



MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2024

PREPARED BY

Christa Hammers
Superintendent

MEETING AGENDA

4-24-2024

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

Meeting MINUTES

3-27-2024

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Lance Sires - AmLeg - Marseilles / Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Thomas Shea - AmLeg - Ottawa / Roscoe Mazur - Am Leg - Marseilles / Phil Harth - AmVets - Mendota / Gray Graffis - AmVets - Ottawa / Paul Seimbab - Marine CorLeg - Post 078 / Elton Murphy - VFW - LaSalle / John Duback - AmVetes - Ottawa / Mike Mallie - Marine CorLeg - Post 078

Officers Present

President – Harold Olsen - EXCUSED
Vice President – Dennis Znaniecki
Guard – Bill Paterson
Chaplin – Andy Ruggerio

Employees Present

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

Meeting

MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Roscoe Mazur and seconded by Dennis Znaniecki. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Leah Erikson from Coldwell Banker came in to discuss property at 39th & Progress. She had a hand out for the property to show utility locations and comparable sold land.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that we are still reviewing property at this time and will have more information as it comes in. She has a few meetings she is going to and will inform Commission on new developments.

Christa also discussed that the office will be closed on March 29th for Good Friday- also Vietnam Veterans Day.

Christa then told the commission that on April 2nd the staff will be hearing from a MST survivor via a Zoom conference put on by SIUE. Colonel Lisa Carrington Firmin -USAF(R)

Christa updated the website to include TERA information and the new healthcare bill. It also has a few quick links to information for Veterans/Families suffering hardships.

Christa then told the Commission that on April 13 the VAC will be participating in the SHAW Media Home Show. It will be at the Westclox Center from 10-3.

Christa then stated that if you or someone you know has not come in to do their Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption- please call and get those done. The VAC is also still looking for Expo Vendors- get with Lissa if you have any questions- or call the office.

Christa went over office numbers and let the Commission know that we are officially over \$900 thousand where we were this time last year at \$2.38 MIL so far.

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

Old Business- NONE.

Meeting

MINUTES

New Business

Lissa stated that there are still claims sharks out there that are illegally taking advantage of the Veterans and processing claims.

Lissa also mentioned that for a time the VA has stopped debt collecting on VA Pension, forgiven debts and has actually started to repay some.

Voting in new VAC Board Members:

Dennis Znaniacki nominated Andy Ruggerio for President. Harold Olson is stepping down. Phil Harth nominates Elton Murphy for Guard. Bill Patterson is stepping down.

New Board is as follows:

President- Andy Ruggerio

Vice President- Dennis Znaniacki

Guard- Elton Murphy

Chaplain- Harold Olson

Motion to approve new VAC Board as elected made by Chuck Erb, seconded by Mike Mallie. Motion approved unanimously.

For the Good of the Commission

Dennis stated that the new van at the VA Home is being used and states "Donated by Veterans and Citizens of the IL Valley". Saturday April 6 at 10:30 to take a picture for the paper.

Harold stated the VA Home is open for entertainment- get ahold of Bailey.

John Duback stated that he saw Christa in the paper for 40 under 40 and congratulated her.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Znaniacki and seconded by Phil Harth.

Motion passed unanimously at 5:39pm.

APRIL

Office Activity:

The office participated in the SHAW Media Home Show at WestClox on Sat, April 13. It was the first nice day in awhile and there wasn't a ton of traffic, but a few people stopped by and made appointments with our office.

On Tuesday April 16- Lissa and James went to Sandwich to the Fox Valley Resource Fair and were able to assist a few Veterans and Families with questions, as well as network for vendors to come to our Expo next month.

The office is still reviewing some properties at this time- we have a new property at 38th and Progress to look into. Christa and Lissa are meeting with the owner on Thursday, April 25.

On April 27th- Hines VA is having a Womens Day event from 10am-3pm at Kankakee Community College. Activites/Resources and Connection. Lunch is provided while it lasts!

It has come to the offices' attention that there are still quite a few Veterans helping Veterans with claims filing. Please know that this is considered an illegal activity and per the MVAA the person assisting MUST hold an accreditation.

May 11-17 Lissa and Emily will be in Colorado for NACVSO (National) Training.

May 16th is our Expo! Please mark it on your calendars and let us know if you need flyers.

Lissa is still looking for additional expo vendors. If you are interested- please get your paperwork into her.

