



# MONTHLY REPORT

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FEBRUARY 2024

**PREPARED BY**

Christa Hammers  
Superintendent

# MEETING AGENDA

## 2-28-2024

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- 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. Annual Report/Governor Letter
  - c. Updates on Properties
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

# Meeting MINUTES

**1-24-2024**

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

Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Kenneth Harden - AmLeg - Ottawa / Bill Luther - VFW - Ottawa / Lance Sires - AmLeg - Marseilles / Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Thomas Shea - AmLeg - Ottawa / Chuck Stanley - 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 / Chuck Erb - VFW - Marseilles /

## Officers Present

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

## Employees Present

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

# Meeting MINUTES

Approval of Meeting minutes as presented:  
Motion by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Kenneth Harden. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

NONE

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the commission that back in December we had our annual Santa visit and it was a hit. We enjoyed doing it once again and look forward to this year!

Also discussed that the annual report and governors letter are on the website.

Christa stated that the office needs the OMA certificates for all new Delegates/Alternates on file as well as their DD214's. Papers need to be turned in before March 1st.

Christa and Lissa would be going to East Peoria on January 10-12 for the State Winter Meetings. Lissa would be again running for Secretary of that Board.

Christa then told the Commission that Property Tax season is upon us and to spread the word to Veterans who are Service-Connected at least 30% to make an appointment for their letters.

Emily is now seeing clients in Marseilles - Every Monday at the City Hall until the new building is completed. You can make appointments to see her by calling or online.

Christa then went over the annual report and the overall numbers- so far in 2024 we have over \$700,000 in benefits paid out to our Veterans/Families!

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

Old Business- NONE.

# Meeting MINUTES

## New Business

NONE

## For the Good of the Commission

Harold stated that Dennis and the Peru Group did a great job with the Pearl Harbor event.

Elton stated that the VFW would be holding burger night tomorrow (every 4th Thurs) and brats (every 2nd Thurs).

Lance stated that there was a benefit for Mr. Matt Weaver (former commander of the American Legion) - Feb 25th at the Legion from 1-5pm.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Elton Murphy and seconded by Roscoe Mazur.

Motion passed unanimously at 5:26pm.

FEBRUARY**Office Activity:**

The annual reports are now up on our website, they are also attached as an overview of our FY 23. The letter to the governor is also attached and up on our website.

Annual renewal for Post Delegate/Alternate papers have been mailed to posts- please have those to the office no later than March 1st. Nominations/voting in for positions on VAC Board will be at the March meeting- nominations have to be Post Delegate/Alternate.

On January 10-11 Lissa and Christa were in Peoria for the Winter meetings for the state association. Weather stopped us from attending on the 12th. Lissa was again elected as the secretary for that Board.

We are getting a few more General Assistance clients coming in. We continue to look for other avenues to get these Veterans assistance. Christa is continuing to move forward on making the office a 501 so we can apply for grants that can possibly assist.

Christa and Lissa met with a realtor who is assisting our office in getting information on the properties adjacent to our current building. The maps are attached and Christa is looking into how to purchase the land and what the next steps are once we decide on what we would like to do.

There has been new legislation passed for VA Healthcare - enrollment for Gulf War, Iraq/Afgahnistan Wars and anyone involved in TERA. More information to come.

<b>JANUARY Office Activity</b>			
Office Visits	129	Intent to File	22
Phone	746	Intital Claims	28
Outstation	27	Appeals	23
Mendota	7	VA Healthcare	5
Streator	15	Pension/DIC	0
Marseilles	5	Other	176

<b>OFFICE OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>			
PTSD GROUP	28	WALK-INS:	72
FLUTES	8	APPT MADE	42
VHA	2	QUESTIONS	30
MSHV	3		
HSTP MTG	35	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>148</b>

Our Office  
**EVENTS**

<b>JANUARY Claims Summary</b>				
<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>Month Submitted</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>2024 Amount</b>	<b>Monthly Amount</b>
DIC	7/19/2023	Dec-24	\$ 31,040.84	\$ 1,955.21
dependent	10/11/2023	Dec-24	\$ 966.00	\$ 41.00
A&A	8/16/2023	Dec-24	\$ 61,881.40	\$ 4,859.46
dependent	9/1/2022	Dec-24	\$ 3,096.88	\$ 152.64
60%	2/22/2023	Dec-24	\$ 29,581.29	\$ 1,361.88
80%	10/3/2023	Dec-24	\$ 26,109.48	\$ 1,995.01
80%	8/31/2023	Dec-24	\$ 27,854.75	\$ 2,106.01
100% P&T	11/28/2022	Dec-24	\$ 92,405.33	\$ 4,392.25
60%	9/14/2023	Dec-24	\$ 20,250.14	\$ 1,577.88
SMC	1/18/2023	Dec-24	\$ 28,416.68	\$ 2,238.75
60%	4/11/2023	Dec-24	\$ 26,799.97	\$ 1,361.88
80%	12/12/2022	Dec-24	\$ 35,884.88	\$ 2,283.01
10%	5/23/2023	Dec-24	\$ 3,221.51	\$ 171.23
80%	8/31/2023	Dec-24	\$ 28,702.12	\$ 2,365.01
Burial	1/10/2023	Dec-24	\$ 893.00	\$ -
100%	11/15/2023	Dec-24	\$ 24,491.23	\$ 1,612.75
70%	4/21/2014	Dec-24	\$ 88,703.32	\$ 1,716.28
100%	9/14/2023	Dec-24	\$ 44,854.20	\$ 3,737.85
30%	5/8/2023	Dec-24	\$ 11,030.33	\$ 586.31
80%	7/3/2023	Dec-24	\$ 35,634.82	\$ 2,161.01
70%	8/7/2023	Dec-24	\$ 27,300.82	\$ 1,716.28
40%	8/1/2023	Dec-24	\$ 31,073.58	\$ 838.28
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$680,192.57</b>	<b>\$39,229.98</b>
		<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>\$1,382,063.06</b>	<b>\$86,186.15</b>

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 \$1.3 million by the end of January 2024. We hope to continue this upward trend and bring in more events/programs for our clients this year.