:00 pm *Million Veteran Program: Learn How You Can Participate in the VA Partnering With Veterans to Understand How Genes Affect Health & Illness, to Improve Health*

Clinician/Researcher Audience

May 15 Tuesday.....BUILDING 1 ROOM C308

- 1:00 pm *Deploy your IDEA with the VA Technology Transfer Program* – Kerry Leonard

May 16 Wednesday.....BUILDING 1 ROOM E347

- 1:00 pm *Intro to VA Data and VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) Resources for Using It*
Maria Souden and Margaret Gonsoulin
- 2:00 pm *Chicago Area Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network (CAPriCORN): A Chicagoland Resource for Data, Central IRB, Patient-Engagement, and Comparative Effectiveness Research* – Michael Wesolowski

May 17 Thursday.....BUILDING 1 ROOM E347

- 8:00 am *VA Cooperative Studies Program – National and Local Initiatives* – Yvonne Lucero
- 9:45 am *Network of Dedicated Enrollment Sites (NODES): Overview and Local Research Projects* – C. McBurney, C. Czerlanis, G. Khatkhate, S. Bhoopalam, R. Ostrowski
- 11:00 am *Intro to VA Data and VIREC Resources for Using It* – Maria Souden & Margaret Gonsoulin
- 12:00 pm *Improving VA Research through Veteran Engagement: How You Can Become Involved* - Fran Weaver
- 1:00 pm *CAPriCORN: A Chicagoland Resource for Data, Central IRB, Patient-Engagement, and Comparative Effectiveness Research* - Howard Gordon
- 2:00 pm *Chicago Association for Research & Education in Science (CARES) Can Assist You with Identifying, Applying for and Managing Your Federal, Pharma, and Foundation Funded Research Projects* – Cindy Reutzel

Lawyers Serving Warriors®

A Project of the National Veterans Legal Services Program

Should You “Opt-In” to RAMP?

What are the new reforms in the VA appeals process?

- On August 23, 2017, the President signed into law the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, designed to streamline the claims and appeals process for pursuing disability compensation benefits. The earliest the law is expected to take effect is February 2019.
- In the meantime, the VA has introduced the temporary Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (“RAMP”), which offers certain eligible veterans the option of having their claim reviewed in a “Higher-Level Review Lane” or a “Supplemental Claim Lane.”
- Participation in RAMP is voluntary, but if you choose to “opt-in” to RAMP, you will be required to withdraw your pending compensation benefit appeals and cannot opt back into the current “traditional” appeals system.
- Choosing to “opt-in” to RAMP may lead to an earlier resolution of your appeal.
- If you choose not to participate in RAMP, you may continue your appeal under the current process.

What are the two review options under RAMP?

Option 1: Supplemental Claim

- This option may be appropriate if you have NEW AND RELEVANT evidence to support your claim. However, if you choose this option when you *initially* opt into RAMP, VA will re-adjudicate your claim even if there is no new evidence since the last VA denial of your claim.
- The VA will provide assistance in developing and gathering NEW AND RELEVANT evidence.
- If you receive an unfavorable decision, you can continue to submit Supplemental Claims with NEW AND RELEVANT evidence, use the Higher-Level Review Lane, or get in line for review by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) under the rules of the new appeals system, by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.

Option 2: Higher-Level Review

- This option may be appropriate if you have NO additional evidence in support of a claim, but you believe the initial decision was made in error.
- This is a new review of your claim by an experienced claim adjudicator.
- The reviewer will only consider evidence that was in the VA’s possession at the time you opt-in (i.e., new evidence will not be considered).
- The VA CANNOT assist you in developing new evidence. But if the reviewer finds that the VA did not fulfill its duty to assist in the original claim process, the reviewer should return the claim for correction of this error and a new rating decision.
- You can request an informal telephonic conference with the Higher Level Reviewer to explain why the previous decision was erroneous.
- If you receive an unfavorable decision, you can submit a Supplemental Claim with NEW AND RELEVANT evidence, or get in line for review by the Board under the rules of the new appeals system, by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.

What does it mean to get in line for Board review under the rules of the new appeals system?

- You can appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals if the VA denies your claim in the Supplemental Claim Lane or Higher-Level Review Lane, but the Board will decide your appeal no earlier than October 2018.
- The duty to assist will not apply to the Board when reviewing unfavorable RAMP decisions.
- When requesting review of a RAMP decision by the Board, you must choose one of the following review options:
 - **Direct Review:** The Board will not consider new evidence and not allow a hearing.
 - **Evidence Submission:** The Board will not permit a hearing, but will consider additional evidence you submit within 90 days of the date that the Board receives your request.
 - **Hearing:** You will be able to testify before a Veterans Law Judge and submit additional evidence (within 90 days of the hearing date).

What are the advantages of "opting-in" to RAMP?

- Potentially faster decisions and early resolution process—VA aims to complete the reviews under the Higher-Level Review and Supplemental Claim lanes in an average of 125 days.
- Veterans can keep their original claim date as their effective date for benefits, if ultimately granted, as long as they keep that claim alive by seeking further review under RAMP or the new appeals process within a year of a denial.
- Findings favorable to you will be binding in subsequent proceedings unless there is clear and unmistakable evidence that would overcome such favorable findings

What are the disadvantages of "opting-in" to RAMP?

- In the Higher-Level Review Lane, the reviewer will not consider new evidence. The reviewer will only consider evidence of record at the time of initial opt-in or, for subsequent Higher Level Reviews, at the time of the previous decision.
- The duty to assist (helping veterans obtain evidence, such as medical records and medical opinions) does not apply in the Higher Level Review Lane or to future review by the Board.
- Once a veteran opts into RAMP, any covered claims cannot return to the current appeals system.
- Prior Board remand orders are not binding on the VA.

Where can I get help with my request for review?

- This flyer is informational only and is NOT a substitute for legal advice. **We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice for your decision.**
- You can have a Veterans Service Organization representative help you with your review free of charge. An attorney or agent can also represent you, but may require you to pay for their services.
- You can find more information on accredited representatives (VSOs, attorneys, and agents) and fee agreements at: <https://www.va.gov/legajec/direction.asp>.

You can find more information on the available review options at: <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp>



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News Room

NVLSP COURT VICTORY FOR VETERANS: VA CAN NOW AWARD BENEFITS FOR DISABLING PAIN

Released 4/4/18 | Tags: [Class Actions \(/news-room/category/class-actions/\)](#)

NVLSP and Its Private Law Firm Partner Persuade the Federal Circuit to Overturn 19-Year Precedent, VA Can Now Award Disability Benefits For Pain Related to Military Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 4, 2018

WASHINGTON – In a sweeping legal victory for veterans, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a 19-year lower court precedent which prohibited the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from awarding disability benefits to a veteran for disabling pain if it was not linked to a medical diagnosis.

"What this ruling means is that if a physician cannot diagnose the cause of the pain the veteran is experiencing, but the pain is related to an event, injury, or disease that occurred during the veteran's military service, the veteran should now win disability benefits," said Bart Stichman, executive director and co-founder of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and one of the attorneys who represented the veteran in the case.

The Federal Circuit's decision in *Saunders v. Wilkie* overturned the 1999 precedential decision issued by the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims that said VA had no authority to award benefits for pain alone, if the pain was untethered to a medical diagnosis explaining its cause.

NVLSP partnered with pro-bono counsel, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, on the case. They won the case on behalf of Gulf war veteran Melba Saunders, who served in the Army from November 1987 until October 1994.

Saunders did not experience knee problems before serving in the Army. During her service, however, she sought treatment for knee pain and was diagnosed with patellofemoral pain syndrome. Her exit examination reflected normal lower extremities but noted she had a history of swollen knee and hip joints and bone spurs on her feet.

After leaving the military, she suffered with pain from bilateral knee disorders. In 1994, Saunders filed a VA claim for disability compensation for knee pain, hip pain, and a bilateral foot condition. The VA Regional Office denied it. She filed a reopened VA claim for bilateral knee pain in 2008 and was denied again. She appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals which remanded the case to the Regional Office for additional evidence.

A 2011 VA exam found that Saunders had functional limitations on walking, that she was unable to stand for more than a few minutes, and that sometimes she required use of a cane or brace. The VA physician diagnosed Saunders with bilateral knee pain and concluded that Saunders' knee condition was at least as likely as not caused by her military service. Nonetheless, the Board of Veterans' Appeals denied the claim, explaining that VA is not authorized to pay disability compensation for "pain" alone, without a medical diagnosis for the pain. The Board cited in support the 1999 Veterans Court decision in *Sanchez-Benitez v. West*, which held that "pain alone is not a disability for the purpose of VA disability compensation."

With NVLSP's help, Ms. Saunders appealed this Board decision to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 2015. Relying on its 1999 precedent in *Sanchez-Benitez v. West*, the Veterans Court affirmed the Board's denial of her 2008 bilateral knee claim. Ms. Saunders then appealed this 2016 decision of the Veterans Court to the Federal Circuit.

The Federal Circuit's decision in *Saunders v. Wilkie* should affect thousands of disabled veterans suffering from pain related to their military service. Over the last 19 years, the Court of Veterans Appeals cited the precedent invalidated by the Federal Circuit in over 100 individual appeals filed by veterans in the Veterans Court. Moreover, the Board of Veterans' Appeals cited the Veterans Court's now-invalidated precedent in more than 11,000 individual Board decisions.

News Room

Media Tips for Family (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/media-tips-of-family/>)

Online Press Kit (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/online-press-kit/>)

Logo & Social Media (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/news-logo/>)

Media Contact (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/media-contact/>)

Tips for Interviewing Trauma Survivors (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/tips-for-interviewing-trauma/>)

Acronym Guide (<http://www.nvlsp.org/news-room/reporters-toolbox-ptsd-tbi-suicide-prevention/>)

News Room Categories



Agent Orange
(/news-

room/category/agent-orange)

Board of Veterans Appeals
(/news-



room/category/board-of-veterans-appeals)



Class Actions
(/news-

room/category/class-actions)



Combat Related
Special
Compensation
(CRSC) (/news-

room/category/combat-related-

"The Federal Circuit's ruling is a significant victory for disabled veterans, like our client Melba Saunders, who have served their country in wartime and are now unable to work to their full capacity as a result," said Mel Bostwick, a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP who argued the case before the court.

"Congress recognized that the nation owes these veterans for their sacrifices, and the court today vindicated the common-sense notion that this debt does not depend on whether a veteran's disabling pain can be labeled with a specific medical diagnosis. We are pleased with the court's straightforward application of the law that corrects a decades-long error by the Veterans Administration," said Bostwick.

About NVLSP

The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) is an independent, nonprofit veterans service organization that has served active duty military personnel and veterans since 1980. NVLSP strives to ensure that our nation honors its commitment to its 22 million veterans and active duty personnel by ensuring they have the federal benefits they have earned through their service to our country. NVLSP offers training for attorneys and other advocates; connects veterans and active duty personnel with pro bono legal help when seeking disability benefits; publishes the nation's definitive guide on veteran benefits; and represents and litigates for veterans and their families before the VA, military discharge review agencies and federal courts. For more information go to www.nvlsp.org.

Media contact: Ami Neiberger-Miller, 703.887.4877, ami@steppingstoneLLC.com (<mailto:ami@steppingstoneLLC.com?subject=Saunders%20v.%20Wilkie>)

Director of Communications: Pamela Goldsmith, 202.702.2655, Pamela@nvlsp.org (<http://www.nvlsp.org/about-us/staff/#s682>)

###

special-compensation-crsc)



Congressional
Legislation
(/news-

room/category/congressional-
legislation)



Court of Appeals
for Veterans
Claims (/news-

room/category/court-of-appeals-
for-veterans-claims)



Discharges
(/news-

room/category/discharges)



Military Sexual
Trauma (/news-

room/category/military-sexual-
trauma)



Physical
Disability Board
of Review (PDBR)
(/news-

room/category/physical-disability-
board-of-review-pdbr)



PTSD (/news-

room/category/ptsd)



Staff (/news-

room/category/staff)



Supporters
(/news-

room/category/supporters)



Supreme Court
of the United
States (SCOTUS)
(/news-

room/category/supreme-court-of-
the-united-states-scotus)



Testimony
(/news-

room/category/testimony)



Veteran's
Benefits (/news-

NEW BY-LAWS

10 OCTOBER 1984

#4 December, 2013

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSION was organized and has functioned in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE since September 10, 1984 continuous, and

WHEREAS, the legislature of this State has amended the law under which the VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSION was organized and functioned, and

WHEREAS, the by-laws of the commission should be changed to conform to the law as amended.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-laws be adopted as the by-laws of the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE.

Bill Phillipis
Charles Erb 5506

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF
LA SALLE COUNTY

13 present

American Legion
⊗ Post 549 Earlville
Post 237 Oglesby ✓
⊗ Post 426 La Salle ✓
⊗ Post 33 Ottawa ✓
⊗ Post 235 Marseilles ✓
⊗ Post 173 Lostat
⊗ VFW Mendota ✓

Veterans of Foreign Wars
⊗ Post 8232 Peru
⊗ Post 1492 Streator
⊗ Post 2470 Ottawa ✓
⊗ Post 4668 La Salle
⊗ Long R 570 Leland ✓ ⊗
⊗ Tonica AL 266

Amvets
⊗ Post 78 La Salle-Peru

Catholic War Veterans
⊗ Post 1229 La Salle
⊗ Peru 833 Peru

⊗ ✓ Marine Corps League
Illinois Valley Detachment, Jonesville DETACHMENT 78

AMERICAN LEGION
AMVETS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

I, ROBERT E. WACHOWIAK, do hereby certify
that the following by-laws of the La Salle County Veterans'
Assistance Commission of the County of La Salle, as amended
were dully adopted by the La Salle County Veterans' Assistance
Commission of La Salle County on October 10, 1984, at the
regular October meeting in accordance with the Illinois Revised
Statutes, the rules and regulations thereunder and the existing
by-laws of the Commission.

Robert E. Wachowiak
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

NOTARY PUBLIC

10 OCTOBER 1984

BY-LAWS OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LA SALLE

I.

The official name of this central assistance and service committee shall be the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LA SALLE by which name this commission shall be called and known.

II.

This commission shall be clothed with all the powers and charged with all the duties imposed by the laws of this state under which this commission is organized.

Any changes or amendments of the existing Illinois law or any ruling by the Attorney General that supercedes existing Veterans assistance legislation shall be deemed an amendment to these laws.

III.

This commission shall be composed of one delegate and one alternate from each post, detachment, camp, unit, chapter, or ship, of the following organization: AMERICAN LEGION, AMVETS, CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS, AMERICAN WAR VETERANS, MARINE CORP LEAGUE, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Such delegates and alternates are to be selected annually as may be determined by each of the organizations named above and shall serve for the term of one year to run concurrent with the fiscal year of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE and until their successor is selected.

If a delegate or alternate vacancy occurs, prior to completion of the prescribed term of office, representative organizations may reappoint delegates or alternates to fill the unexpired term.

10 OCTOBER 1984

The SUPERINTENDENT must be an honorable discharged veteran and shall be elected by the commission and shall, under the direction of the commission, have charge of and maintain an office in a location in LA SALLE COUNTY to be used to carry on the work of the commission.

Neither the Superintendent nor any other employee of the commission shall be allowed to hold any political office or actively campaign for any political candidate be allowed to hold any political office during their employment by the commission.

IV.

The executive powers of this commission shall be vested in a SUPERINTENDENT to be designated as the SUPERINTENDENT OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE.

There shall be a SECRETARY of the commission who will be appointed by the SUPERINTENDENT.

The SUPERINTENDENT may be removed from office prior to completion of his appointed term, for cause.

Removal procedures may be instituted by written appeal to the Commission by three (3) member organizations.

Upon written appeal, and investigative committee, consisting of five (5) delegates or alternates, shall be elected by the full commission to investigate allegations of malfeasance or any demeanor that hinders the ethical or professional standards of the position of SUPERINTENDENT.

A report of the committees findings will be presented to at least three-fourths (3/4) of the eligible organizations delegates mentioned in section III paragraph 1 of these by-laws. The commission shall vote upon the appeal. An affirmative vote for removal by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates or alternates attending a regular or special meeting shall terminate the Superintendents appointment.

10 OCTOBER 1984

All member organization and delegates shall be notified of the pending appeal at least ten (10) days prior to the date that such appeal is to be voted upon. All member organizations and delegates will be notified by first class mail at their last known address.

V.

The annual meeting of the commission shall be held at the office of the commission in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE at 8 o'clock p.m. on the second Wednesday in November 1984, and annually each year thereafter at the same hour on the second Monday of each November. Notice of the said annual meeting in writing by the SUPERINTENDENT of the commission, sent by first class mail to each of the members of the commission at their address as shown by the records of the commission. (SEE 2ND AMENDMENT)

VI.

At the annual meeting the commission shall elect, by secret written ballot, from their members, a Chairman, and a Vice Chairman, who are to serve for the period of one year.

The said Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the commission, annual, regular, and special, in the event the chairman vacates his term of office or is absent, the Vice Chairman shall preside in his stead. The Ajudant of the commission, shall take minutes of all meetings and record the name in the records of the commission.

The Superintendent of the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE shall serve for the period of four (4) years and then reaffirmed by a majority of the organizations delegates present at the annual commissions meeting.

The Superintendent of the LA SALLE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION must have completed four years of high school or (G.E.D.), and three years of college, plus two years experience in welfare, teaching, public health, or other

10 OCTOBER 1984

public services, or a combination of training and experience (work in the social welfare field may be substituted on a year for college.)

Superintendent shall be elected by polling of the organizations present. Should the Superintendent resign, die, or be dismissed then a list of nominees shall be slated by a committee of the commission and then presented to the commission delegates with their qualification. The delegates will then be polled for the new successor to the Superintendent. (SEE 4TH AMENDMENT)

The nominee for Superintendent receiving the majority number of votes shall be declared the elected Superintendent of the commission.

Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote and if the delegate is not present at the annual meeting then the alternate of said delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

The fiscal year of the commission shall be run concurrent with the fiscal year of LA SALLE COUNTY. All delegates and alternates and elected personnel will take office the December of the current year.

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of this commission if there is a quorum of at least seven (7) delegates present, providing that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at the last proceeding meeting and provided further that a copy of the written amendment has been mailed to all members of the commission (delegates, alternates, and officers) at least ten (10) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon. All members and member organizations will be notified by first class mail, at their last known address.

Any number of delegates at a meeting may approve the reading of the bills, and at the direction of the Chairman may approve emergency bills due to hazardous weather conditions.

VII.

