



Monthly Report

JULY 2026

PREPARED BY :

CHRISTA HAMMERS
SUPERINTENDENT

MEETING AGENDA

7-22-2026

- I. Call to Order & Salute to the Colors
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Chaplain's Prayer
- IV. Roll Call of Officers
- V. Reading & Approval of Meeting Minutes
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Office Activity - JUNE
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Budget Approval FY27 - Resolution 26-008
 - b. Salary Approval FY27 - Resolution 26-009
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

Meeting MINUTES

6/24/26

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

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

Delegates & Alternates Present:

Mike Harden - AmLeg - Ottawa / Lance Sires - Am Leg - Marseilles / Greg Stock - AmLeg - Marseilles / Roscoe Mazur -AmLeg - Oglesby / Peggie Reddick - AmLeg - Mendota / Andy Ruggerio - AmLeg - Peru / Louis Sekula - AmLeg - LaSalle / John Duback - AmVets - Ottawa / John Clark - MarineCorpsLeg - Post 078 / Kevin Swierkosz - VFW - LaSalle / Tom Troutman - VFW - Mendota / Kevin Danekas - VFW - Marseilles Other: James Sandberg - AmLeg - Earlville

Officers Present:

President – Harold Olson
Vice President – Dennis Znaniecki - EXCUSED
Guard – Bill Bradford
Chaplain – Ken Troyan

Employees Present:

Christa Hammers – Superintendent
Lissa Olson - Assistant Superintendent
Emily Hackler- VSO
Kelli Rietgraf - Administrative Assistant
Jordan Sigulas - VSO (in-training)

Meeting MINUTES

Approval of May meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Andy Ruggerio and seconded by Bill Bradford. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

Christa told the Commission that Lissa, Emily and Jordan were able to attend National Training in Reno, NV from May 29-June 5. Lissa was able to attend CVA training and Jordan was able to become accredited. Christa attended training virtually.

Christa then told the Commission that even though we have a reminder in place, our office is getting an abundance of no-call/no-shows for appointments. We would like to politely remind clients that appointments are a month out at times and not showing, takes from someone else who could get in sooner. Please let us know as soon as possible if a reschedule needs to happen.

Christa then stated that the office would be closed July 3rd for the holiday.

The office continues to work on details of the 5th year Anniversary for our location in Peru.
Details to come.

Christa continues to work on the website as time allows. If you have something you would like to see on it, please let her know. Trying for ease of use and made sure that it is compliant with all applicable laws.

The counselor from the Aurora Vet Center continues to come once a month to meet with our Veterans - free of charge. He would like to come more often, but needs more clients. If anyone is interested in his services - please reach out to our office.

Emily is starting her mental health course and once completed we hope that we can use her knowledge not only for our office, but for our community.

Property taxes have been dispursed. Please make sure your exemption (if eligible) is reflected. If not, please contact us. We would be happy to help.

Superintendent's report was motioned for approval by Bill Bradford and seconded by Louis Sekula. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting MINUTES CONTINUED

Old Business

None.

New Business

The Commission discussed the Sharri Briley and Maj. Richard Star Acts. Discussion was had and then they discussed the Elizabeth Dole Act and how each effects our Veterans.

Christa went over the projected budget for FY27. Commission discussed and no further questions. Christa told Commission that July meeting will be further discussion/approval.

For the Good of the Commission

Andy stated that on June 30th the Pistol Shrimp Salute to Vets at 6:35pm.
The Commission discussed the ice cream machine now available at the VA Home in LaSalle.

Andy stated that he noticed the Marseilles VFW was having their pancake breakfast, Sunday
8am-Noon.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Roscoe Mazur and seconded by John Duback.
Motion passed unanimously at 5:40pm.

JUNE/JULY**Office Activity:**

Lissa and Emily attended the Run today for tomorrow 5K event in Ottawa on June 27th.

Lissa and Kelli were able to attend an open house for the Grace Moore House - located in Ottawa. This is a clean living home that is privately owned, managed and available for low-income Veterans.

On July 30th Lissa will be giving a presentation about what services we provide here and how our office can assist at Empowering Minds Counseling Center in Ottawa.

Our office will be hosting a Division 1 Meeting on August 14th - made up of other county VAC's - talking about our intake and follow up procedures and what works best for everyone - along with getting word out in our Communities - partners etc.

The office is hosting the 5 year open house on August 19th from 2-6pm. We hope to see everyone there!

Emily will continue to take her Veteran Mental Health Certification Course and once completed, will look to use that as a teaching method to not only our office, but our community as well.

REMINDER: Please make sure that your Property Tax bill reflects your exemption if you are eligible. Any questions, please let us know. Remember: you MUST complete the renewal every year UNLESS you are a 100% P&T Veteran.

Office Claims/Program DATA

JUNE Office Activity				
Office Visits	96		Intent to File	14
Phone	555		Intital Claims	37
			Appeals	22
Outstation	21		VA Healthcare	8
Streator	7		Pension/DIC	1
Marseilles	14		Other	227

The VAC tracks things like forms submitted, outreach clients and office visits. The “other” is things such as faxes, emails, mailings, other forms not listed etc. This is done to see where the bulk of our work and effort is done and to show that the claims processes often times take muliple forms to complete correctly.

JUNE OTHER OFFICE ACTIVITY				
PTSD GROUP	29	Total Walkins:		74
Flutes	4	APPT MADE:		17
Vet Center	4	QUESTIONS:		57
		TOTAL:		111

The office is utilized by other entities to have services. Places such as Hines VA Healthcare, Flutes for Veterans, Peer-led PTSD groups and Senior Resource Meetings are just a few that use our spaces.

Currently we have brought in over **\$5.1 Million** in **NEW** benefits for our Veterans/Families.

These numbers are NOT CUMULATIVE and start new each FY.

We continue to see new clients daily and thank all our Veterans and Families for trusting us with their claims process.

JUNE Claims Summary					
Total Percentage	Date Submitted	Through	MONTHLY	BACKPAY	ANNUAL
90%	7/22/2025	Dec-26	\$282.15	\$2,793.18	\$6,178.98
100% HB P&T	6/16/2025	Dec-26	\$2,460.21	\$25,065.71	\$54,588.23
90%	4/14/2026	Dec-26	\$597.85	\$1,195.70	\$8,369.90
SMC	5/18/2026	Dec-26	\$139.87	\$0.00	\$1,678.44
10%	5/13/2025	Dec-26	\$180.42	\$0.00	\$2,165.04
70%	10/27/2025	Dec-26	\$395.43	\$2,756.84	\$7,502.00
20%	4/29/2026	Dec-26	\$356.66	\$2,487.33	\$6,767.25
100% P&T	5/20/2026	Dec-26	\$1,591.13	\$0.00	\$19,093.56
100%	3/18/2026	Dec-26	\$4,158.17	\$8,316.34	\$58,214.38
80%	6/16/2026	Dec-26	\$711.13	\$0.00	\$8,533.56
70%	6/21/2025	Dec-26	\$2,074.45	\$24,612.10	\$49,505.50
80%	5/4/2026	Dec-26	\$2,102.15	\$11,870.15	\$37,095.95
10%	12/10/2025	Dec-26	\$180.42	\$1,082.52	\$3,247.56
Pension	1/16/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,453.00	\$ 7,265.00	\$ 24,701.00
	Total		\$ 16,683.04	\$ 87,444.87	\$ 287,641.35
	Year to Date Total		\$ 275,891.37	\$ 1,445,108.63	\$ 5,114,866.60