MARCH Office Activity			
Office Visits	128	Intent to File	34
Phone	649	Intital Claims	33
Outstation	34	Appeals	18
Mendota	10	VA Healthcare	10
Streator	21	Pension/DIC	4
Marseilles	3	Other	133

OFFICE OTHER ACTIVITIES- MARCH			
PTSD GROUP	22	WALK-INS:	65
FLUTES	9	APPT MADE	41
VHA	3	QUESTIONS	24
SENIOR RESOURCE	17		
MidWest Shelter	2	TOTAL:	118

Our Office
EVENTS

MARCH Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2024 Amount	Monthly Amount
70%	2/5/2024	Dec-24	\$ 38,337.24	\$ 1,849.02
50%	2/1/2024	Dec-24	\$ 19,078.64	\$ 1,311.90
MOD Check	5/31/2023	Dec-24	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -
30%	9/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 8,112.72	\$ 663.31
70%	1/3/2024	Dec-24	\$ 26,727.65	\$ 1,716.28
100% P&T	12/2/2022	Dec-24	\$ 44,854.20	\$ 3,737.85
10%	3/29/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,610.40	\$ 165.92
30%	9/6/2023	Dec-24	\$ 15,611.25	\$ 586.31
40%	9/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 4,816.14	\$ 940.28
50%	10/25/2023	Dec-24	\$ 15,937.92	\$ 1,179.16
100% P&T	4/23/2023	Dec-24	\$ 70,474.18	\$ 3,737.85
100%	12/21/2023	Dec-24	\$ 51,652.92	\$ 3,737.85
dependent	6/21/2023	Dec-24	\$ 34,480.92	\$ 2,751.91
40%	8/10/2022	Dec-24	\$ 22,131.36	\$ 755.28
90%	8/30/2023	Dec-24	\$ 31,121.34	\$ 2,459.91
60%	1/17/2023	Dec-24	\$ 33,017.06	\$ 1,179.16
80%	7/24/2023	Dec-24	\$ 28,293.51	\$ 1,995.01
10%	10/11/2023	Dec-24	\$ 2,734.37	\$ 171.23
20%	7/19/2023	Dec-24	\$ 7,836.10	\$ 338.49
90%	8/10/2022	Dec-24	\$ 62,879.46	\$ 2,241.91
60%	11/7/2022	Dec-24	\$ 29,118.84	\$ 1,577.88
Burial	2/12/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
MOD	2/12/2024	Dec-24	\$ 4,078.99	\$ -
DIC	2/12/2024	Dec-24	\$ 27,372.94	\$ 1,955.21
30%	4/27/2024	Dec-24	\$ 11,421.00	\$ 524.31
90%	10/3/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,942.74	\$ 246.90
dependent	7/22/2023	Dec-24	\$ 10,628.36	\$ 838.28
80% IU P&T	4/10/2023	Dec-24	\$ 68,098.21	\$ 3,737.85
10%	10/5/2023	Dec-24	\$ 2,734.37	\$ 171.23
90%	7/18/2023	Dec-24	\$ 42,318.21	\$ 2,241.91
10%	8/17/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,237.44	\$ 171.23
50%	2/27/2023	Dec-24	\$ 1,075.16	\$ 20,294.68
Burial	3/2/2024	Dec-24	\$ 1,900.00	\$ -
70%	3/5/2024	Dec-24	\$ 1,716.28	\$ 35,722.56
10%	3/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 171.23	\$ 3,729.89
10%	3/8/2024	Dec-24	\$ 171.23	\$ 3,232.13
100%	3/15/2024	Dec-24	\$ 3,737.85	\$ 41,046.45
40%	3/22/2024	Dec-24	\$ 838.28	\$ 12,530.10
40%	3/26/2024	Dec-24	\$ 755.28	\$ 18,671.22
80%	3/27/2024	Dec-24	\$ 2,283.01	\$ 29,570.31
		Total	\$741,056.80	\$207,780.77
		Year to Date Total	\$3,129,886.00	\$354,009.38

The VAC is happy to report that we are keeping on trend with an increase to benefits paid out to our Veterans and Families! Totalling more than \$3.1 million by the end of March 2024. This is over \$1MIL more than where we were FY23. We hope to continue this upward trend and bring in more events/programs for our clients this year.

Our Office
OVERVIEW