The commission in addition to the annual meeting shall meet once a month

10 OCTOBER 1984

The commission and the SUPERINTENDENT upon election and qualification shall assume the responsibilities and obligations of said office and shall carry on the service and assistance work of the commission in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE. The SUPERINTENDENT shall hear and investigate all claims for assistance arising under the law and shall enter into arrangements with the SUPERVISORS of the respective towns in the county and with the COUNTY BOARD for the assistance of veterans and for the honoring of orders by the SUPERINTENDENT for that purpose. The SUPERINTENDENT shall keep full and complete records of all cases handled throughout his office together with books of account which shall show all expenses and disbursements of his office and the distribution of such supplies as may be placed in his hands to distribute to indigent veterans and their dependents. The SUPERINTENDENT shall make reports and accounting of all disbursements to the commission and to the COUNTY BOARD as required by law and in keeping with the regulations of the commission except that the decisions of the superintendent upon claims for assistance shall be final in all cases.

IX.

The CHAIRMAN of the commission upon his own initiative or upon the request of five (5) delegates in writing for a special meeting thereof may call a special meeting at such times as may be required for the transaction of the business of the commission. Notice of the special meeting shall cause a notice written to and sent to all delegates and alternates ten (10) days in advance by first class mail.

X.

These by-laws shall be reviewed by a committee appointed by the CHAIRMAN of the commission, every four years.

AMENDMENT (1)

The Veterans Assistance Commission monthly meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m. changing the day and time noted in Article VII of our By-Laws of the Veterans Assistance Commission of the County of LaSalle.

AMENDMENT (2)

The annual meeting of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission will be held on the third Wednesday in the month of November at 7:00 p.m. changing the day and time noted in Article V of our By-Laws.

AMENDMENT (3)

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission will hold no meeting in the month of December.

AMENDMENT (4)

If the elected Superintendent is removed from office, dies during their elected term, resigns, or becomes physically or mentally unable to perform the required duties of said elected office, then the Veterans Assistance Commission may appoint the V.A.C. Office Supervisor as the Acting Superintendent with pay adjustments equal to what the Superintendent was receiving for said extra duties until such time as a new Superintendent can be trained in the total operations of the office and elected by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws



Created 10 October 1984

Revised

Governed by 330 ILCS 45 Military Veterans Assistance Act

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

Page 1 of 7

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Resolution

Whereas, the Veterans Relief Commission was organized and has functioned in the County of LaSalle since September 10, 1984 continuously, and

Whereas, the legislature of this State has amended the law under which the Veterans Relief Commission was organized and functioned, and

Whereas, the by-laws of the commission should be changed to conform to the law as amended.

Therefore, be it resolved that the following by-laws be adopted as the by-laws of the Veterans Assistance Commission of the County of LaSalle.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of this commission shall be LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Article II: Purpose

Section 1: To advocate for Veterans and their families.

Article III: Jurisdiction

Section 1: The territory to be included within this jurisdiction will be the entire County of LaSalle, Illinois. This Commission shall be clothed with all the powers and charged with all the duties imposed by the laws of this state under which this commission is organized.

Any changes or amendments of the existing Illinois law or any ruling by the Attorney General that supersedes existing Veterans Assistance legislation shall be deemed an amendment to these laws.

Article IV: Office

Section 1: The headquarters and principle office space of this Commission shall be provided by LaSalle County, in a county complex or other suitable location.

Article V: Membership

Section 1: The membership of the Commission may be composed of one delegate and one alternate from each of the Veterans organizations within LaSalle County, that are recognized by the Congress of the United States or the General Assembly of the State of Illinois. The delegate and alternate may be selected annually, as may be determined by each member organization.

Section 2: No delegate or alternate will be permitted to represent more than one veterans organization.

Section 3: No delegate or alternate will be permitted to vote for any other veterans organization.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Article VI: Officers

Section 1: The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms.

The President shall preside over the meeting and in his absence the Vice-President shall take over. A prayer will be given at the beginning and end of each meeting, conducted by the Chaplain. The Sergeant at Arms will maintain order during the meeting.

Section 2: All officers shall be elected at the November meeting by secret ballot and the new officers are to be acting in their full capacity as of the following January meeting.

Section 3: Officers are elected to a 1 calendar year term of office.

Section 4: Any delegate or alternate from one of the Veterans organizations is eligible to run for election and hold an officer position.

Sections 5: The members of this Commission shall fill vacancies occurring in any office with a new election. A vacancy shall exist when an officer is absent from at least four regular Commission meetings. Or the officer has elected under their own charge to step down from the position. Lastly, through 2/3 vote from the commission the officer is to be removed for cause.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: The regular meetings of this Commission shall be held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5pm. Meetings will be conducted at the LaSalle County Courthouse at 119 W. Madison St Ottawa, IL 61350. There will be no meeting in December.

Section 2: Five members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings.

Section 3: Meetings shall be conducted and covered by Robert's Rules of Order.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Article VIII: Superintendent

Section 1: To be appointed as the Superintendent of LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission you must have a bachelors degree, and two years' experience in public service related field.

Section 2: The Superintendent shall be elected by polling of the organizations present.

Section 3: The Superintendent must be an honorable discharged veteran and shall be appointed by the commission to a four (4) year term and shall, under the direction of the commission, have charge of and maintain an office in a location in LaSalle County to be used to carry on the work of the commission.

Neither the Superintendent nor any other employee of the commission shall be allowed to hold any political office or actively campaign for any political candidate be allowed to hold any political office during their employment by the commission.

Section 4: The Superintendent has the sole authority to manage the daily operations of the office. They are also charged with the hiring and firing of employees if the need should arise. If a situation should occur where more personnel are needed above and beyond they current open positions the commission should be informed of such actions, but the ability to do so lies with the Superintendent.

Section 5: The Superintendent will oversee and manage the budget. Once it is time for the next years budget, the Superintendent will present the budget to the Commission for approval.

Section 6: The Superintendent may be removed from office prior to completion of their appointed term, for cause.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Section 7: Removal procedures may be instituted by written appeal to the commission by (3) three-member organizations.

Upon written appeal, and investigative committee, consisting of five (5) delegates or alternates, shall be elected by the full commission to investigate allegations of malfeasance or any demeanor that hinders the ethical or professional standards of the position of Superintendent.

A report of the committee findings will be presented to at least three-fourths (3/4) of the eligible organizations delegates mentioned in Article V. The commission shall vote upon the appeal. An affirmative vote for the removal by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates or alternates attending a regular or special meeting shall terminate the Superintendents appointment.

All member organizations and delegates shall be notified of the pending appeal at least ten (10) days prior to the date that such appeal is to be voted upon. All member organizations and delegates will be notified by first class mail at their last known address.

Section 8: If the appointed Superintendent is removed from the office, dies, resigns, or becomes physically or mentally unable to perform the required duties of said office, then the Veterans Assistance Commission may appoint the Assistant Superintendent as the Acting Superintendent with pay adjustments equal to what the Superintendent for said extra duties. This will continue until such time as the Superintendent is able to resume regular duties or a new Superintendent can be selected.

Section 9: At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Superintendent shall submit a summary of the office functions in the previous year to the Governor as well as notify each of the Veterans organizations by way of first class mail.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

IX: Assistant Superintendent

Section 1: They shall be a veteran on one of the five military branches as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs and have an Honorable Discharge.

Section 2: In the absence of the Superintendent they are to take on the role of Superintendent as defined by Article VIII Section 8.

X: Amendments

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of 2/3 of the membership attending such meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and provided that written notice shall have been given to all members of the Commission at least thirty days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be acted on.

Section 2: Any changes to the 330 ILCS 45 Military Veterans Assistance Act will be updated in the by-laws as soon as known.

Section 3: These By-Laws will be reviewed for their completeness and accuracy every Four Years. Notice of this review will be sent to each of the Veterans Service Organizations 30 days prior

**CEREMONY
STARTS
MAY 23, 2018
@ 4:00PM
INSIDE**



VETERAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION

**VIEWING OF THE MEMORIALS WILL BE
FROM 4:30 - 6:00 PM 5/23/2018
AND ANYTIME THE COURTHOUSE IS OPEN
119 W MADISON ST
OTTAWA, IL 61350**

We have Civil War, Spanish American War, and WWI Memorials currently and are having them refurbished. Also, we will be adding some military uniforms donated by community members and more. Please come out and join us with light refreshments afterwards. Courthouse will be open for viewing till 6PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 815-433-1761

LASALLE COUNTY

Memorial Day



Post

Time

Location

Marseilles VFW/
American Legion

May 28th @ 10:00AM

At the Post

Leland American Legion

May 28th @ 9:30AM

At the Post

Oglesby American Legion

May 28th @ 10:00AM

Memorial Park, Oglesby

Ottawa American Legion/VFW

May 28th @ 9:30AM

Fox Memorial Bridge

Tonica American Legion

May 27th @ 1:30PM

United Methodist Church

Earlville American Legion

May 28th @ 10:00AM

Earlville High School

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in March 28, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
Jim Ebner	Oglesby Post 237	Delegate
Chuck Erb	Marseilles VFW 5506	Delegate
Scott Buonnemeyer	Marseilles VFW 5506	President
George Mason	Ottawa Post 2470	Delegate
Tom Troutman	MENDOTA 4079	Delegate
KANEK SIRGS	Post 235 MARSEILLES	DEL
Bill Patterson	American Legion 340	Delegate
Harold Olsen	AMVETS #26	Delegate
Douglas Grieve	Post 260	Del
JOHN DUBACK	AMVETS #30	ALTERNATE
WILLIAM LUTHER	VFW 2470	ALT.
Danyhe Peters	DISTRICT 9	GUEST

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda May 23, 2018

- 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 April 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Hines VA Director Meeting
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. By-Laws up for approval
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 4/25/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – William Luther – VFW, Ottawa – Doug Grieve – American Legion, Tonica – Harold Olsen – AMVETS, Peru – Daryle Peters – VFW, Ottawa – Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski - Excused
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the March 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

- a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 90 people who visited the office and 156 phone calls for March. The office has brought in \$129,977.84 for April through the end of 2018 - totaling \$586,619.66.
- b Steven Kreitzer went over the Hines Director meeting.
- c. Talked about the IACO/IACVAC conference in Springfield, IL

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



- d. Hines VA Research Week Events and recommended everyone try and go if they could.
- e. The new appeals RAMP program and the ins and outs of it.
- f. Went over the new precedent setting case Saunders V. Wilkie holding that pain without a diagnosis as to the etiology is still a disability.
- g. Ceremony re-dedicating the memorials downstairs will be conducted at 4pm just before our next meeting.

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

Old Business – None

New Business – Old and new bylaws were handed out as well as mailed to every post in accordance with our current bylaws. It was discussed to get with Steven Kreitzer before the next meeting of any changes or corrections so we can vote on everything at the next meeting.

For the Good of the Commission

- a. Daryle Peters talked about the Vietnam Moving Wall and how the project was coming along. He also stated how appreciative he was of all the support they have gotten from the veterans organizations.
- b. Scott Buennemeyer talked about getting grants for your organization and that they just got a \$1,000 grant to help start their color guard and casket century unit uniforms.
- c. UAW Veterans will be in Ottawa the 17-21 and they would like to have as much support as possible. They will be at the Ottawa VFW on the 17th and the Ottawa American Legion on the 18th. Lastly on the 19th at 3pm the Veterans Organizations are encouraged to participate in a flag presentation ceremony to the designer of the Vietnam Memorial. This will take place at the Ottawa VFW.
- d. Jim Ebner talked about how he went to the LaSalle Nursing Home on March 29th and gave a presentation on National Vietnam Veterans Day.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Harold Olsen and seconded by Daryle Peters. Motion passed unanimously at 5:40 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

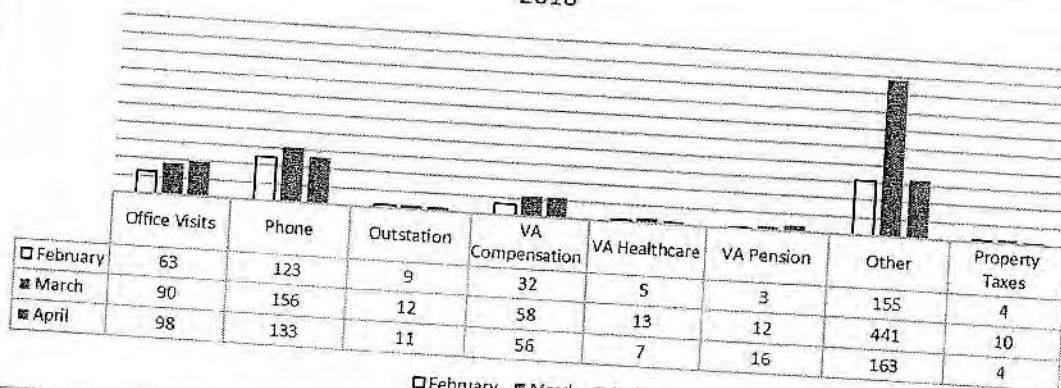
May Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
70%	12/2017	12/2018	\$ 16,385.76	\$ 1,365.48	North West
90%	10/2017	12/2018	\$ 25,124.84	\$ 1,932.68	North West
30%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 3,337.20	\$ 417.15	South East
Totals:			\$ 44,847.80	\$ 3,715.31	
Year to Date Total			\$ 631,467.46	\$ 30,206.22	

Office Activity April

Office Visits	98	VA Compensation	56
Phone	133	VA Healthcare	7
Outstation	11	VA Pension	16
LaSalle	4	Other	163
Mendota	0	Property Taxes	4
Streator	7		

2018



□ February ■ March ■ April

119 W. Madison St.
 Courthouse Room 103A
 Ottawa, IL 61350

NEW BY-LAWS

10 OCTOBER 1984

#4 December, 2013

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSION was organized and has functioned in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE since September 10, 1984 continuous, and

WHEREAS, the legislature of this State has amended the law under which the VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSION was organized and functioned, and

WHEREAS, the by-laws of the commission should be changed to conform to the law as amended.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-laws be adopted as the by-laws of the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE.

Bill Phillipis
Charles Erb- 5506

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF
LA SALLE COUNTY

13 present

- American Legion
 ⊗ Post 549 Earlville ✓
 Post 237 Oglesby ✓
 ⊗ Post 426 La Salle ✓
 ⊗ Post 33 Ottawa ✓
 ⊗ Post 235 Marseilles ✓
 ⊗ Post 173 Lostat ✓
 ⊗ VFW Mendota ✓

- Veterans of Foreign Wars
 ⊗ Post 8232 Peru ✓
 ⊗ Post 1492 Streator ✓
 ⊗ Post 2470 Ottawa ✓
 ⊗ Post 4668 La Salle ✓
 ⊗ Larry 570 Deland ✓ ⊗
 ⊗ Tonica A-2 266

- Amvets
 ⊗ Post 78 La Salle-Peru

- Catholic War Veterans
 ⊗ Post 1229 La Salle
 ⊗ Peru 833 Peru

- ⊗ ✓ Marine Corps League
 Illinois Valley Detachment, Jonesville DETACHMENT 78

AMERICAN LEGION
AMVETS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

I, ROBERT E. WACHOWIAK, do hereby certify
that the following by-laws of the La Salle County Veterans'
Assistance Commission of the County of La Salle, as amended
were dully adopted by the La Salle County Veterans' Assistance
Commission of La Salle County on October 10, 1984, at the
regular October meeting in accordance with the Illinois Revised
Statutes, the rules and regulations thereunder and the existing
by-laws of the Commission.

Robert E. Wachowiak
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

10 OCTOBER 1984

BY-LAWS OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LA SALLE

I.

The official name of this central assistance and service committee shall be the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LA SALLE by which name this commission shall be called and known.

II.

This commission shall be clothed with all the powers and charged with all the duties imposed by the laws of this state under which this commission is organized.

Any changes or amendments of the existing Illinois law or any ruling by the Attorney General that supercedes existing Veterans assistance legislation shall be deemed an amendment to these laws.

III.

This commission shall be composed of one delegate and one alternate from each post, detachment, camp, unit, chapter, or ship, of the following organization: AMERICAN LEGION, AMVETS, CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS, AMERICAN WAR VETERANS, MARINE CORP LEAGUE, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Such delegates and alternates are to be selected annually as may be determined by each of the organizations named above and shall serve for the term of one year to run concurrent with the fiscal year of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE and until their successor is selected.

If a delegate or alternate vacancy occurs, prior to completion of the prescribed term of office, representative organizations may reappoint delegates or alternates to fill the unexpired term.

10 OCTOBER 1984

The SUPERINTENDENT must be an honorable discharged veteran and shall be elected by the commission and shall, under the direction of the commission, have charge of and maintain an office in a location in LA SALLE COUNTY to be used to carry on the work of the commission.

Neither the Superintendent nor any other employee of the commission shall be allowed to hold any political office or actively campaign for any political candidate be allowed to hold any political office during their employment by the commission.

IV.

The executive powers of this commission shall be vested in a SUPERINTENDENT to be designated as the SUPERINTENDENT OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE.

There shall be a SECRETARY of the commission who will be appointed by the SUPERINTENDENT.

The SUPERINTENDENT may be removed from office prior to completion of his appointed term, for cause.

Removal procedures may be instituted by written appeal to the Commission by three (3) member organizations.

Upon written appeal, and investigative committee, consisting of five (5) delegates or alternates, shall be elected by the full commission to investigate allegations of malfeasance or any demeanor that hinders the ethical or professional standards of the position of SUPERINTENDENT.

A report of the committees findings will be presented to at least three-fourths (3/4) of the eligible organizations delegates mentioned in section III paragraph 1 of these by-laws. The commission shall vote upon the appeal. An affirmative vote for removal by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates or alternates attending a regular or special meeting shall terminate the Superintendents

10 OCTOBER 1984

All member organization and delegates shall be notified of the pending appeal at least ten (10) days prior to the date that such appeal is to be voted upon. All member organizations and delegates will be notified by first class mail at their last known address.

V.

The annual meeting of the commission shall be held at the office of the commission in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE at 8 o'clock p.m. on the second Wednesday in November 1984, and annually each year thereafter at the same hour on the second Monday of each November. Notice of the said annual meeting in writing by the SUPERINTENDENT of the commission, sent by first class mail to each of the members of the commission at their address as shown by the records of the commission. (SEE 2ND AMENDMENT)

VI.

At the annual meeting the commission shall elect, by secret written ballot, from their members, a Chairman, and a Vice Chairman, who are to serve for the period of one year.

The said Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the commission, annual, regular, and special, in the event the chairman vacates his term of office or is absent, the Vice Chairman shall preside in his stead. The Ajudant of the commission, shall take minutes of all meetings and record the name in the records of the commission.

The Superintendent of the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of the COUNTY OF LA SALLE shall serve for the period of four (4) years and then reaffirmed by a majority of the organizations delegates present at the annual commissions meeting.

The Superintendent of the LA SALLE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION must have completed four years of high school or (G.E.D.), and three years of teaching, public health, or other

10 OCTOBER 1984

public services, or a combination of training and experience (work in the social welfare field may be substituted on a year for college.)

