

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2023



Prepared By:
Christa Hammers
Superintendent

AGENDA

MEETING 5/24/2023

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

Meeting MINUTES

4/26/2023

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present

Greg Stock - Am Legion- Marseilles / Bill Luther - VFW - Ottawa / Paul Siembab - MC League- Oglesby / Lance Sires - Am Legion - Marseilles / Mike Harden - Am Legion - Ottawa / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / Roscoe Mazur - Am Legion - Oglesby / Chuck Erb - VFW - Marseilles / Tom Shea - Am Legion - Ottawa / Tom Troutman - VFW- Mendota / Mike Mallie - MC League - Oglesby / Elton Murphy - VFW - LaSalle

Officers Present

President – Harold Olsen
Vice President – Dennis Znaniiecki
Guard – Bill Paterson
Chaplin – Andy Ruggerio

Employees Present

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

Meeting MINUTES

Meeting started at 5:00pm.

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:

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

Public Comment - None

Superintendent's Report

Christa discussed Events that the office has coming up. The Veterans Expo 2023- held on May 18th from 11-3 out at the IL Valley Regional Airport. Lissa went over that we had approximately 45+ Vendors now signed up. Should be a great event!

Christa also discussed that James is now seeing clients for Hunt/Fish licenses and PTAX exemptions. Lissa and Christa have sat in with a few clients and he should be good to go by May 1 for solo appointments. Lissa and Christa will be gone in Springfield May 9-12 for IACO Conferences.

Christa then discussed that Emily is now fully accredited and we need to wait on her PIV card. Until then, she will be assisting with inputting awards, helping Lissa with the Expo and answering questions/phone calls.

Christa then went over that we finally got the 1/2 wall removed. No quote yet on glass for the doors, but maybe when we slow down a bit we can get those done.

Christa then discussed that we went to the Lawn and Garden show in March, and that Lissa and Emily went to Sandwich for a resource fair in April. Both were great events that we were able to connect with other Veterans/Families at.

Christa then informed the Commission that Lissa attended the IL Joining Forces conference in Northbrook in April and heard from many legislative leaders and it was directed training for Veteran Suicide Awareness. Also, on April 28, the office plans to meet with the PTSD Group to answer pointed Q&A and offered to be open to anyone/post that would like the same.

Christa discussed the March claims summary. We have already are over \$2 million in benefits for our Veterans and Families. We continue to see new Veterans daily and hoping to get James & Emily up to speed so we can lessen wait times for appointments.

Meeting

MINUTES

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

Old Business- None.

New Business

Harold told the Commission that Sue Sculley from the VA Home did retire and Bailey took over. Also that Jerry Bacidore from the home would like to somehow get the Veterans to a baseball game (Pistol Shrimp).

Andy Ruggerio asked about beds available. Harold told the Commission that they still have WWII Veterans coming in and are about 1/2 full. VA Home is possibly going to no masks required soon.

For the Good of the Commission

Elton Murphy discussed that the Flutes for Veterans would be having their recital at the VFW in Peoria Heights and Saturday 6th at the 1st Congressional Church by old IVCH. He also stated that the VFW would be having burger night and Monday the 29th is the Car Show.

Harold stated that they would like some sort of Memorial Day event for the VA Home, but everyone is busy with other locations. Looking for volunteers.

Roscoe stated that the Oglesby Legion would be having their steak fry tomorrow and Fish Frys starting Friday.

Dennis is asking that posts help to donate or turn some sort of fundraiser for help to get VA Home a new Van. Possibly put out donation jar at wall event. "Donated from Veterans and Citizens of the IL Valley" would be on the back.

Andy stated that Peru Memorial Group had a couple more sign up to be apart of it. Harold stated he would help with whatever was needed with them as well.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Bill Luther.
Motion passed unanimously at 5:31pm.

APRIL:

Veterans Expo 2023:

We had a fantastic turnout - 62 Vendors signed up (61 at event- 1 family emergency)
Had about 200+ Attendees and all that were talked to stated they would love to see it back.

Training:

Christa and Lissa attended IACO- learned about CMS and how to apply online now, National Cemetery rules and preneed certificates, mapping for plots, homeless Veterans reintegration programs, DMV spoke of License plates and how to get stickers paid for, Emergency Program Alerts for Drivers Licenses, and heard from Major General Rich Neely on how the ILNG is doing with Suicide/Sexual Assault training and differences in training vs federal duty.