Superintendent shall be elected by polling of the organizations present. Should the Superintendent resign, die, or be dismissed then a list of nominees shall be slated by a committee of the commission and then presented to the commission delegates with their qualification. The delegates will then be polled for the new successor to the Superintendent. (SEE 4TH AMENDMENT)

The nominee for Superintendent receiving the majority number of votes shall be declared the elected Superintendent of the commission.

Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote and if the delegate is not present at the annual meeting then the alternate of said delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

The fiscal year of the commission shall be run concurrent with the fiscal year of LA SALLE COUNTY. All delegates and alternates and elected personnel will take office the December of the current year.

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of this commission if there is a quorum of at least seven (7) delegates present, providing that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at the last proceeding meeting and provided further that a copy of the written amendment has been mailed to all members of the commission (delegates, alternates, and officers) at least ten (10) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon. All members and member organizations will be notified by first class mail, at their last known address.

Any number of delegates at a meeting may approve the reading of the bills, and at the direction of the Chairman may approve emergency bills due to hazardous weather conditions.

10 OCTOBER 1984

The commission and the SUPERINTENDENT upon election and qualification shall assume the responsibilities and obligations of said office and shall carry on the service and assistance work of the commission in the COUNTY OF LA SALLE. The SUPERINTENDENT shall hear and investigate all claims for assistance arising under the law and shall enter into arrangements with the SUPERVISORS of the respective towns in the county and with the COUNTY BOARD for the assistance of veterans and for the honoring of orders by the SUPERINTENDENT for that purpose. The SUPERINTENDENT shall keep full and complete records of all cases handled throughout his office together with books of account which shall show all expenses and disbursements of his office and the distribution of such supplies as may be placed in his hands to distribute to indigent veterans and their dependents. The SUPERINTENDENT shall make reports and accounting of all disbursements to the commission and to the COUNTY BOARD as required by law and in keeping with the regulations of the commission except that the decisions of the superintendent upon claims for assistance shall be final in all cases.

IX.

The CHAIRMAN of the commission upon his own initiative or upon the request of five (5) delegates in writing for a special meeting thereof may call a special meeting at such times as may be required for the transaction of the business of the commission. Notice of the special meeting shall cause a notice written to and sent to all delegates and alternates ten (10) days in advance by first class mail.

X.

These by-laws shall be reviewed by a committee appointed by the CHAIRMAN of the commission, every four years.

AMENDMENT (1)

The Veterans Assistance Commission monthly meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m. changing the day and time noted in Article VII of our By-Laws of the Veterans Assistance Commission of the County of LaSalle.

AMENDMENT (2)

The annual meeting of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission will be held on the third Wednesday in the month of November at 7:00 p.m. changing the day and time noted in Article V of our By-Laws.

AMENDMENT (3)

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission will hold no meeting in the month of December.

AMENDMENT (4)

If the elected Superintendent is removed from office, dies during their elected term, resigns, or becomes physically or mentally unable to perform the required duties of said elected office, then the Veterans Assistance Commission may appoint the V.A.C. Office Supervisor as the Acting Superintendent with pay adjustments equal to what the Superintendent was receiving for said extra duties until such time as a new Superintendent can be trained in the total operations of the office and elected by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws



Created 10 October 1984

Revised

Governed by 330 ILCS 45 Military Veterans Assistance Act

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Resolution

Whereas, the Veterans Relief Commission was organized and has functioned in the County of LaSalle since September 10, 1984 continuously, and

Whereas, the legislature of this State has amended the law under which the Veterans Relief Commission was organized and functioned, and

Whereas, the by-laws of the commission should be changed to conform to the law as amended.

Therefore, be it resolved that the following by-laws be adopted as the by-laws of the Veterans Assistance Commission of the County of LaSalle.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of this commission shall be LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Article II: Purpose

Section 1: To advocate for Veterans and their families.

Article III: Jurisdiction

Section 1: The territory to be included within this jurisdiction will be the entire County of LaSalle, Illinois. This Commission shall be clothed with all the powers and charged with all the duties imposed by the laws of this state under which this commission is organized.

Any changes or amendments of the existing Illinois law or any ruling by the Attorney General that supersedes existing Veterans Assistance legislation shall be deemed an amendment to these laws.

Article IV: Office

Section 1: The headquarters and principle office space of this Commission shall be provided by LaSalle County, in a county complex or other suitable location.

Article V: Membership

Section 1: The membership of the Commission may be composed of one delegate and one alternate from each of the Veterans organizations within LaSalle County, that are recognized by the Congress of the United States or the General Assembly of the State of Illinois. The delegate and alternate may be selected annually, as may be determined by each member organization and there is only one vote per organization.

Section 2: No delegate or alternate will be permitted to represent more than one veterans organization.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Section 3: No delegate or alternate will be permitted to vote for any other veterans organization.

Article VI: Officers

Section 1: The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms. The President shall preside over the meeting and in his/her absence the Vice-President shall preside. A prayer will be given at the beginning and end of each meeting, conducted by the Chaplain. The Sergeant at Arms will maintain order during the meeting.

Section 2: All officers shall be elected at the November meeting by secret ballot and the new officers are to be acting in their full capacity as of the following January meeting.

Section 3: Officers are elected to a 1 calendar year term of office.

Section 4: Any delegate or alternate from one of the Veterans organizations is eligible to run for election and hold an officer position.

Sections 5: The members of this Commission shall fill vacancies occurring in any office with a new election. A vacancy shall exist when an officer is absent from at least four regular Commission meetings, or the officer has elected under their own charge to step down from the position. Lastly, through 2/3 vote from the commission the officer is to be removed for cause.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: The regular meetings of this Commission shall be held the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5pm. Meetings will be conducted at the LaSalle County Courthouse at 119 W. Madison St Ottawa, IL 61350. There will be no meeting in December.

Section 2: Five members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings.

Section 3: Meetings shall be conducted and covered by Robert's Rules of Order.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Article VIII: Superintendent

Section 1: ~~To be appointed as~~ The Superintendent of LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission ~~you must~~ shall have a bachelors degree, and two years' experience in public service related field.

Section 2: The Superintendent shall be elected by polling of the organizations present.

Section 3: The Superintendent must be an honorable discharged veteran and shall be appointed by the commission to a four (4) year term and shall, under the direction of the commission, have charge of and maintain an office in a location in LaSalle County to be used to carry on the work of the commission.

Neither the Superintendent nor any other employee of the commission shall be allowed to hold any political office or actively campaign for any political candidate or be allowed to hold any political office during their employment by the commission.

Section 4: The Superintendent has the sole authority to manage the daily operations of the office. He/She are also charged with the hiring and firing of employees if the need should arise. If a situation should occur where more personnel are needed above and beyond the current open positions, the commission should be informed of such actions, but the authority to do so lies with the Superintendent.

Section 5: The Superintendent will oversee and manage the budget. Once it is time for the next years budget, the Superintendent will present the budget to the Commission for approval.

Section 6: The Superintendent may be removed from office prior to completion of their appointed term, for cause.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

Section 7: Removal procedures may be instituted by written appeal to the commission by (3) three-member organizations.

Upon written appeal, an investigative committee consisting of five (5) delegates or alternates, shall be elected by the full commission to investigate allegations of malfeasance or any demeanor that hinders the ethical or professional standards of the position of Superintendent.

A report of the committee findings will be presented to at least three-fourths (3/4) of the eligible organizations delegates mentioned in Article V. The commission shall vote upon the appeal. An affirmative vote for the removal by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates or alternates attending a regular or special meeting shall terminate the Superintendents appointment.

All member organizations and delegates shall be notified of the pending appeal at least ten (10) days prior to the date that such appeal is to be voted upon. All member organizations and delegates will be notified by first class mail at their last known address.

Section 8: If the appointed Superintendent is removed from the office, dies, resigns, or becomes physically or mentally unable to perform the required duties of said office, then the Veterans Assistance Commission may appoint the Assistant Superintendent as the Acting Superintendent with pay adjustments equal to the Superintendent salary for said extra duties. This will continue until such time as the Superintendent is able to resume regular duties or a new Superintendent can be selected and trained in the operation of the office.

Section 9: At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Superintendent shall submit a summary of the office functions in the previous year to the Governor as well as notify each of the Veterans organizations by way of first class mail.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Constitution and By-Laws

IX: Assistant Superintendent

Section 1: They shall be a veteran of one of the five military branches as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs and have an Honorable Discharge.

Section 2: In the absence of the Superintendent they are to take on the role of Superintendent as defined by Article VIII Section 8.

X: Amendments

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of 2/3 of the membership attending such meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and provided that written notice shall have been given to all members of the Commission at least thirty days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be acted on.

Section 2: Any changes to the 330 ILCS 45 Military Veterans Assistance Act will be updated in the by-laws as soon as known.

Section 3: These By-Laws will be reviewed for their completeness and accuracy every Four Years. Notice of this review will be sent to each of the Veterans Service Organizations 30 days prior



Hines VA Medical Center

TOWN HALL MEETING

Meet Hines VA Director
Dr. Steven Braverman
and discuss your concerns

Open Q&A Forum

08/16/2018 @ 6PM

Will Be held at
American Legion Post 33
901 LaSalle St
Ottawa, IL 61350



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance
Commission 815-433-1761



VIETNAM

**JUNE
7-11, 2018**

LaSalle County Veterans Tribute Group
1000 E Center St
Ottawa, IL 61350

Volunteer and find out more
information on our Facebook page
[@LasalleCountyVeteransTributeGroup](#)

TM

THE MOVING WALL



US NAVY IN VIETNAM

**ARE YOU A BLUE WATER NAVY
VIETNAM VETERAN?**

**TIME TO FILE
YOUR AGENT
ORANGE CLAIM**

Congress is working on adding you to the Agent Orange List. Get your place
in line now.

Bill Status of SB2225 100th General Assembly**Short Description:** VEH CD-DESERT STORM PLATES**Senate Sponsors**Sen. [Sue Rezin](#) and [David Koehler](#)**House Sponsors**(Rep. [Jerry Lee Long](#) - [Jerry Costello, II](#) - [Daniel Swanson](#) - [David Harris](#) - [Charles Meier](#), [Emanuel Chris Welch](#), [La Shawn K. Ford](#), [Katie Stuart](#), [Natalie A. Manley](#), [Jay Hoffman](#), [Thomas M. Bennett](#), [Tim Butler](#), [Ryan Spain](#), [Dan Brady](#), [Steven Reick](#), [Keith R. Wheeler](#), [John M. Cabello](#), [Margo McDermed](#), [Bill Mitchell](#), [John Cavaletto](#), [Christine Winger](#), [Sara Wojcicki Jimenez](#), [David A. Welter](#), [Mark Batinick](#), [Martin J. Moylan](#), [André Thapedi](#), [Thaddeus Jones](#), [Gregory Harris](#), [Juliana Stratton](#), [Terri Bryant](#), [Tony McCombie](#), [Lindsay Parkhurst](#), [Michael D. Unes](#), [John C. D'Amico](#), [Michael J. Zalewski](#), [Marcus C. Evans, Jr.](#), [Jonathan Carroll](#), [Carol Sente](#), [Natalie Phelps Finnie](#), [Justin Slaughter](#), [Randy E. Frese](#), [LaToya Greenwood](#), [Anna Moeller](#), [Robert Rita](#), [Monica Bristow](#), [Frances Ann Hurley](#), [John Connor](#) and [Fred Crespo](#))**Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
5/22/2018	Senate	Passed Both Houses

Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance[625 ILCS 5/3-699.15 new](#)**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides for the issuance of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm license plates to any Illinois resident who has earned the Southwest Asia Service Medal from the United States Armed Forces. Effective immediately.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
7/31/2017	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Sue Rezin
7/31/2017	Senate	First Reading
7/31/2017	Senate	Referred to Assignments
1/24/2018	Senate	Assigned to Transportation
4/11/2018	Senate	Do Pass Transportation ; 011-000-000
4/11/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading April 12, 2018
4/18/2018	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor Sen. David Koehler
4/23/2018	Senate	Second Reading
4/23/2018	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading April 24, 2018
4/24/2018	Senate	Third Reading - Passed; 053-000-000
4/24/2018	House	Arrived in House
4/26/2018	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Jerry Lee Long
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Jerry Costello, II
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Daniel Swanson
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. David Harris
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Charles Meier
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch
4/26/2018	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



June Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
Lib Law Pension	3/2/2018	12/2018	\$ 36,600.00	\$ 1,830.00	South East
		Totals:	\$ 36,600.00	\$ 1,830.00	
		Year to Date Total	\$ 668,067.46	\$ 32,036.22	

Office Activity May

Office Visits	85	VA Compensation	23
Phone	146	VA Healthcare	5
Outstation	8	VA Pension	6
LaSalle	3	Other	205
Mendota	0	Property Taxes	5

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in May 23, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
<i>Frank Chapman</i>	<i>Legion 426</i>	<i>Del.</i>
<i>George Mason</i>	<i>V.F.W Post 2470</i>	<i>W delegate</i>
<i>Bill Robertson</i>	<i>Legion Post 340</i>	<i>Delegate</i>
<i>Bill Labeau</i>	<i>VFW POST 2470</i>	<i>ALT</i>
<i>John Houston</i>	<i>VFW POST 4037</i>	<i>DEL</i>
<i>Nancy C. Lewis</i>	<i>Legion Post 235</i>	<i>Del</i>
<i>Bob Biles</i>	<i>AMVETS Post 30</i>	<i>DEL</i>
<i>John Dubach</i>	<i>AMVETS Post 30</i>	<i>ALT</i>
<i>Scott Guemerey</i>	<i>Marsalles VFW 5306</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Jim Hamler</i>	<i>Legion Post 33</i>	<i>ALT</i>
<i>David W. Kernal</i>	<i>MARINE CORPS LEAG</i>	<i>ALT</i>
<i>Jim Ebner</i>	<i>A.L Post 237</i>	<i>Del</i>

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda June 27, 2018

- 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 May 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Superintendent's Report**
 - a. Office Activity**
 - b. Vietnam Wall Overview**
 - c. Freedom Run**
 - d. Blue Water Navy – Agent Orange**
- VIII. Old Business**
- IX. New Business**
 - a. Budget will be presented next month for approval**
 - b. September Meeting – Move or Cancel – falls on our mandatory annual training week.**
- X. For the Good of the Commission**
- XI. Closing Prayer**
- XII. Adjournment**

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 5/23/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – William Luther – VFW, Ottawa – Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, Peru – Bob Reiley – AMVETS, Ottawa – Jim Nanowski – American Legion, Ottawa – David Kennuel – Marine Corps League.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb - Excused
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the April 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by George Mason and seconded by Jim Ebner. Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment

Lou Anne Carretto– County Board member visited

Superintendent's Report

- a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 98 people who visited the office and 133 phone calls for April. The office has brought in \$44,847.80 for May through the end of 2018 - totaling \$631,467.46.
- b Steven Kreitzer went over the Hines Director meeting.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Old Business – By-Laws were up for approval and there was much discussion.

Superintendent report and By Lawas was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Nick Nekrosis. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business – None

For the Good of the Commission

- a. Vietnam Wall coming to Ottawa June 7-11, 2018. If able to support it would be appreciated.
- b. Vietnam Veterans Plaza was cleaned up by volunteers
- c. Marseilles Freedom Run is June 16, 2018

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Riley and seconded by Bill Luther. Motion passed unanimously at 5:47 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

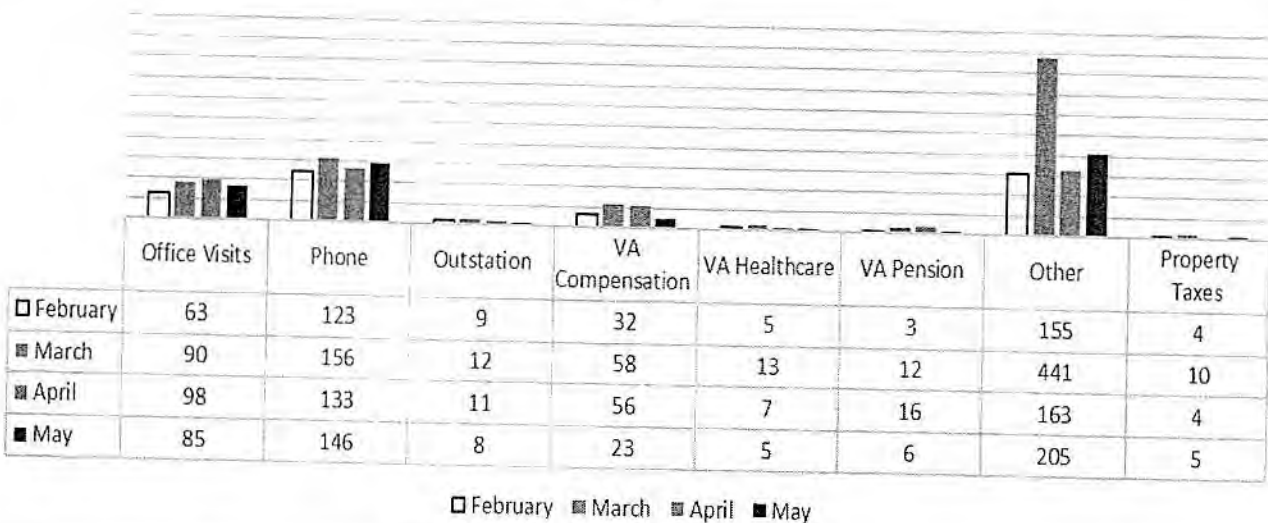
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2018



119 W. Madison St.
 Courthouse Room 103A
 Ottawa, IL 61350
 Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting's 2018

Meetings Start at 5:00 PM

~~January 24~~

~~February 28~~

~~March 28~~

~~April 25~~

~~May 23~~

~~June 27~~

~~July 25~~

~~August 22~~

~~September 26~~

~~October 24~~

~~November 28~~

~~December No Meeting~~

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209



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OPEN

House Approves Benefits for Blue Water Navy Veterans



Mike Yates holds a poster as he and other advocates gather on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, to promote the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. (Stars and Stripes photo/Carlos Bongioanni)

Stars and Stripes
26 Jun 2018
By Nikki Wentling

WASHINGTON -- The House unanimously passed legislation Monday that would extend Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to approximately 90,000 sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War, some of whom have been fighting for years to prove their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Lawmakers voted 382-0 in favor of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which must go to the Senate for final approval. It provides eligibility for disability compensation to "Blue Water" Navy veterans -- those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to Agent Orange through the

ships' water systems. The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

Advertisement



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"Every day, thousands of brave veterans who served in the Vietnam War fight the health effects of Agent Orange

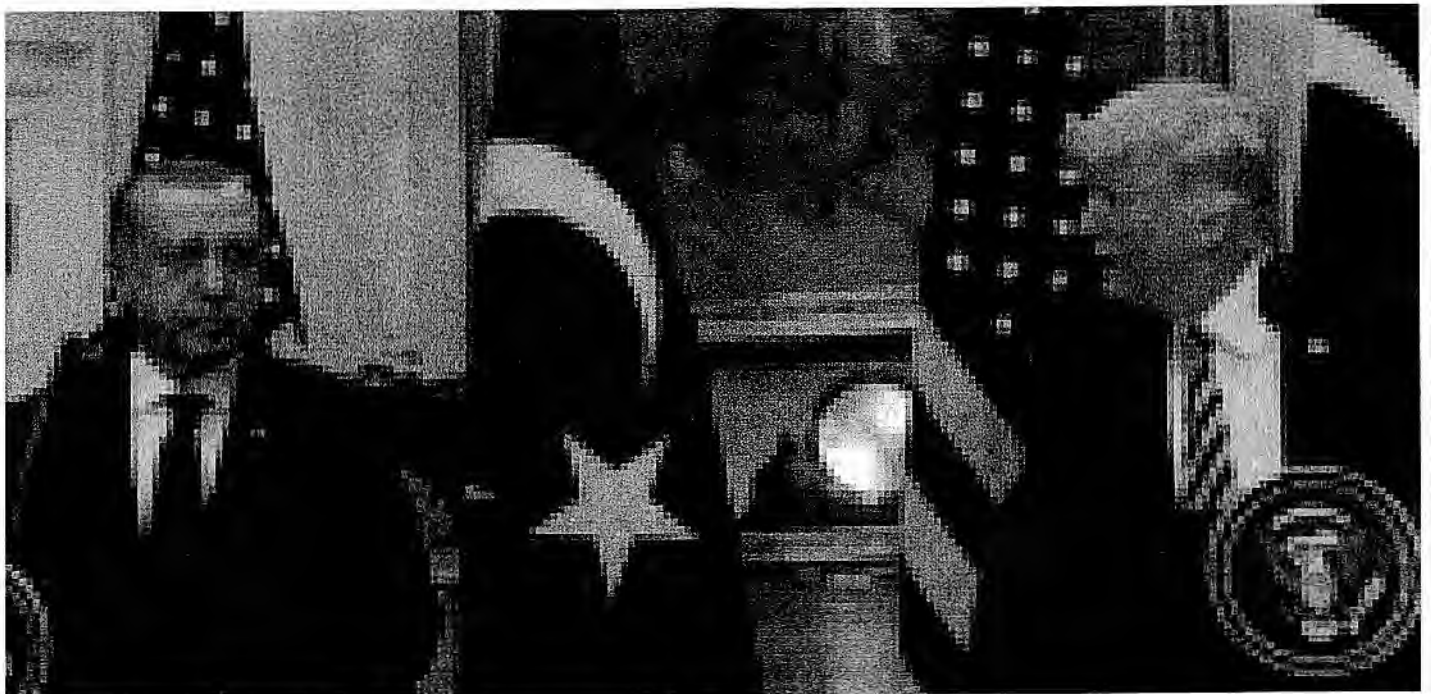
[Show Full Article](#)

Related Topics Military Headlines, Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Benefits, US Navy Topics, Agent Orange, Congress

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115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 299

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Blue Water Navy Viet-
3 nam Veterans Act of 2018”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF PRESUMPTIONS OF EXPOSURE**
5 **FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VICINITY OF**
6 **REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116
9 the following new section:

10 **“§ 1116A. Presumptions of service connection for vet-**
11 **erans who served offshore of the Repub-**
12 **lic of Vietnam**

13 “(a) SERVICE CONNECTION.—For the purposes of
14 section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of
15 this title, a disease covered by section 1116 of this title
16 becoming manifest as specified in that section in a veteran
17 who, during active military, naval, or air service, served
18 offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period be-
19 ginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975,
20 shall be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated
21 by such service, notwithstanding that there is no record
22 of evidence of such disease during the period of such serv-
23 ice.

24 “(b) EXPOSURE.—A veteran who, during active mili-
25 tary, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic
26 of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9,

1 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to
2 have been exposed during such service to an herbicide
3 agent unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that
4 the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that
5 service.

6 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—(1) Except as
7 provided by paragraph (2), the effective date of an award
8 under this section shall be determined in accordance with
9 section 5110 of this title.

10 “(2)(A) Notwithstanding subsection (g) of section
11 5110 of this title, the Secretary shall determine the effec-
12 tive date of an award based on a claim under this section
13 for an individual described in subparagraph (B) by treat-
14 ing the date on which the individual filed the prior claim
15 specified in clause (i) of such subparagraph as the date
16 on which the individual filed the claim so awarded under
17 this section.

18 “(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is
19 a veteran, or a survivor of a veteran, who meets the fol-
20 lowing criteria:

21 “(i) The veteran or survivor submitted a claim
22 for disability compensation on or after September
23 25, 1985, and before January 1, 2019, for a disease
24 covered by this section, and the claim was denied by
25 reason of the claim not establishing that the disease

1 was incurred or aggravated by the service of the vet-
2 eran.

3 “(ii) The veteran or survivor submits a claim
4 for disability compensation on or after January 1,
5 2019, for the same condition covered by the prior
6 claim under clause (i), and the claim is approved
7 pursuant to this section.

8 “(d) DETERMINATION OF OFFSHORE.—Notwith-
9 standing any other provision of law, for purposes of this
10 section, the Secretary shall treat a location as being off-
11 shore of Vietnam if the location is not more than 12 nau-
12 tical miles seaward of a line commencing on the south-
13 western demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and
14 Cambodia and intersecting the following points:

“Points Geographic Names	Latitude North	Lon- gitude East
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0’	103°27.0’
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Is- land Minh Hai Province	8°22.8’	104°52.4’
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao- Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8’	106°37.5’
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9’	106°40.3’
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7’	106°42.1’
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0’	109°5.0’
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0’	109°28.0’
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8’	109°27.2’

"Points Geographic Names	Latitude North	Longitude East
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.0'	109°21.0'
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.1'	109° 9.0'
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.0'	107°20.6'

1 “(c) HERBICIDE AGENT.—In this section, the term
2 ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given that term in sec-
3 tion 1116 (a)(3) of this title.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
5 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
6 after the item relating to section 1116 the following new
7 item:

“1116A. Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of
the Republic of Vietnam.”.

8 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

9 (1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501
10 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may
11 issue guidance to implement section 1116A of title
12 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

13 (2) UPDATES.—On a quarterly basis during the
14 period beginning on the date of the enactment of
15 this Act and ending on the date on which regula-
16 tions are prescribed to carry out such section
17 1116A, the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-
18 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Represent-

1 atives and the Senate updates on the status of such
2 regulations.

3 (3) PENDING CASES.—

4 (A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary
5 may stay a claim described in subparagraph
6 (B) until the date on which the Secretary com-
7 mences the implementation of such section
8 1116A.

9 (B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim de-
10 scribed in this subparagraph is a claim for dis-
11 ability compensation—

12 (i) relating to the service and diseases
13 covered by such section 1116A; and

14 (ii) that is pending at the Veterans
15 Benefits Administration or the Board of
16 Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of
17 the enactment of this Act and before the
18 date on which the Secretary commences
19 the implementation of such section 1116A.

20 (d) OUTREACH.—

21 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs shall conduct outreach to inform veterans de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2) of the ability to submit a
24 claim for disability compensation under section

1 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by
2 subsection (a).

3 (2) VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A veteran described
4 in this paragraph is a veteran who, during active
5 military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the
6 Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on
7 January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.

8 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2020, and
9 not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
11 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
12 report on claims for disability compensation under section
13 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
14 section (a). Each report shall include the following with
15 respect to the period covered by the report, disaggregated
16 by the regional offices of the Department of Veterans Af-
17 fairs:

18 (1) The number of claims filed under such sec-
19 tion.

20 (2) The number of such claims granted.

21 (3) The number of such claims denied.

22 (f) HEALTH CARE.—Section 1710(e)(4) of title 38,
23 United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including
24 offshore of such Republic as described in section 1116A(d)

1 of this title)” after “served on active duty in the Republic
2 of Vietnam”.

3 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

5 **SEC. 3. PRESUMPTION OF HERBICIDE EXPOSURE FOR CER-**
6 **TAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN KOREA.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116A,
9 as added by section 2, the following new section:

10 **“§ 1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for cer-**
11 **tain veterans who served in Korea**

12 “(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION.—(1)
13 For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject
14 to section 1113 of this title, a disease specified in sub-
15 section (b) that becomes manifest as specified in that sub-
16 section in a veteran described in paragraph (2) shall be
17 considered to have been incurred or aggravated in the line
18 of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, not-
19 withstanding that there is no record of evidence of such
20 disease during the period of such service.

21 “(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a vet-
22 eran who, during active military, naval, or air service,
23 served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ),
24 during the period beginning on September 1, 1967, and
25 ending on August 31, 1971.

1 “(b) DISEASES.—A disease specified in this sub-
2 section is—

3 “(1) a disease specified in paragraph (2) of
4 subsection (a) of section 1116 of this title that be-
5 comes manifest as specified in that paragraph; or

6 “(2) any additional disease that—

7 “(A) the Secretary determines in regula-
8 tions warrants a presumption of service-connek-
9 tion by reason of having positive association
10 with exposure to an herbicide agent; and

11 “(B) becomes manifest within any period
12 prescribed in such regulations.

13 “(c) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this sec-
14 tion, the term ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given
15 such term in section 1821(d) of this title.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
18 after the item relating to section 1116A, as added by sec-
19 tion 2, the following new item:

“1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in
Korea.”.

20 (c) PENDING CASES.—

21 (1) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary may
22 stay a claim described in subparagraph (B) until the
23 date on which the Secretary commences the imple-

1 mentation of section 1116B of title 38, United
2 States Code, as added by subsection (a).

3 (2) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim described in
4 this subparagraph is a claim for disability compensa-
5 tion—

6 (A) relating to the service and diseases
7 covered by such section 1116B; and

8 (B) that is pending at the Veterans Bene-
9 fits Administration or the Board of Veterans'
10 Appeals on or after the date of the enactment
11 of this Act and before the date on which the
12 Secretary commences the implementation of
13 such section 1116B.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

16 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN THAILAND**
17 **SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA**
18 **BIFIDA.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 18 of
20 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
21 end the following new section:

22 **“§ 1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand**
23 **service veterans born with spina bifida**

24 “(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
25 provide to any child of a veteran of covered service in

1 Thailand who is suffering from spina bifida the health
2 care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary
3 allowance required to be paid to a child of a Vietnam vet-
4 eran who is suffering from spina bifida under subchapter
5 I of this chapter as if such child of a veteran of covered
6 service in Thailand were a child of a Vietnam veteran who
7 is suffering from spina bifida under such subchapter.

8 “(b) SPINA BIFIDA CONDITIONS COVERED.—This
9 section applies with respect to all forms and manifesta-
10 tions of spina bifida, except spina bifida occulta.

11 “(c) VETERAN OF COVERED SERVICE IN THAI-
12 LAND.—For purposes of this section, a veteran of covered
13 service in Thailand is any individual, without regard to
14 the characterization of that individual’s service, who—

15 “(1) served in the active military, naval, or air
16 service in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary
17 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, dur-
18 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and
19 ending on May 7, 1975; and

20 “(2) is determined by the Secretary, in con-
21 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have been
22 exposed to a herbicide agent during such service in
23 Thailand.

24 “(d) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this sec-
25 tion, the term ‘herbicide agent’ means a chemical in a her-

1 bicide used in support of United States and allied military
2 operations in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in
3 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the pe-
4 riod beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May
5 7, 1975.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF
7 “CHILD”.—Section 1831(1) of such title is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (A) by striking “subchapter III of this
10 chapter” and inserting “section 1821 of this
11 title”; and

12 (B) in clause (i), by striking “section 1821
13 of this title” and inserting “that section”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 paragraph:

16 “(C) For purposes of section 1822 of this
17 title, an individual, regardless of age or marital
18 status, who—

19 “(i) is the natural child of a veteran
20 of covered service in Thailand (as deter-
21 mined for purposes of that section); and

22 “(ii) was conceived after the date on
23 which that veteran first entered service de-
24 scribed in subsection (c) of that section.”.

25 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) SUBCHAPTER HEADING.—The heading for
 2 subchapter III of chapter 18 of such title is amend-
 3 ed by inserting “AND THAILAND” after
 4 “KOREA”.

5 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
 6 at the beginning of chapter 18 of such title is
 7 amended—

8 (A) by striking the item relating to sub-
 9 chapter III and inserting the following new
 10 item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA AND THAILAND SERVICE
 VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA”;

11 and

12 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
 13 section 1821 the following new item:

“1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina
 bifida.”.

14 (d) PENDING CASES.—

15 (1) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary may
 16 stay a claim described in subparagraph (B) until the
 17 date on which the Secretary commences the imple-
 18 mentation of section 1822 of title 38, United States
 19 Code, as added by subsection (a).

20 (2) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim described in
 21 this subparagraph is a claim for benefits—

22 (A) relating to the spina bifida and service
 23 covered by such section 1822; and

1 (B) that is pending at the Veterans Bene-
2 fits Administration or the Board of Veterans'
3 Appeals on or after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act and before the date on which the
5 Secretary commences the implementation of
6 such section 1822.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense,
10 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of
11 the House of Representatives and the Senate a report
12 identifying—

13 (1) the military installations of the United
14 States located in Thailand during the period begin-
15 ning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7,
16 1975, at which an herbicide agent (as defined in sec-
17 tion 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added
18 by subsection (a)) was actively used; and

19 (2) the period of such use.

20 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

22 **SEC. 5. UPDATED REPORT ON CERTAIN GULF WAR ILLNESS**
23 **STUDY.**

24 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

1 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
2 House of Representatives and the Senate an updated re-
3 port on the findings, as of the date of the updated report,
4 of the Follow-up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War
5 and Gulf Era Veterans under the epidemiology program
6 of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

7 **SEC. 6. LOANS GUARANTEED UNDER HOME LOAN PRO-**
8 **GRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
9 **FAIRS.**

10 (a) **ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN LIMIT.**—Section
11 3703(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(IV)—

13 (A) by striking “the lesser of”; and

14 (B) by striking “or 25 percent of the
15 loan”; and

16 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Freddie
17 Mac” and all that follows through the period at the
18 end and inserting “amount of the loan.”.

19 (b) **LOAN FEES.**—Section 3729(b)(2) of such title is
20 amended by striking the loan fee table and inserting the
21 following:

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obli- gator
(A)(i) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2019)	2.15	2.40	NA
(A)(ii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 1, 2027)	2.40	2.40	NA
(A)(iii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after December 1, 2027, and before October 1, 2028)	2.15	2.15	NA
(A)(iv) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2028)	1.40	1.40	NA
(B)(i) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2019)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(ii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 1, 2027)	3.80	3.80	NA
(B)(iii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after December 1, 2027, and before October 1, 2028)	3.30	3.30	NA

"Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obli- gor
(B)(iv) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2028)	1.25	1.25	NA
(C)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed before January 1, 2019)	1.50	1.75	NA
(C)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 1, 2027)	1.75	1.75	NA
(C)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after December 1, 2027, and before October 1, 2028)	1.50	1.50	NA
(C)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after October 1, 2028)	0.75	0.75	NA
(D)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed before January 1, 2019)	1.25	1.50	NA
(D)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 1, 2027)	1.45	1.45	NA
(D)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after December 1, 2027, and before October 1, 2028)	1.25	1.25	NA
(D)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2028)	0.50	0.50	NA
(E) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan	0.50	0.50	NA
(F) Direct loan under section 3711	1.00	1.00	NA
(G) Manufactured home loan under section 3712 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.00	1.00	NA
(H) Loan to Native American veteran under section 3762 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.25	1.25	NA

"Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obli- gor
(I) Loan assumption under section 3714	0.50	0.50	0.50
(J) Loan under section 3733(a)	2.25	2.25	2.25".

1 (c) WAIVER OF FEES FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPI-
2 ENTS; COLLECTION OF CERTAIN LOAN FEES.—Section
3 3729(c) of such title is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)—

5 (A) by striking “A fee” and inserting
6 “Subject to paragraph (3), a fee”;

7 (B) by striking “or from a surviving
8 spouse” and inserting “, from a surviving
9 spouse”; and

10 (C) by inserting before the period at the
11 end the following: “, or from a member of the
12 Armed Forces serving on active duty who was
13 awarded the Purple Heart”.

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(3) A fee shall be collected under this section from
17 any veteran with a service-connected disability rated as
18 less than total, any surviving spouse of such a veteran,
19 and any member of the Armed Forces who, on or after
20 January 1, 2019, receives a loan in an amount that ex-
21 ceeds the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit limitation de-
22 termined under section 305(a)(2) of the Federal Home

1 Loan Mortgage Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2))
2 for a single-family residence, as adjusted for the year in-
3 volved.”.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply with respect to a loan guaranteed
6 under section 3710 of title 38, United States Code, on
7 or after January 1, 2019.

8 (e) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such
9 title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance
10 to implement this section before prescribing new regula-
11 tions under sections 3703 and 3729 of such title, as
12 amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c).

13 **SEC. 7. INFORMATION GATHERING FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOAN APPRAIS-**
15 **ALS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3731(b) of title 38,
17 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
18 following new paragraph:

19 “(3) The Secretary shall permit an appraiser on a
20 list developed and maintained under subsection (a)(3) to
21 make an appraisal for the purposes of this chapter based
22 solely on information gathered by a person with whom the
23 appraiser has entered into an agreement for such serv-
24 ices.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply with respect to an appraisal under
3 section 3731 of such title, on or after January 1, 2019.

4 (c) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of such
5 title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance
6 to implement this section before prescribing new regula-
7 tions under sections 3731 of such title, as amended by
8 subsection (a).