Christa, Lissa and James will be out of office the week of June 5th for Nationals in Madison, WI.
Christa will be out from June 3-9th due to CVA classes.

Our office will be hosting a IACVAC Division II (North East Corner of the state) SAVE Training here on June 30th for all new VSOs and those who have never had the training before.

Informative :

The IL State Library has been doing a project called: "The Illinois Veterans History Project"
The Illinois Veterans History Project was launched by the Illinois Secretary of State to create a permanent record of the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served our state and country during war, so that their contributions will not be forgotten.

Participate with telling your story- contact your local library or the information on the flyer attached.



Our Office
EVENTS

April Claims Summary				
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2023 Amount	Monthly Amount
20%	12/14/2022	Dec-23	\$ 4,263.02	\$ 327.99
60%	12/19/2022	Dec-23	\$ 19,727.73	\$ 1,569.27
20%	1/23/2023	Dec-23	\$ 4,591.86	\$ 327.99
20%	8/10/2022	Dec-23	\$ 7,182.30	\$ 456.61
60%	1/13/2023	Dec-23	\$ 20,161.80	\$ 1,319.65
100% SMC	1/28/2022	Dec-23	\$ 52,089.36	\$ 3,621.95
10%	10/18/2022	Dec-23	\$ 2,807.36	\$ 165.92
20%	3/9/2023	Dec-23	\$ 3,935.88	\$ 327.99
90%	1/23/2023	Dec-23	\$ 26,068.68	\$ 2,172.39
100%	1/17/2023	Dec-23	\$ 51,072.72	\$ 4,256.06
100% SMC	1/28/2022	Dec-23	\$ 21,362.58	\$ -
80%	12/19/2022	Dec-23	\$ 10,456.00	\$ 2,222.77
60%	1/11/2023	Dec-23	\$ 3,056.04	\$ 121.00
40%	10/17/2022	Dec-23	\$ 13,114.90	\$ 731.86
60%	2/14/2023	Dec-23	\$ 17,819.12	\$ 1,319.65
100%	2/1/2023	Dec-23	\$ 11,323.71	\$ -
10%	1/12/2023	Dec-23	\$ 2,488.80	\$ 165.92
70%	2/7/2023	Dec-23	\$ 23,633.12	\$ 1,804.06
10%	4/29/2023	Dec-23	\$ 7,878.41	\$ -
DIC	3/23/2023	Dec-23	\$20,315.62	\$1,562.74
10%	2/18/2023	Dec-23	\$4,028.48	\$2,037.44
80%	2/8/2013	Dec-23	\$191,964.08	\$164,458.28
30%	2/14/2022	Dec-23	\$8,313.09	\$2,211.09
100 P&T%	9/13/2022	Dec-23	\$59,220.54	\$4,829.70
dependent	1/1/2021	Dec-23	\$2,938.00	\$1,978.00
dependent	1/1/2023	Dec-23	\$1,200.00	\$240.00
10%	12/29/2022	Dec-23	\$2,488.80	\$497.76
40%	7/20/2022	Dec-23	\$14,402.88	\$5,620.56
10%	12/15/2022	Dec-23	\$2,488.80	\$497.76
40%	12/20/2022	Dec-23	\$13,767.68	\$3,441.92
dependent	7/20/2022	Dec-23	\$1,426.00	\$466.00
MOD		Dec-23	\$1,440.65	\$0.00
		Total	\$627,028.01	\$208,752.33
		Year to Date Total	\$2,684,586.67	\$377,180.58

April Office Activity			
Office Visits	106	Initial Claims	30
Phone	664	Appeals	25
Outstation	20	Board Appeals	1
Mendota	7	VA Healthcare	12
Streator	13	Pension/DIC	7
Intent to File	8	Other	125

Group Numbers:
PTSD: 18 No Flutes this month.

OFFICE OVERALL TOTALS:

We have continued getting grants for submitted claims, bringing our total for FY23 to just over \$2.6 million so far. We have had many phone calls for new clients, which is great that our Veterans & Families are hearing of our services! We are currently booking into August with the hope of shortening wait times soon.

We continue to strive to do all that we can for our Veterans & Families.

Our Office
OVERVIEW