Passed the House of Representatives June 25, 2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 299

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in June 27, 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Delegate/Alternate</u>
R. Nick Nekrocius	Legion Post 426	Delegate
Bill Patterson	Legion Post 340	Delegate
Tom Troutman	Mendota 4079	Delegate
John Dubock	AMVETS Post 30	ALTERNATE
George Mason	Ottawa V.F.W.	Delegate
Gance C. Lewis	Marengo Post 231	Delegate
Jim Egan	Oglesby Post 237	Delegate
Howard Gast	Post 1549	Delegate
Scott Gwendemeyer	DISTRICT 9	—
Ray Gerkert	Legion Post 33	Delegate
Jim Nowicki	Post 33	ALT

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda July 25, 2018

- 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 June 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. 2019 Budget Overview
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 6/27/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – William Luther – VFW, Ottawa – Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, Peru – Bob Reiley – AMVETS, Ottawa – Jim Nanowski – American Legion, Ottawa – David Kennuel – Marine Corps League – Ray Gerkitz – American Legion, Ottawa.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb - Excused
Guard – Jim Nanowski
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the May 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Lance Sires and seconded by Nick Nekrosius. Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 85 people who visited the office and 146 phone calls for April. The office has brought in \$36,600 for May through the end of 2018 - totaling \$668,067.46.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



-
- b Steven Kreitzer thanked all the veterans organizations for all their help and participation to make the Vietnam Moving Wall a success. It could not have been done without their dedication and efforts.
 - c The Freedom run was really hot out with heat indexes over 100. There was still a great turn out though
 - d New regulation passed concerning Blue Water Navy veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Tom Troutman. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business

- a Budget is up for approval at the next meeting
- b September meeting was canceled due to the office being at annual training. Motion made by Jim Ebner and seconded by Lance Sires and passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Commission - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by George Mason and seconded by John Dubeck. Motion passed unanimously at 5:17 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

July Claims Summary					
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
DIC	3/2017	12/2018	\$ 25,662.20	\$ 1,283.11	South East
100%	5/2014	12/2018	\$ 139,298.00	\$ 2,948.00	North West
		Totals:	\$ 164,960.20	\$ 4,231.11	
		Year to Date Total	\$ 796,427.66	\$ 34,437.33	
Office Activity June					
Office Visits	59		VA Compensation	34	
Phone	195		VA Healthcare	13	
Outstation	109		VA Pension	7	
LaSalle	6		Other	309	
Mendota	2		Property Taxes	5	
Streator	0				
Ottawa	67				
Marseilles	34				

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

**Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer**



**Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers**

7/25/18

Over the past year the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission has continually improved efficiency and engaged the Veterans Organizations of LaSalle County. Some of the many accomplishments are as follows:

- 1) Increased foot traffic to over 80 veterans a month on a continuous basis to the office and seen at outreach events.
- 2) Created a website which allows appointments to be scheduled online at the veterans convince. This has not been done by any other veterans service officer in the state of Illinois.
- 3) Helped with the planning and conduction of the Vietnam Moving Wall coming to Ottawa, IL and guiding many of the 7,000 visitors to experience the Wall.
- 4) Continually bringing in over a million federal dollars a year for our LaSalle County Veterans. This money goes toward the livelihood of the veterans as well as help the local economy through the purchasing of goods and services.

It is because of these efforts both during normal work hours and beyond the we are making the following recommendations.

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent – Request to have 5 Vacation days added to his annual accrual beginning 12/1/2018 in addition to the regular accrual rate.

Christa Hammers – Assistant Superintendent - Request to have 5 Vacation days added to her annual accrual beginning 12/1/2018 in addition to the regular accrual rate.

We request to authorize the search and employment of an administrative assistant at Part Time paid at a starting rate of \$12 an hour. This position does not come with benefits and would have to stay below 30 hours a week to meet that requirement.

This has been approved by the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Board.

Sincerely,

David Scott Buennemeyer – Board President

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

2019 Expense Budget Worksheet

LaSalle County

Selected Fund: 020

Selected Sub-Dept: ALL

Selected Dept: ALL

BUDGET STEP: 1 - Initial

Fund:	Dept:	Account #	Description	2017 Prior Year Actual	2018 Current Budget	2018 Current Actual	2019 Request Amount	Amount of Change	Percent of Change	Request Notes
Fund :	020	Veterans Assistance Commission								
Department:	000	NonDepartmental								
020-000-441001	Medical			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-460003	Contractual Labor			\$0	\$0	\$3,312	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-502001	Maintenance & Repair-			\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-502003	Maintenance & Repair-			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-502003-121	Maintenance & Repair-			\$47,434	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-503001	Mileage			\$1,135	\$4,000	\$194	\$1,500	-\$2,500	-63%	
020-000-510004	Telephone			\$1,701	\$2,000	\$264	\$2,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-511001	Rent			\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-538001	Emergency Relief			\$16,918	\$20,000	\$8,238	\$20,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-540001	Postage			\$280	\$1,500	\$106	\$1,500	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-541001	Education			\$1,807	\$6,000	\$623	\$6,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-541004	Dues & Subscriptions			\$809	\$1,500	\$315	\$1,500	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-541005	Library			\$385	\$1,000	\$0	\$500	-\$500	-50%	
020-000-541006	Printing			\$848	\$1,500	\$282	\$1000	-\$500	-33.333%	
020-000-541007	Marketing			\$0	\$2,000	\$504	\$1,500	-\$500	-25%	

Fund:

Dept:

Request Notes

Amount of Change

2019 Request Amount

2018 Current Actual

2018 Current Budget

2017 Prior Year Actual

Description

Account #

Fund :

Account #	Description	2017 Prior Year Actual	2018 Current Budget	2018 Current Actual	2019 Request Amount	Amount of Change	Percent of Change	Request Notes
020-000-541017	Record Retention Expe	\$0	\$11,000	\$0	\$2,000	-\$9,000	-82%	
020-000-596001	New Programs	\$324	\$0	\$204	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-598001	Misc Expense	\$83	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-599001	Contingency	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-601001	Office Supplies & Expe	\$15,641	\$16,500	\$7,488	\$10,000	-\$6,500	0.000%	
020-000-701001	New Office Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-704001	Software Purchase/lice	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,293	\$2,000	\$500	33%	
020-000-801001	Employee Dishonesty	\$111	\$300	\$0	\$200	-\$100	-33%	
020-000-807001	Liability Insurance	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-810001	Health & Life Insurance	\$13,265	\$21,625	\$25,740	\$21,625	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-810002	Health & Life Ins-Retire	\$0	\$27,150	\$0	\$27,150	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-810005	Umbrella Insurance	\$0	\$750	\$0	\$750	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-811001	Workers Compensation	\$2,026	\$750	\$0	\$750	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-836028	Transfer to Const & Im	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	-\$7,000	-100%	
020-000-860000	NSF Chargeback	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-900000	Payroll	\$38,872	\$52,000	\$23,200	\$52,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-900000-999	Payroll Elected off/dept	\$65,267	\$70,000	\$32,560	\$70,000	\$0	0.000%	
020-000-900100	Part Time No Benefits	\$9,025	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	0.000%	
020-000-900101	Temp/Seasonal Help	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	-\$5,000	-100%	
020-000-910000	Overtime	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.000%	

Fund:	Dept:	Account #	Description	2017		2018		2019		Request Notes
				Prior Year Actual	Current Budget	Current Actual	Request Amount	Amount of Change	Percent of Change	
Fund :	020	020	Veterans Assistance Commission	\$218,932	-\$10,998	\$262,577	-4.020%	\$0	\$0	0.000%
	020-000-910001		Holiday OT	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	0.000%

Total Dept 000: \$218,932 \$273,575 \$111,321 \$262,577 -\$10,998 -4.020%

Total Fund: 020: \$218,932 \$273,575 \$111,321 \$262,577 -\$10,998 -4.020%

Report Total: \$218,932 \$273,575 \$111,321 \$262,577 -\$10,998 -4.020%



Hines VA Medical Center

TOWN HALL MEETING

Meet Hines VA Director
Dr. Steven Braverman
and discuss your concerns.

Open Q&A Forum

08/16/2018 @ 6PM

Will Be held at
American Legion Post 33
901 LaSalle St
Ottawa, IL 61350



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance
Commission 815-433-1761



LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in July 25, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
John Duback	Amvets 30	ALT
Chuck Eris	UFW 5506	Delegate
Scott Diennemejer	UFW DISTRICT 9	President
George Mason	V.F.W. Post 2470	Delegate
Frank Chuo	POST 235 MARS	DELEGATE
Bob Riley	AMVETS 30	DELEGATE
Douglas M. Griner	POST 260 Legion	DEL
Jim Egnen	Post 237 A.L	Del
Bill Patterson	Legion Post 540	Del
Harold Olsen	Amvets 26	Del
WILLIAM LUTHER	UFW POST 2470	ALT.
DAVID KENNEDY	MCL Jonesville	Del
R. Mark Robinson	Local 549	Del
Howard Gast	Post 549	DEL
Ray Gerke	Post 33 OTTAWA	Del

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda August 22, 2018

- 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 July 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Hines Town Hall Overview
 - c. SB 2306 – Proration of Property Taxes
 - d. Blue Water Navy - Update
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
 - a. Reminder that September meeting is canceled due to annual training
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes

7/25/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

President Scott Buennemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – William Luther – VFW, Ottawa – Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, Peru – Bob Reiley – AMVETS, Ottawa – Jim Nanowski – American Legion, Ottawa – David Kennuel – Marine Corps League – Ray Gerkitz – American Legion, Ottawa.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski - Excused
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the May 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Bob Riley and seconded by Nick Nekrosius. Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

- a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 59 people who visited the office, 109 people for outreach, and 195 phone calls for June. The office has brought in \$164,960.20 for July through the end of 2018 - totaling \$796,427.66.
- b Steven Kreitzer went over the budget for 2019

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



c Hines VA Director Dr. Braverman is having a town hall at the Ottawa American Legion on 8/16/2018

d LaSalle County Veterans Tribute Group is hosting a documentary screening of the Vietnam Wall in Ottawa and the Ottawa VFW on August 4, 2018.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Chuck Erb and seconded by Bob Riley. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

For the Good of the Commission - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Riley and seconded by Lance Sires. Motion passed unanimously at 5:25 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

August Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
50%	2/2018	12/2018	\$ 7,698.69	\$ 855.41	North East
30%	4/2018	12/2018	\$ 2,920.05	\$ 417.15	North West
10%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 1,089.92	\$ 136.24	North East
50%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 7,499.28	\$ 937.41	North East
100%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 35,698.08	\$ 3,245.28	South East
100%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 25,962.24	\$ 3,245.28	South West
Totals:			\$ 80,868.26	\$ 8,836.77	
Year to Date Total			\$ 877,295.92	\$ 43,274.10	

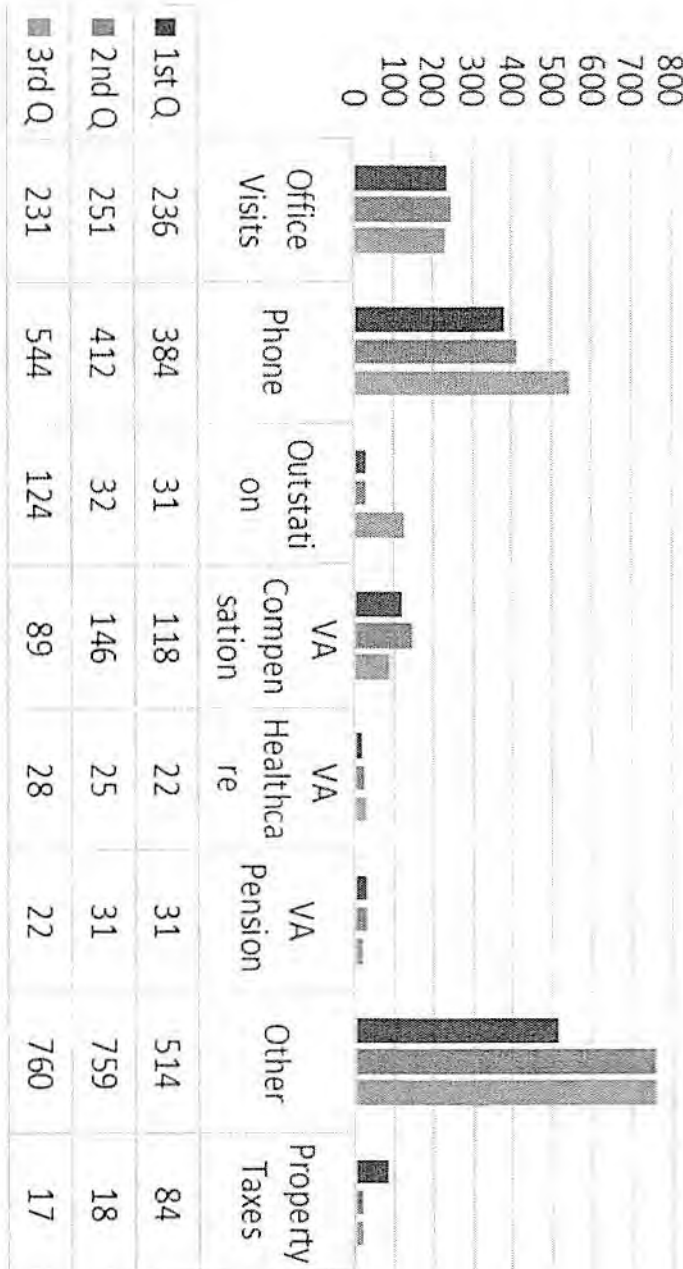
Office Activity July

Office Visits	87	VA Compensation	32
Phone	203	VA Healthcare	10
Outstation	7	VA Pension	9
LaSalle	7	Other	246
Mendota	0	Property Taxes	7
Streator	0		

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



2018 Quarterly Report



■ 1st Q ■ 2nd Q ■ 3rd Q

AN ACT concerning revenue.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing Section 15-169 as follows:

(35 ILCS 200/15-169)

Sec. 15-169. Homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities.

(a) Beginning with taxable year 2007, an annual homestead exemption, limited to the amounts set forth in subsections (b) and (b-3), is granted for property that is used as a qualified residence by a veteran with a disability.

(b) For taxable years prior to 2015, the amount of the exemption under this Section is as follows:

(1) for veterans with a service-connected disability of at least (i) 75% for exemptions granted in taxable years 2007 through 2009 and (ii) 70% for exemptions granted in taxable year 2010 and each taxable year thereafter, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the annual exemption is \$5,000; and

(2) for veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 50%, but less than (i) 75% for exemptions granted in taxable years 2007 through 2009 and (ii) 70% for

exemptions granted in taxable year 2010 and each taxable year thereafter, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the annual exemption is \$2,500.

(b-3) For taxable years 2015 and thereafter:

(1) if the veteran has a service connected disability of 30% or more but less than 50%, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the annual exemption is \$2,500;

(2) if the veteran has a service connected disability of 50% or more but less than 70%, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the annual exemption is \$5,000; and

(3) if the veteran has a service connected disability of 70% or more, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the property is exempt from taxation under this Code.

(b-5) If a homestead exemption is granted under this Section and the person awarded the exemption subsequently becomes a resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act or a facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the exemption shall continue (i) so long as the residence continues to be occupied by the qualifying person's spouse or (ii) if the residence remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person who qualified for the homestead exemption.

(c) The tax exemption under this Section carries over to the benefit of the veteran's surviving spouse as long as the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead, permanently resides thereon, and does not remarry. If the surviving spouse sells the property, an exemption not to exceed the amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to his or her new residence as long as it is used as his or her primary residence and he or she does not remarry.

(c-1) Beginning with taxable year 2015, nothing in this Section shall require the veteran to have qualified for or obtained the exemption before death if the veteran was killed in the line of duty.

(d) The exemption under this Section applies for taxable year 2007 and thereafter. A taxpayer who claims an exemption under Section 15-165 or 15-168 may not claim an exemption under this Section.

(e) Each taxpayer who has been granted an exemption under this Section must reapply on an annual basis. Application must be made during the application period in effect for the county of his or her residence. The assessor or chief county assessment officer may determine the eligibility of residential property to receive the homestead exemption provided by this Section by application, visual inspection, questionnaire, or other reasonable methods. The determination must be made in accordance with guidelines established by the

Department.

(e-1) If the person qualifying for the exemption does not occupy the qualified residence as of January 1 of the taxable year, the exemption granted under this Section shall be prorated on a monthly basis. The prorated exemption shall apply beginning with the first complete month in which the person occupies the qualified residence.

(f) For the purposes of this Section:

"Qualified residence" means real property, but less any portion of that property that is used for commercial purposes, with an equalized assessed value of less than \$250,000 that is the primary residence of a veteran with a disability. Property rented for more than 6 months is presumed to be used for commercial purposes.

"Veteran" means an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or State active duty, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or a member of the United States Reserve Forces and who has received an honorable discharge.

(Source: P.A. 98-1145, eff. 12-30-14; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15; 99-375, eff. 8-17-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.

MISSION FIRST

PEOPLE ALWAYS

+ BOWMAN'S RUCK +

October 6, 2018

**Registration opens @ 0700 day of event
Step off @ 0815 from Middle East Conflict Wall, Marseilles IL**

**Turn around at Ottawa VFW Post 2470
Beer tastings from Lone Buffalo & light snack provided
Back to Wall w/ food and beverage provided at Lions Club, Marseilles, IL**

**Proceeds from this event support local veterans through Our Patriots, LLC –
A non-profit that fills in the holes for veterans.**

**Purpose of event: To reconnect with buddies.
The only resource to talk to is each other.**

1 Vietnam Vets Benefits Help - Apply for Veteran's Benefits

If you're a Vietnam Vet and need help with benefits you deserve, contact us now. repforvets.com



2 500 4x6 Postcards \$22.89

14pt Glossy Cards with Lamination. 100% Satisfaction Guarantee! gotprint.com/Postcards



3 VA Home Loan Eligibility

Verification Takes 1 Minute. Verify Your \$0 Down VA Loan Eligibility Now! militaryvaloan.com



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VA raises opposition to bill extending benefits for Blue Water Navy veterans



[\(/polopoly_fs/1.540545.1533161982!/image/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_900/image.jpg\)](http://polopoly_fs/1.540545.1533161982!/image/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_900/image.jpg)

Department of Veterans Affairs undersecretary of benefits Paul Lawrence testifies during a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. Lawrence urged senators Wednesday to vote against legislation that would extend VA benefits to sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War and claim their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

CARLOS BONGIOANNI/STARS AND STRIPES



UNREPRODUCIBLE
BY ANY MEANS
WITHOUT THE
WRITTEN PERMISSION
OF STRIPES

By [NIKKI WENTLING \(/reporters/2.2357?author=Nikki_Wentling\)](#) | STARS AND STRIPES

Published: August 1, 2018

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs officials urged senators Wednesday to vote against legislation that would extend VA benefits to sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War and claim their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Paul Lawrence, the VA's new undersecretary of benefits, told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee insufficient evidence exists to link the veterans to Agent Orange exposure.

"We oppose this bill because the science is not there, and we depend on science," he said. "We care, so we keep looking."

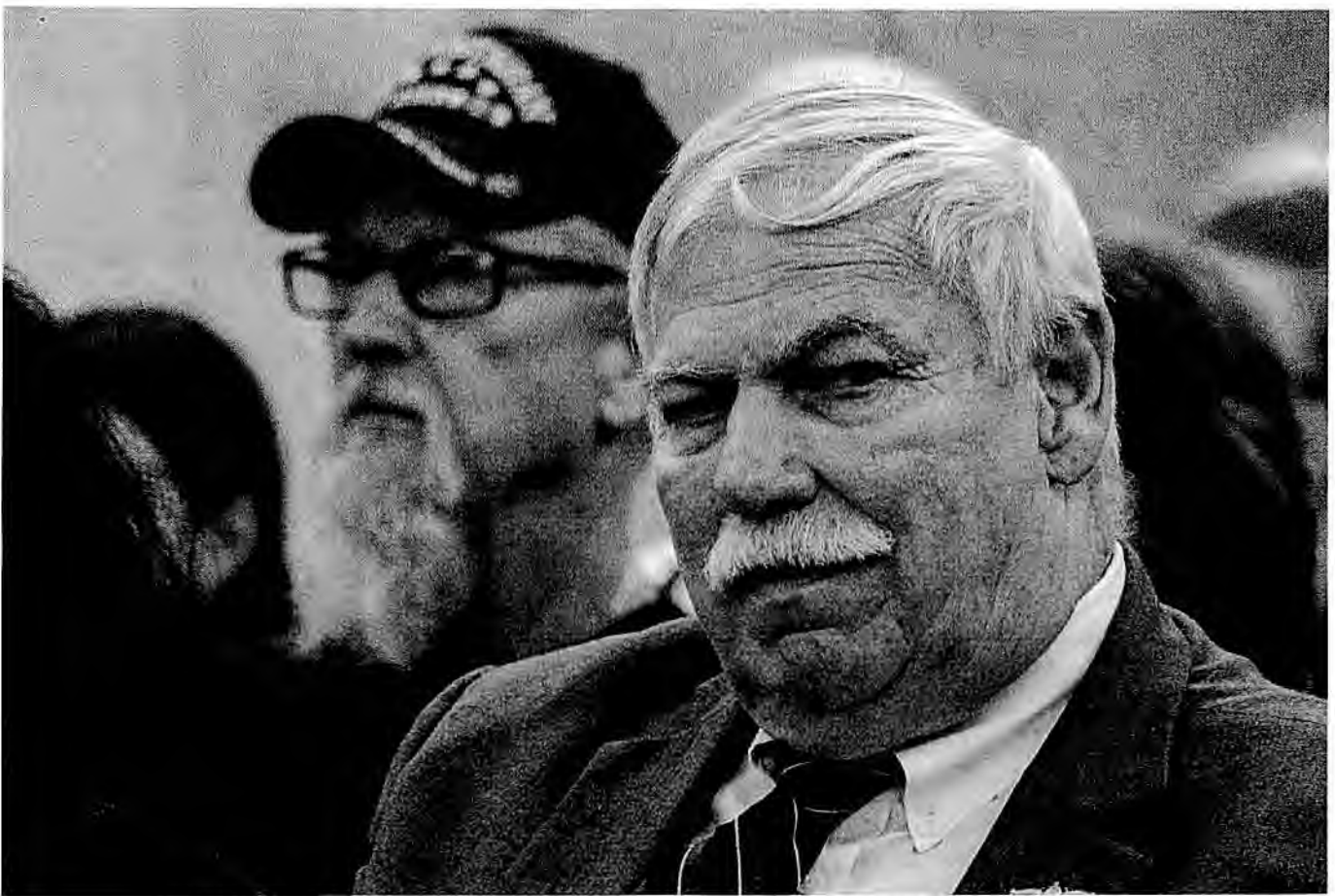
The bill would set a bad precedence for approving benefits for illnesses without proof that they were caused by military service, Lawrence argued. He worried the move would "erode confidence in the soundness and fairness of the veterans benefits system."

ADVERTISING

The bill that the committee considered Wednesday would make disability compensation available to approximately 90,000 "Blue Water" Navy veterans — those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to Agent Orange through the ships' water systems. The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

Former VA Secretary David Shulkin previously spoke out in support of the bill, saying "we have to do the right thing" even with lacking evidence.

GALLERY



((polopoly_fs/1.540551.15331618181/image/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_900/image.jpg))

Retired Cmdr. John Wells, executive director of the Military Veterans Advocacy, Inc., listens to testimony on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, during a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. "We're disappointed in the testimony of the undersecretary," Wells said after the hearing.

CARLOS BONGIOANNI/STARS AND STRIPES

"We were disappointed to see the reversal in the VA's position," said retired Navy officer John Wells, who's been advocating for the bill for years. Wells said he plans to talk with new VA Secretary Robert Wilkie about the issue.

"We're disappointed in the testimony of the undersecretary. We hope the Senate moves fast to pass this bill," Wells said.

The House unanimously approved the bill in June with a vote of 382-0. It's the furthest the measure has progressed in Congress after being introduced in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Instead of taking the bill directly to the Senate floor, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., scheduled the hearing Wednesday to hear from veterans service organizations and the VA. Veterans filled the committee room Wednesday afternoon, as more of them stood in line outside, waiting for a seat.

Besides the lack of funding, Lawrence argued the legislation would lead to an increased volume in veterans' claims for benefits, which would grow the claims backlog unless more employees were hired to work on them. He said the VA would need an estimated \$500 million during the next 10 years to boost their resources to handle the claims.

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW ▾

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 hospital (/memo-va-finds-deteriorating-conditions-
 at-dc-hospital-1.540510)

△ x

Then, there was the cost of the benefits themselves.

Extending the benefits for 10 years would cost \$1.1 billion, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. To make up the cost, the legislation raises fees for servicemembers and veterans who use the VA's home loan program. The increase amounts to between \$2.14 and \$2.95 each month.

"Granting new benefits for some veterans at the expense of other veterans is counter to VA's mission," Lawrence said.

Despite the VA's concerns, the senators who spoke about the bill Wednesday were mostly supportive.

"This is an important piece of legislation that will allow many deserving veterans to receive care and benefits they've long sought," said Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said he thought the bill would get easy support if allowed on the Senate floor for a vote.

"We shouldn't even be here talking about this," Manchin said. "I don't think they're asking for much. If you're exposed, you're exposed."

It was uncertain Wednesday when the committee might vote on whether to advance the bill to the full Senate. Senators were expected to leave at the end of the week for a short August recess.

Other bills that the committee discussed Wednesday were:

- The VA Hiring Enhancement Act aims to fill vacancies and improve the recruitment and retention of VA physicians by allowing the agency to make job offers up to two years before doctors finish their residencies.

S 3184 allows more nonveteran spouses to live in state-run veteran homes. Under current law, if more than 25 percent of a home's residents are not veterans, the home loses federal funding and certification. The bill would increase the amount to 40 percent.

- The Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act requires the VA to use multiple vendors for its medical supplies. It would also mandate the employees who purchase supplies have medical expertise with them.

• The BRAVE Act of 2017 increases the amount the VA pays for burial and funeral expenses each year to match the percent increase in the Consumer Price Index.

• A bill to transfer management of the dilapidated Mare Island Naval Cemetery from the city of Vallejo, Calif., to the VA to be maintained as a national shrine.

• The Department of Veterans Affairs Financial Accountability Act increases oversight of VA finances by contracting with independent auditors.

• Legislation to increase the amount the VA will pay for dependency and indemnity compensation by about \$300 each month. The payments go to survivors of veterans whose deaths resulted from a service-connected injury or disease.

• A bill to extend the special pension for deceased Medal of Honor recipients to their surviving spouses.

• Legislation to create a three-year pilot program to expand eligibility for VA dental care.

• The No Hero Left Untreated Act establishes a one-year pilot program at the VA to provide magnetic resonance, a therapeutic technique, to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, chronic pain and opioid addiction. The therapy uses a low-level magnetic field to activate specific cells and tissue areas.

• A draft bill to improve counseling and other services for transitioning servicemembers starting one year before their date of separation.

• Legislation that would establish a VA grant program for people who provide suicide prevention services to veterans and their families.

• A bill to creating a one-year pilot program at the VA to provide devices veterans could use to share their medical histories with VA and community health care providers.

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H.R.299 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

115th Congress (2017-2018) | [Get alerts](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Valadao, David G. \[R-CA-21\]](#) (Introduced 01/05/2017)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs | Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 115-680](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 08/01/2018 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. ([All Actions](#))

Roll Call Votes: There has been [1 roll call vote](#)

Tracker: Introduced **Passed House** Passed Senate To President Became Law

Actions Overview H.R.299 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

[All Information](#) (Except Text)

[Bill History – Congressional Record References](#)

3 results for Actions Overview

Newest to Oldest ▼

Date	Actions Overview
06/25/2018	Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 382 - 0 (Roll no. 289).
05/18/2018	Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 115-680 .
01/05/2017	Introduced in House

Actions Overview [3]

All Actions Except Amendments [20]

All Actions [20]

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H.R.299 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

115th Congress (2017-2018) | [Get alerts](#)

All Actions H.R.299 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

[All Information](#) (Except Text)

[Bill History – Congressional Record References](#)

20 results for All Actions | [Compact View](#)

Newest to Oldest

Date	Chamber	All Actions
08/01/2018	Senate	Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
06/28/2018	Senate	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
06/26/2018	Senate	Received in the Senate.
06/25/2018-6:54pm	House	Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
06/25/2018-6:54pm	House	On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 382 - 0 (Roll no. 289). (text: CR H5611-5614)
06/25/2018-6:31pm	House	Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5620-5621)
06/25/2018-5:14pm	House	At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
06/25/2018-4:40pm	House	DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 299 .
06/25/2018-4:40pm	House	Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5611-5620)
06/25/2018-4:40pm	House	Mr. Roe (TN) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
05/18/2018	House	Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 523.

8/22/2018.
05/18/2018
Date

Actions - H.R.299 - 115th Congress (2017-2018): Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

House Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. [H. Rept. 115-680](#).
Chamber **All Actions** Committee on Veterans' Affairs

05/08/2018	House	Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
05/08/2018	House	Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Discharged. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
05/08/2018	House	Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
11/02/2017	House	Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
04/05/2017	House	Subcommittee Hearings Held. Action By: House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
01/19/2017	House	Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Action By: Committee on Veterans' Affairs
01/05/2017	House	Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
01/05/2017	House	Introduced in House

Actions Overview [3]

All Actions Except Amendments [20]

All Actions [20]

Roll Call Votes ☰

See "roll call vote" in glossary

Check all

House Roll Call Vote [1]

Action By ☰

Check all

House [17]

Senate [3]

House Committees ☰

Check all

Veterans' Affairs [6]

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs [2]



UPCOMING EVENTS

IL Farmer Veteran
Quarterly Meeting
Dearing Country Farms
16410 N 800 East Road
Bloomington, IL

HOMEGROWN BY HEROES

Illinois Products is a state branding program established to denote farm products grown and raised by military veterans or active duty service members via a specialized logo. To learn more or to sign up for the Homegrown By Heroes Illinois Products logo, visit the Illinois Department of Agriculture's website at <http://www.agr.state.il.us>.

ILLINOIS FARMER VETERANS ALLIANCE

Vision

Illinois has a robust farming community that yields a sense of purpose and identity for veterans in agriculture.

Mission

Farmer Veteran Alliance cultivates a meaningful place for veterans in Illinois and increases the viability of veteran ran farms by establishing a strong Farmer-Veteran relationship, facilitating business and marketing opportunities, and developing a resource pipeline in collaborating with partner organization.



Like us on
Facebook

www.IllinoisFarmerVeterans.org

11111

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in August 22, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
Nick Nakasinski	Legion La Salle 426	Delegate
Tom Johnson	VFW 4079 MENDOTA	DELEGATE
Bill Vatterson	American Legion 540 ^{Mendota}	Delegate
John DuBACK	Amvets Post 30 Ottawa	ALTERNATE
Chuck Erb	VFW 5506	Delegate
Scott Bienneyer	District 9	President
Jim Ebner	A.L. 237	Delegate
George Mason	Ottawa V.F.W.	Delegate
Paul Kannel	Fox Valley MCL	BOB Cupples
Bill Fisher	VFW 2470	ALT
Jack Lanning	VFW 5506	ALT
James Ewert	Post 235 MARS.	DELEGATE
Greg Stock	Post 235 Marse	ALT
Howard Trask	Post 549	alt
Ray Geckitz	Post 33 Ottawa	Del

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda October 24, 2018

- 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 August 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Training Overview
 - c. Under Secretary for Benefits Meeting
 - d. Blue Water Navy – Agent Orange
 - e. SB 2306 – Property Tax Proration
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Nominations and elections next month.
 - b. Approval of the 2019 meeting schedule next month.
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 8/22/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

John Duback – AMVETS, Ottawa - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles - Scott Buennemeyer – VFW, Marseilles – Bill Paterson – American Legion, Mendota – William Luther – VFW, Ottawa – Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Nick Nekrosius – American Legion, Peru – Ray Gerkitz – American Legion, Ottawa – David Kenedy – Marine Corps League – Chuck Erb – American Legion, Marseilles – Jack Leninger – Marseilles, VFW.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard – Jim Nanowski - Excused
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the July 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Lance Sires and seconded by Nick Nekrosius. Minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment

Superintendent's Report

- a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 87 people who visited the office and 203 phone calls for April. The office has brought in \$80,868.26 for June through the end of 2018 - totaling \$877,295.92.
- b Steven Kreitzer thanked the Ottawa American Legion for hosting the Hines Director meeting. There was a great turn out with much discussion.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



c SB 2306 – is calling for the proration of the veterans property tax bill. Make sure to call you State Representatives to support this.

d Blue Water Navy – the legislation has passed unanimously in the House and now is up to the Senate. The VA has come out against this legislation but we will see what happens.

Old Business – None

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

New Business – None

For the Good of the Commission

- a. Steven Kreitzer reminded everyone that there would be no meeting in September due to the office having annual training.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Howard Gast and seconded by George Mason. Motion passed unanimously at 5:30 pm.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

September - October Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
20%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 2,154.40	\$ 269.30	North West
100% + SMC	8/2018	12/2018	\$ 11,469.00	\$ 3,823.00	North East
80%	8/2018	12/2018	\$ 6,877.00	\$ 1,719.25	North East
70%	3/2017	12/2018	\$ 29,629.60	\$ 1,481.48	North East
60%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 10,835.20	\$ 1,083.52	North East
70%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 13,654.80	\$ 1,365.48	North East
40%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 6,009.00	\$ 600.90	North West
30%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 4,171.50	\$ 417.15	North East
80%	1/2018	12/2018	\$ 17,192.50	\$ 1,719.25	North West
10%	12/2017	12/2018	\$ 1,498.64	\$ 136.24	South West
100%	12/2017	12/2018	\$ 34,536.37	\$ 3,139.67	South West
100%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 27,474.48	\$ 3,434.31	South East
60%	9/2018	12/2018	\$ 3,547.56	\$ 1,182.52	North East
		Totals:	\$ 169,050.05	\$ 20,372.07	
		Year to Date Total	\$ 1,046,345.97	\$ 63,646.17	

Office Activity August - September

Office Visits	129	56	VA Compensation	25	15
Phone	209	199	VA Healthcare	7	12
Outstation	14	11	VA Pension	10	8
LaSalle	5	5	Other	310	231
Mendota	6	3	Property Taxes	10	5
Streator	3	3			

September Training

Veterans Appeal Cases

Withdrawal at BVA Hearing (Acree V. O'Rourke)

Navy Veteran and awarded Seabee Combat Warfare medals for combat in Iraq. Diagnosed W/PTSD in service

After filed multiple times in 2008 appealed 11 to BVA

His claim was withdrawn as the judge erroneously without proper explanation of the consequences of the withdraw.

Blue Water Navy and BVA's Reliance on M21-1 (Overton V. Wilkie) September 2018

Lay evidence is the VA's job to disprove

The absence of negative evidence is not the same as negative evidence.

Mere Speculation is not permission to deny a claim if there is a positive medical opinion you provided.

Tells you how to win blue water cases. Use it as a roadmap.

Provide the probability of exposure

M21-1 is a guideline for the adjudicator and not the law.

421,000 appeals currently

Class Actions at the Veterans Court (Monk V Wilkie)

Has teeth to it and additional damages above and beyond what was originally awarded

Stabb case – Reimbursing veterans for va care at non va facilities.

Her experience with RAMP is good and utilizes the same law under the appeals program.

Pain alone can be service connected.

Sharp V Shulkin, 29 Vet App 26 (2017) pain with flare ups

Saunders V Wilkie (2018)

38 CFR 4.1 This rating schedule primarily a guide in the evaluation of disability

Average impairment in earning capacity. With high importance on the limitation of motion.

38 CFR 4.2 Different examiners at different times will not describe the same disability in the same language.

38 CFR 4.44 painful joints. Pain on movement swelling deformity and atrophy disuse.

Sharp V Shinseki, 25 Vet App 32,43 (2011) talks about flare ups and not being able to deny because they can't see it.

Mittlner V. Shulkin – have to separate TBI and PTSD.

Saunders V Wilkie Fed Cir 2018 Pain can be a service connected condition. Even if it's not a diagnosed condition.

Pain can constitute a disability under 38 USC 1110 Provides for compensation for a disability resulting from the personal injury suffered or disease contracted in the line of duty but doesn't have a diagnosis. Also supporting this is 38 CFR 4.1, 4.40, 4.45, 4.56, 4.66, 4.67

Even if the range of motion is not impaired you can still get service connected. No diagnosis needed.

RAMP – new appeals process isn't going to revolutionize the claim process. Needed numbers in the beginning to sell the program to the public. However, now they are back to the Deny more.

If you appeal a decision and have submitted the form 9. Until the VA submits the form 8 you can submit more information to the RO and they are required to make another decision and issue another SOC so there could be a positive decision before it goes to the board.

The board reverses or remands 75% of the cases that they see.

Computer systems are set up to flag ratings when the computer thinks the rater over rated them. AKA if the DBQ comes back and says the veteran is supposed to be rated at 10% and rater gives them a 30% because the other evidence in the file supports it they will be questioned and must defend that decision. If they don't adequately defend their decision they will receive a written reprimand or worse given the severity the supervisor thinks the error is. The computer system doesn't however look at the fact that the DBQ says a veteran should be awarded 30% and the rater downgrades it to 10%. There is no computer flagging system in place to find these issues. Why does the VA only look for and seem to care about errors that cause them money but not when it hurts the veteran.

The Regional office doesn't have a legal requirement to address all the evidence but in the appeals process they are required to address each piece of evidence and the weight it holds in the claim process.

The appeals are getting granted but the Appeals Management Office is taking 3-4 months to pay the veteran after the appeal. So once again they are pulling resources to fix another and creating a backlog in yet another area. So in the meantime the veteran still has to pay property taxes, co pays at VA, not receive travel pay for service connected conditions.

Tanya Fisher – Decision Ready Claims

Fully developed claims to where the decision can be made right off the bat. 30 day claims and have the DBQ on hand by submitting the request before the claim with the regional office.

The DBQ doesn't go to the Regional Office but if done at the Hines VA Medical Center they will probably be seen when a new claim is filed.

Carolina Mosley – 30 years of service with the VA

Healthnet is leaving as of 9/30/2018 as far as covering the Choice Program

Mission Act of 2018 and there is no money allocated yet and they are working on the policies and procedures.

Know the issue of the timely payments and meeting monthly with providers to go over outstanding bills.

Expand eligibility for in home care for all era's

Health homemaker the VA will train your person coming into the home.

Scheduling and customer service being brought back to the VA Hospitals. Contractor is no longer in the picture

Taking out the bureaucracy – if you get a knee surgery you don't have to keep going back for authorizations. It is considered bundle care much like private providers do. All things authorized will be on the sheet.

Payment to the provider will be within 30 days and the goal is 14 days.

Veterans Benefits Administration Progress & Results Webcast

For End of Fiscal Year 2018

Under Secretary for Benefits Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D.
October 16, 2018



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Today's Agenda

- Present VBA **results** in FY 2018 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)
- Explain the **benefits** we deliver to our Veterans
- Describe **engagement** with Veterans
- Describe **challenges** we dealt with
- Answer three **questions** that we received in advance



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VBA Overview

The mission of the Veterans Benefits Administration is to serve as a leading advocate for Servicemembers, Veterans, their families and survivors, delivering benefits and services that honor their service, assist in their readjustment, enhance their lives, and engender their full trust.



23,500

Employees

55% Veterans

56

Regional Offices

39

other special processing
& call centers

\$104 BILLION in benefits distributed in 2018



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U.S. Department
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VBA Business Lines

Insurance

Education

Pension & Fiduciary

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

Compensation

Appeals

Home Loan Guaranty

Transition & Economic Development



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of Veterans Affairs

Results: Compensation

Disability Compensation is a monthly, tax-free benefit to eligible Veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service.

COMPENSATION PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Veterans Served	4.5M	4.7M
Dollars Paid	\$72.4B	\$78.8B
Claims Completed	1.24M	1.24M
Average Days to Complete	119 days	103 days
Issues Per Claim	4.8	5.1
Issues Completed	6.03M	6.26M
Issue Quality	94.3%	94.9%

Claim complexity is rising, but timeliness is dropping!

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FY18 4-year estimate

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Results: Appeals

The Appeals process is in place for Veterans who disagree with decision(s) on their claim(s). VBA began Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAM) in November 2017 to give Veterans with a pending appeal the option for an early introduction into the new appeals structure under the Appeals Modernization Act of 2017.

APPEALS PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY2017	FY2018
Appeals Inventory	314.7K	267.7K

RAMP Results

Opt-Ins	52K
Average Days to Complete	108
Awards	\$82M

Board of Veterans' Appeals Results

	FY2017	FY2018
Decisions	54K	85K

Results: Pension

Veterans Pension is a tax-free, needs-based benefit to wartime Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. Survivors Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to qualifying spouses and children of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

PENSION PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Beneficiaries Served	483K	474K
Dollars Paid	\$5.4B	\$5.0B
Claims Completed	194.2K	174.2K
Claims Receipts	189.3K	178.4K
Average Days to Complete	63.8 days	61.4 days
Quality	94.8%	96.6%

Program Highlights

- New Pension Regulation published in FY18
- Establishes limits and provisions to maintain the integrity of the program for Veterans who need it
- Collaborating with DOJ, the FTC and State Attorney General offices to combat "pension poaching" and other scams targeting Veterans and their family members

FY18 4-year estimate. Table includes ending & remaining work.

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Results: Fiduciary

The Fiduciary Program appoints fiduciaries for beneficiaries who are unable to manage their benefits as a result of injury, disease, or age.

FIDUCIARY PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Fiduciaries on the rolls	175.3K	176.3K
Field Examinations <i>(Fiduciary/beneficiary relationship and wellness checks)</i>	91K	94K

Program Highlights:

- New Fiduciary Regulation published in FY18
- Puts additional protections in place for Veterans
- Makes it easier for beneficiaries to change or remove a fiduciary

FY18 4-year estimate

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Results: Insurance

The Insurance Program is the 14th largest insurance program in the U.S., providing coverage under 10 lines of life insurance protection for Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.

INSURANCE PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Coverage Amount	\$1.2T	\$1.2T
Total Lives Insured	6M	5.95M
Timeliness of Disbursements	4.4 days	4.1 days
Accuracy	98.4%	98.6%

Program Highlights:

- Overall, the majority of Veterans trust VA for life insurance, especially younger Veterans
 - In a quantitative survey of over 1,000 employed Veterans conducted by Prudential, 74% of millennials agreed with the statement, "The life insurance provided by VA provides me peace of mind."

Results: Education

The Education Program advances the education and skills of Veterans, Servicemembers, family members, and survivors through a number of different programs, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

EDUCATION PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Trainees	94.7K	95.5K
Dollars Paid (\$B)	\$1.2B	\$1.2.8B
Timeliness of Processing Original Applications	24.7 days	24.5 days
Accuracy	98.09%	97.94%

Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act (Forever GI Bill)

- Makes the Post 9/11 GI Bill a lifetime benefit
 - does away with 15-year limit
- Restored GI Bill entitlement to nearly 8,000 Veterans affected by school closures in FY18.

Results: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

The VR&E Program helps Servicemembers and Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap prepare for, find, and keep suitable careers through counseling and case management. VR&E employs over 1,000 professional vocational rehabilitation counselors and delivers services through a network of over 350 office locations, including 93 VetsSuccess on Campus (VSOC) schools/sites.

VR&E PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Participants	126K	145K
Positive Outcomes (Employment, independent living, persisting in school)	15.3K	16.0K

Program Highlights:

- Expanded the program in FY18 by hiring nearly 169 more counselors

Results: Home Loan Guaranty

Home Loan Guaranty helps Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families obtain, retain, and adept a home or refinance an existing home loan, with typically no down payment and no mortgage insurance, limited closing costs, no pre-payment penalty, and foreclosure assistance. VA also offers Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grants for Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

HOME LOAN GUARANTY PROGRAM RESULTS FY COMPARISON

	FY 2017	FY 2018
Number of Loans	740.4K	610.5K
Total Loan Amount	\$1.89B	\$1.61B
Veterans We Worked With to Avoid Foreclosure	96.1K	105K

Refinances dropped by nearly 60% in FY18, but experienced record purchase volume

Engagement with Veterans & Stakeholders

VBA special emphasis and outreach programs

1. Minority Veterans
2. Former POW
3. Women Veterans
4. Foreign Services
5. Rural Veterans
6. Faith Based Neighborhood Partnerships
7. Homeless Veterans
8. Elderly Veterans
9. Justice/Incarcerated Outreach
10. Survivor and Dependents
11. Casualty Assistance Coordinator
12. Overseas Military Service
13. Educationally Disadvantaged (Ch. 63)
14. Tribal/Native American/Asian Pacific Islander
15. Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender
16. Terminally Ill

Modeling the behavior

- Spoke at VSO conventions: NACVSO, NASDVA, VFW, and The American Legion
- Visited Regional Offices: Reno, Boston, Minneapolis, and Phoenix
- Met with the following VSOs: DAV, VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, MOPH, VVA, PVA, MOAA, NASDVA, NACVSO, SVA, The Mission Continues, Team Red, White and Blue, Team Rubicon
- Washed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with VVA Chapter 641 and planted flowers with The Mission Continues DC 1st Service Platoon

In FY18, we conducted approximately 6,000 outreach events

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VBA FY18 Budget

Category	Dollars (in billions)
Payroll	\$2,337
Contracts	\$1,323
Rent, Comms, Utilities	\$,170
All Other*	\$,035
Travel	\$,030
Total	\$3,885

Thank you to Congress and, in effect, the American people, for your extra budget support to help Veterans

All Other includes motor pool, transportation of things, printing, equipment, supplies, and insurance claims.

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FY18 Challenges

Changes in VBA Leadership

- New Under Secretary for Benefits
- Strong team
- "Streamlining processes, reallocating resources"

FY18 Challenges

Implementation of the GI Bill

- IT solution for changing the way VA pays monthly housing stipends for GI Bill recipients has been slower than we planned
- Resulted in processing more claims manually using FY17 Monthly Housing Allowance rates
- Mobilizing everybody who can process claims – even if assigned to other duties – and hired additional employees
- We understand the burden and hardship this places on Veterans

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FY18 Challenges

Increasing focus on Military Sexual Trauma (MST) claims

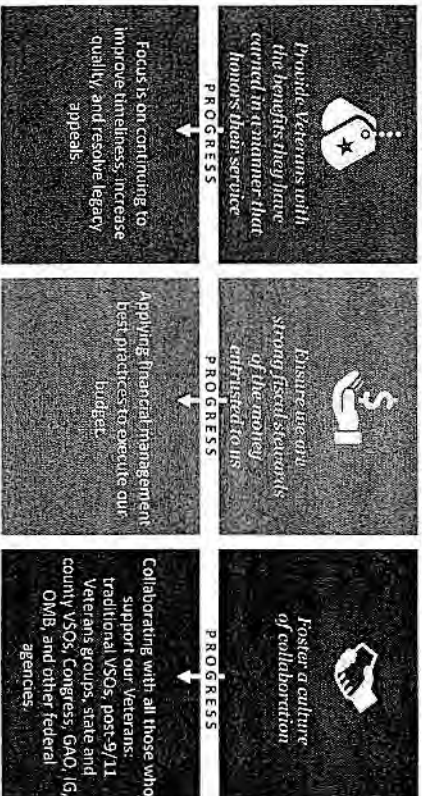
- In response to a VA Office of Inspector General report on PTSD due to MST, VBA is:
 - Updating MST training – claims processors are required complete it by the end of this month
 - Adding more quality and accuracy reviews of MST claims
 - In FY19, we will review and correct every denied MST-related claim decided since the start of FY17

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Final Reflections on FY18



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Looking Ahead to FY19

- Complete implementation of the *Forever GI Bill*
- Prepare for and implement the *Appeals Modernization Act*, which goes into effect in February 2019
- Heavy focus on *continuous improvement, quality, and collaboration* to provide outstanding customer service to Veterans
 - Working on priority projects identified at the VBA Director's Conference in Sept. 2018
 - More to come in FY19

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Questions

Q: How can VBA and VSOs work better together to improve service to Veterans?

- We conducted a series of interviews with VSOs to get their feedback on this topic
- Three areas we set in motion to work on in FY19 are:
 1. Communication – i.e., letters to Veterans
 2. Better access to our systems for VSOs when they're supporting Veterans
 3. Outreach – engaging nontraditional segments of the Veteran population

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Q: Why does VA oppose Blue Water Navy legislation?

- When a Veteran files a claim, our pledge is to work hard to honor it.
- In the process of evaluating the Veteran's claim, we rely on science and medical opinions.
- With Blue Water Navy, there is no inconclusive science from the Institute of Medicine to support claims of toxic exposure.
- If the bill currently being considered – HR 322 – becomes law, it is setting the precedent for potential unwieldy policy with consequences for the future of veterans benefits, VA, and in other areas of government.
- Because we are always looking for new information, VA continues to review and monitor the peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature in collaboration with VSOs.

This webcast and materials will be posted at:
benefits.va.gov/stakeholder

For VA customer service, call:
1-800-827-1000

To learn more about VA Benefits, visit:
www.benefits.va.gov

For more specific questions, access:
[Inquiry Routing & Information System \(IRIS\)](#)



@VeteransBenefits



@VAVeteransBenefits

Attention: Area Veterans/Active Duty Personnel:

Help Wanted: 96 Time slots to cover (15 Minute Shifts)

10th Annual 24-Hour Veterans Honor Guard Vigil

@ Washington Square War Memorial/Ottawa

*** Military Vehicles on display *50 State Flags on display**

***Opening Ceremony: 4:40 PM Friday, November 2nd**

Lead Honor Guard: Francis Killelea, 98-yr old, Army, WWII; posted at 5:00 PM

****Closing Ceremony: 5:00 PM Saturday, November 3rd**

Retire Colors Rifle Salute TAPS

***** Public Invited *****

***Courtesy Coffee and snack table *Saturday afternoon music:**

“Tunes of Glory” Bagpipers: ~~2:30~~^{3:00-5} PM+ SAT

Hosts: *Legion Post 33 Family & Boy Scout Troop 744 * V.F.W. Post 2470 Family

* American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 30 *82nd Airborne Association, John Steele Chapter

*Illinois Valley Marine Corps League, Detachment 78 *Many other area veterans !

All Units for Combined Color Guard: Call Jim @ 815-434-4633

***** Sign-up sheets @ Legion, 901 LaSalle St., Ottawa**

Questions? Call John @ 815-993-3956; adjutant@ottawaalpost33.com

PSA American Legion Post 33/901 LaSalle Street/Ottawa, IL
61350-2017 Contact: John Duback, Adjutant/Email:
adjutant@ottawaalpost33.com/Cell: 815-993-3956

For Immediate Release

96 Veteran Volunteers Needed

The 10th Annual Veterans Honor Guard Vigil will be held at the War Memorial in Washington Square, downtown Ottawa. The Opening Ceremony will be on Friday, Nov. 2 at 4:40 PM; the Closing, at 5:00 PM on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. Ninety-six volunteers are needed for each of the 15-minute shifts. For questions or to sign up, call John at 815-993-3956, or email at "adjutant@ottawaalpost33.com". The main signup sheet is posted at the Ottawa American Legion, 901 LaSalle St.

A Command Post tent will be in the area of Columbus at Lafayette Streets. Family members may stand duty with each veteran's shift; wear weather-appropriate clothing. No alcohol is allowed in the park. Courtesy coffee and snacks will be available. Military vehicles will be on display. The War Memorial, Sentry Post, and portable restroom are all handicap-accessible. The Ottawa First Committee (Fireworks and community service projects), with the support of Illinois Valley Labor Management, will again have the 50 State Flags on display. The "Tunes of Glory" Bagpipers will play appropriate music on Saturday afternoon. Sea Cadets will share duties on Sat., 11AM-1PM. Our Lead Honor Guard will be Francis "Kay" Killelea, 98-year old WWII Army veteran.

The Vigil is held the weekend before Veterans Day as a reminder to thank all veterans for their service; for veterans to thank our fellow patriots for their support at home and abroad, and for us all to honor those who have paid the greatest sacrifice. We point ahead to the Ottawa Memorial Association's Veterans Day Ceremony at 10:30 AM on Sunday, November 11th at this same location.

Duties are again shared by our area veteran groups and Auxiliaries, and Boy Scout Troop 744. Also needed are chaperones, to escort veterans participating from area veteran, and nursing homes; arrival times forthcoming.

LaSalle Vets Home @ 901 Sat Morning
Griddle 3 Hamburgers

Family Welcome

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting Sign in October 24, 2018

Name	Organization	Delegate/Alternate
Charles Erb	VFW 5506	Delegate
Nick Hoffmann	Legion #26	Delegate
Bob Riley	AMVETS 30	Delegate
Gance C. Lipes	Post 235	Delegate
Jim Ebner	A.L Post 237	Delegate
George Mason	V.F.W. Post 2490	
John Duback	AMVETS Post 30	ALTERNATE
Tom Arntson	VFW MENDOTA 4079	Delegate
Harold Olsen	AMVets Post 26	Delegate
Ray GERKITZ	Post 33	Delegate
Jack LEWINGOR	Post 5506	ALT

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Agenda November 28, 2018

- 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 October 2018 Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity
 - b. Non-VA Medication Copays
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Nominations and Elections
- IX. New Business
 - a. 2019 Meeting Schedule Approval
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Meeting Minutes 10/24/2018

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors –

Vice 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 – Chuck Erb – VFW, Marseilles - Tom Troutman – VFW, Mendota - Lance Sires – American Legion, Marseilles – Harold Olsen – AMVETS, Peru – Jack Leininger, VFW, Marseilles - Jim Ebner – American Legion, Oglesby – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa – Bob Reiley – AMVETS, Ottawa –Ray Gerkitz – American Legion, Ottawa – George Mason – VFW, Ottawa.

Officers Present

President – Scott Buennemeyer - Excused
Vice President – Chuck Erb
Guard –Jim Nanowski - Excused
Chaplin – George Mason

Employees Present

Steven Kreitzer – Superintendent

Reading & Approval of the August 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by George Mason. Minutes were approved as presented

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

a Office Activity – Steven Kreitzer reported that there were 56 people who visited the office, 11 people for outreach, and 199 phone calls for September. In August the office had 129 office visits, 14 outreach, and 209 phone calls. The office has brought in \$169,050.50 for September through the end of 2018 - totaling \$1,046,345.97.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



- b Steven Kreitzer went over the undersecretary for VA benefits presentation and how it affects our veterans. Also, specifically as to why the VA is blocking the blue water Navy veterans Agent Orange exposure.
- c. Illinois SB 2306 passed and is now law. This allows veterans to get the property tax relief as soon as the VA makes a decision as long as they own the home as of January 1st.

Superintendent report was motioned for approval by Jim Ebner and seconded by Bob Reiley. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business – Nominations and Elections will be next month as well as the approval of the 2019 Meeting schedule.

For the Good of the Commission - None

Adjournment

Steven Kreitzer announced our new hire Madison Ernat

December 1st Pearl Harbor Day ceremony on Water St in Peru, IL

Would like a class on NON-VA Prescriptions

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



Superintendent Report

November Claims Summary

Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2018 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
60%	6/2018	12/2018	\$ 5,417.60	\$ 1,083.52	North West
100% + SMC	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 30,929.92	\$ 3,866.24	North West
10%	5/2018	12/2018	\$ 817.44	\$ 136.24	North East
60%	8/2018	12/2018	\$ 3,547.56	\$ 1,182.52	South East
20%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 2,154.40	\$ 269.30	South East
Pension	9/2018	12/2018	\$ 480.00	\$ 240.00	North West
100% + SMC	2/2018	12/2018	\$ 30,794.70	\$ 3,079.47	North West
20%	9/2018	12/2018	\$ 807.90	\$ 269.30	North West
10%	8/2018	12/2018	\$ 544.96	\$ 136.24	North West
50%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 8,436.69	\$ 937.41	South West
30%	3/2018	12/2018	\$ 3,754.35	\$ 417.15	South East
10%	4/2/2018	12/2018	\$ 1,089.92	\$ 136.24	North West
20%	4/2018	12/2018	\$ 2,154.40	\$ 269.30	South East
70%	5/2018	12/2018	\$ 10,370.36	\$ 1,481.48	North West
		Totals:	\$ 101,300.20	\$ 13,504.41	
	Year to Date Total		\$ 1,147,646.17	\$ 77,150.58	

Office Activity October

Office Visits	112	VA Compensation	34
Phone	369	VA Healthcare	14
Outstation	13	VA Pension	14
LaSalle	3	Other	432
Mendota	2	Property Taxes	2
Streator	2		
Sandwich	6		

119 W. Madison St.
 Courthouse Room 103A
 Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission



LaSalle VAC Board Voting for 2019 office

Position - Incumbent	Nominee	Nominator
President - Scott Buennemeyer		
1		
2		
3		
4		
Vice President - Chuck Erb		
1		
2		
3		
4		
Guard - Jim Nanowski		
1		
2		
3		
4		
Chaplin - George Mason		
1		
2		
3		
4		

119 W. Madison St.
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Ottawa, IL 61350
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LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer



Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers

Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting's 2019

Meetings Start at 5:00 PM

January 23.

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 22

June 26

July 24

August 21

September No Meeting

October 23

November 20

December No Meeting

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Ottawa, IL 61350
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LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

**Superintendent
Steven Kreitzer**



**Assistant Superintendent
Christa Hammers**

November 28, 2018

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission has continually been involved in and supported helping veterans transition from service back into civilian life. Over the past year, the commission has worked to try and strengthen the Veterans Service Organizations and veterans involvement throughout LaSalle County. In turn, they have impacted the local veteran community in a positive way and we have found that it would be advantageous to allow the VAC to continue their approach statewide.

We formally recommend and authorize Steven Kreitzer, Superintendent of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission, to be an advisor to Illinois State Senator, Linda Chapa LaVia, in support of her mission to help veterans reintegrate back into civilian life. Her mission aligns with that of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission and would make sure that our rural veterans voices continue to be heard. We were informed that this committee is comprised of only a select few veterans from local organizations, so not all local government representatives were able to be asked to take part. We appreciate the opportunity to allow our community to be part of a positive change for our veterans and look forward to hearing about all the good that comes from this group.

This has been approved by the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Board at our regularly scheduled meeting.

Board President – Scott Buennemeyer

Date

119 W. Madison St.
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone 815-433-1761 Fax 815-433-6209



2019 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards
10th Anniversary of Building Stronger Communities Through Service



2019 Nomination Guidelines and Instructions

The bipartisan, Governor-appointed Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service presents the 2019 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards, the 10th anniversary of the awards program. These awards recognize individual volunteers through a statewide award program to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. The following awards categories are offered:

- Adult (19-54 years old)
- AmeriCorps Member (member of an Illinois AmeriCorps national service program)
- Business (a for-profit company)
- Senior (55 years old plus)
- Senior Corps Members (55 years old plus that are members of the national service programs Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program (SCP))
- Youth (18 years old or younger)

Each of the project categories will have a winner selected in each of the Commission's five service regions across the state (Northeast, Northwest, East Central, West Central and Southern Illinois).

Thus, there are a total of 30 awards possible throughout the state!

A panel of judges from across the state, comprised of Governor-appointed Commissioners, will select the award recipients. Nominations will be accepted until **February 15, 2019** at the address below. The winners will be notified no later than **March 11, 2019**.

The Serve Illinois Commission will host a ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois to honor the 10th Annual Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients and the organization they serve on **April 9, 2019**.

It will be the responsibility of the nominator to provide a photo and bio of the winners to the Serve Illinois Commission upon notification of awards.

Winners will be notified by the Serve Illinois Commission, and those that were nominated will be notified of their nomination and nominator shortly thereafter.

How to Nominate: Submit a complete and typed application form by mail, e-mail, fax, or hand deliver to:

Serve Illinois Commission
Attn: Volunteer Service Awards Committee
Illinois Department of Public Health
422 S. 5th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
DPH.ServeIllinois@Illinois.gov
217.524.2260 - fax

Online nominations will also be accepted at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019GVSA



2019 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards
10th Anniversary of Building Stronger Communities Through Service



2019 Nomination Guidelines and Instructions

Guidelines:

- Volunteers may be nominated by an individual or organization.
- Volunteer service must be performed in Illinois and may not include hours served as part of academic credit (except in regards to the Learn and Serve category) or court-ordered community service.
- Nominee's volunteer organization must serve the community at large (not limited to its own members).
- Nomination essay questions must be limited to the word count provided (200 words each).
- In the event a nominee is submitted multiple times by one nominator, or in case of another nomination by another nominator, the review panel will consider only one of the nominations.
- The Commission reserves the right to withhold distribution of an award if the Commission deems it appropriate.
- A Member of a National Service program in Illinois (e.g. AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, AmeriCorps National Direct, AmeriCorps*NCCC, or Senior Corps programs such as RSVP, FGP, and SCP) is eligible only in the National Service category.
- Previous winners are not eligible for nomination again.
- Serve Illinois staff, members of the Serve Illinois Commission, and their families are not eligible to receive an award, or to nominate their own volunteers for awards.
- Parents or immediate family members may not submit nominations. If there is a youth doing great work in the community, work with that organization that is the beneficiary to submit a nomination.
- Entries are received in confidence, are scored by a team of Commissioners, and become the property of the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and will not be returned.
- Please do not submit any attachments, photos, videos, news clips, etc., unless requested by the Commission. This completed form is all that is required for nomination at this time; however, be prepared should the applicant be chosen to submit a 150 word biography and picture at that time.
- The Commission may use this application for other volunteer recognition programs such as Volunteer of the Week upon the approval of the nominator.

Essay Requirements:

Responses may not exceed **200 words per answer** (total essay not to exceed 800 words). Additional materials will not be considered. Questions cover the following topics:

- Need
- Innovation
- Impact
- Sustainability

Judging Criteria:

These criteria follow exactly along in the questions in the application. Please be sure to answer all aspects.

- Need
 - The community need was clearly stated in the nomination.
 - The community need was clearly documented, convincing, or self-evident.



2019 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

10th Anniversary of Building Stronger Communities Through Service



2019 Nomination Guidelines and Instructions

Innovation

- The innovation was clearly stated in the nomination.
- The activities reflect innovative or unique approaches to solving a community problem.
- The nominee's actions engaged unlikely partners or unusual alliances.
- The nominee's creativity and creative leadership were evident
- The volunteer leadership employed contains an element of service-learning for the volunteer participants.

Impact

- The impact was clearly stated in the nomination.
- The application provides evidence of a coordinated/connected approach to problem-solving.
- The application provides evidence of a commitment to community service and leadership.
- The nominee's action was well-planned and executed.
- Other leaders in the community agree that the volunteer's service reaped significant results.

Sustainability

- The positive change from the nominee's service was clearly stated in the nomination.
- The results of the nominee's service reached farther or achieved greater results than intended.
- The methods used can be reproduced, maintained, or sustained fairly easily.
- The impact helped reach a long-term solution to a problem, and/or will benefit the community for future generations.

Please find the official nomination form on www.serve.illinois.gov.

Any questions regarding the program can be submitted to Michelle Hanneken, Volunteer Programs Manager for the Serve Illinois Commission at (217) 524-2251 or michelle.j.hanneken@illinois.gov

Veterans (/veterans/Pages/default.aspx) ▶ Programs (/veterans/programs/Pages/default.aspx) ▶ Awards (/veterans/programs/Pages/Awards.aspx)

Awards

Veterans Business of the Quarter Award Nomination Guidelines

1. The Business or Organization nominee must be based in the state of Illinois; Nominee must currently have or previously had provided a service or services to one or more veterans. Nominee must be able to provide a record of success with assisting/helping veterans from the calendar year . Elected Illinois officials with businesses are not eligible for this award.
2. Not-For-Profit Organizations that are nominated must be a certified 501 C3 recognized by the State of Illinois. ALL NFPO that are nominated must complete a state of Illinois verification form which will confirm their 501 C3 status. Honoree(s) will be recognized for significant service to veterans, their contributions made toward local veteran service organizations, as well as state and/or national levels; and by excellence achieved through action above and beyond the call of duty. Nominees must have made important contributions in volunteer work and support of veterans and /or the military.
3. Please provide a written summary of the nominee's achievements, including: (a) a description of significant accomplishments, including dates; (b) information concerning any veteran programs they assist; and, (c) nominees business website. In order to validate these accomplishments, please include or attach documentation(s) that will substantiate the business or organization's service and accomplishments (i.e., news articles, relevant online biographies and/or copies of commendations, etc.).
4. Nominations will be evaluated on the scope and impact of a nominee's outreach and/or achievements to the extent that contributions benefit and provide support to veterans in the community. Please document all significant efforts and accomplishments of veterans, especially those efforts that made a significant difference in the veteran's way of life.
5. Nominations will be reviewed and the business or organization will be selected by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.
6. Nominations deadline is September 29 for the fiscal year First Quarter (July, August, September); January 15, for the fiscal year Second Quarter(October, November, December) ; April 15,for the fiscal year Third Quarter (January, February, March); July 15, for the fiscal year Fourth Quarter (April, May, June).

Business Nominations should be sent to:
IDVA.MEDIA@illinois.gov (mailto:IDVA.MEDIA@illinois.gov) (email) or mail to:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Attn: Veterans' Business of the Year Award
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1620
Chicago, IL 60601

[Click here for Business Nomination Form](#)

Illinois Veteran's Business Award Nomination Form-2018.docx

(/veterans/programs/Documents/Illinois%20Veteran%27s%20Business%20Award%20Nomination%20Form-2018.docx)

Veterans Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award Nomination Guidelines

1. The nominee must reside in Illinois and must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Military
2. Posthumous nominations will be accepted provided that a family member of the deceased nominee signs under Signature of Nominee on the Veterans Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award. Honorees will be recognized for significant volunteer service, contributions made at the local, state or national levels or by excellence achieved through action above and beyond the call of duty. Nominees must have made significant contributions in volunteer work in support of veterans and/ or the military.
3. The nominator needs to provide a legible and up-to-date copy of the veterans DD213. Failure to provide record of service documentation will render the nomination ineligible.
4. In addition to the DD214 and the information requested on the nomination form, please provide a written summary of the nominee's achievements, including: (a) a description of significant accomplishments, including dates; (b) information concerning military service; and, (c) a list of military awards and decorations received by the nominee. In order to validate these accomplishments, please include or attach documentation(s) that will substantiate the nominee's service and the accomplishments (i.e., news articles, relevant online biographies and/ or copies of commendations, etc.).
5. The nominator must also provide a description of their association and/or, relationship to the nominee.
6. Nominations will be evaluated on the scope and impact of a nominees achievements and the extent to which his/her efforts benefit and provide inspiration to their community and other veterans. Please document significant achievements and accomplishments, especially those made after the nominee's military service.

7. Nominations deadline is September 29 for the fiscal year First Quarter (July, August, September); January 15, for the fiscal year Second Quarter(October, November, December) ; April 15,for the fiscal year Third Quarter (January, February, March); July 15, for the fiscal year Fourth Quarter (April, May, June).

Nominations should be sent to:

IDVA.MEDIA@illinois.gov (mailto:IDVA.MEDIA@illinois.gov) (email) or mailed to:

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Attn: Veterans Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1620

Chicago IL 60601

[Click here for Volunteer Nomination Form](#)

ILLINOIS VETERANS' PATRIOTIC VOLUNTEER AND APPRECIATION AWARD-2018.docx

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[Veteran Entrepreneurship \(/veterans/programs/Pages/Veterans2Entrepreneurs.aspx\)](/veterans/programs/Pages/Veterans2Entrepreneurs.aspx)

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[Veteran Homes \(/veterans/homes/Pages/Default.aspx\)](/veterans/homes/Pages/Default.aspx)

[Warrior Assistance \(http://www.illinoiswarrior.com/\)](http://www.illinoiswarrior.com/)

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2018 Copayment Requirements at a Glance

	Inpatient Care (\$10 per day + \$1,340 for first 90 days and \$670 after 90 days - based on 365-day period).	Outpatient Care (\$15 Primary Care; \$50 Specialty Care; \$0 for x-rays, lab, immunizations, etc.)	Outpatient Medication (30-day or less supply PG 2-8 Calendar Year cap - \$700) Tier 1 drugs \$5 Tier 2 drugs \$8 Tier 3 drugs \$11	Extended Care Services Institutional NHCU, Respite, Geriatric Eval - \$0-97 per day, Non-Institutional Respite, Geriatric Eval, ADHC - \$15 Domiciliary - \$5
Priority Group 1 (SC 50% or more, Medal of Honor (MOH))	No	No	No	No
*Priority Groups 2, 3 (SC 10% - 40%) No medication copayment for SC condition, former POWs, or Catastrophically Disabled Veterans **former POWs not exempted	No	No	Yes*	No
Priority Group 4	No	No	No	Yes
Priority Group 5 No medication copayment if in receipt of VA pension or income below applicable pension threshold	No	No	Yes	Yes
Priority Group 6 (Combat Veteran, SHAD, SC 0% compensable, ionization radiation, Agent Orange exposure, Southwest Asia service, stationed at Camp Lejeune August 1, 1953 - December 31, 1987) ***Copay rules apply if care or service provided is unrelated to VA's exposure treatment authorities.	No****	No****	No****	No****
Priority Group 7 Inpatient copay is reduced 80% of full rate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Priority Group 8 Unless income is below applicable pension threshold for medication and extended care services copayment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Basic Business Rule

No extended care copayment when income is below pension single rate threshold.

*Copayment Free Care and Medication for treatment of Service-Connected (SC) disabilities, SC 50% or more, Medal of Honor (MOH), former POWs, Catastrophically Disabled Veterans, VA pensioners, and those under Special Authorities (e.g. PG 6, military sexual trauma, nasopharyngeal radium irradiation).

**Copayment for extended care services for former POWs when care provided is for a NSC condition.

***Veterans determined by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled (CD) are exempted from inpatient, outpatient and prescription copayments. CD Veterans are also exempt from copayments applicable to the receipt of non-institutional respite care, non-institutional geriatric evaluation, non-institutional adult day health care, Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Purchased Skilled Home Care, Home based Primary Care, and any other non-institutional alternative extended care services. Co-payment for other extended care services (ex: Nursing Home Care) not mentioned still apply.

**A&A and HB – For Veterans who are not in receipt of a VA Pension, but requires the aid and attendance (A&A) of another person or is permanently housebound (HB), the income limits for determining the exemption from outpatient medication copayment requirements and the eligibility for beneficiary travel benefits will be based on the maximum annual rate of pension as identified in VHA Fact Sheet IB10-497.

***Exposure Treatment Authorities: Care authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1710(e) for Vietnam-era herbicide exposed Veterans, radiation-exposed Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, post-Gulf War combat exposed Veterans or Camp Lejeune Veterans.

OFF/OIF/OND Combat Veterans Enhanced Eligibility for Health Care Benefits

Combat Veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for enrollment in Priority Group (PG) 6 for 5 years following discharge unless eligible for a higher enrollment priority (PG 1-5). After the special eligibility period ends, these Veterans will be reassigned to appropriate PG and subject to copayments, if applicable.

Copayments only applicable for PG 6 Combat Veteran enrollees for care related to a condition that is congenital or developmental e.g., scoliosis existed before military service (unless aggravated by combat service) or has a specific ailment that began after military service, such as a common cold, etc.

Comprehensive Medical Benefits Package

All enrolled Veterans have a comprehensive medical benefits package, which VA administers through an annual patient enrollment system. The enrollment system is based on priority groups to ensure health care benefits are readily available to all enrolled Veterans. Enrollment in the VA health care system provides Veterans with the assurance that comprehensive health care services will be available when and where they are needed during that enrollment period.



Politics »

Duckworth, Harris among leaders of Pritzker's new veterans council



Marni Pyke

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Updated

11/12/2018 6:03 PM



Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker, left, with Lt. Gov.-elect Juliana Stratton, announce a veterans' advisory council that includes state Rep. David Harris, far right.

(Marni Pyke | Staff Photographer)

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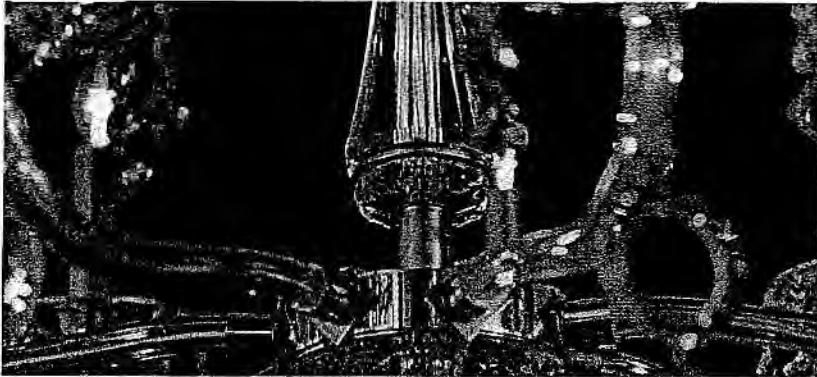
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Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker is leaning on experienced veterans to advise on helping returning vets make a successful transition to civilian life.

Pritzker Monday named leaders of a veterans advisory council that include Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Hoffman Estates, an Army pilot wounded in combat, and Republican state Rep. David Harris of Arlington Heights, a retired Illinois National Guard adjutant general who did not run for re-election.

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The aim is to offer veterans better access to jobs, college or vocational training, housing and mental health counseling, said Pritzker, who will be sworn in Jan. 14.

After 9/11, Harris mobilized thousands of National Guard members to serve in the Iraq War. When they returned, "I saw firsthand the challenges faced by these veterans," Harris said at a news conference at Waubensee Community College in Aurora.

"There's no partisan agenda to helping a veteran get an education or get a proper home," he added.

The third co-chairman of the 19-member committee is Secretary of State Jesse White, a former Army paratrooper.

Asked how he would pay for an enhanced program given the state's budget constraints, Pritzker noted he had appointed a transition Budget and Innovation Committee last week.

"We're asking the budget committee to prioritize where we're finding the dollars and where we're finding the savings," he said.

College student Jonathan Birkey, who served in Iraq as a medic, said veterans are often wrongly advised to use their tuition benefits on a generic four-year degree instead of on other options like vocational college.

"A lot of separated veterans are pushed into higher education although it's not the best fit," said Birkey, president of the Aurora University Veterans Association.

Also on the unpaid committee are Democratic state Sen. Tom Cullerton of Villa Park, a former Army infantryman; state Rep. Linda Chapa La Via of Aurora, a former Army lieutenant; and state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit of Aurora, a former Marine.

Kifowit and Cullerton worked on the state's Veteran Suicide Taskforce in 2016. Witnesses testified to the task force that the military has dropped the ball in transitioning service members to civilian life.

Pritzker is expected to announce further transition developments this week. On Wednesday, the Democrat named members of his Transition Committee that includes former Gov. Jim Edgar. On Thursday, he introduced the Budget and Innovation Committee whose members include former Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno.

Related Coverage

Topics in this Article

David Harris, Tammy Duckworth, Stephanie Kifowit, Aurora, Innovation Committee, Tom Cullerton, Linda Chapa La Via, Jim Edgar, Aurora University Veterans Association, Transition Committee, Christine Radogno, Jesse White, Arlington heights, Jonathan Birkey

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PEARL HARBOR

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Lunch at South Shore Boat Club to Follow

