



Monthly Report

JUNE 2026

PREPARED BY :

CHRISTA HAMMERS
SUPERINTENDENT

MEETING AGENDA

6-24-2026

- 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 - MAY
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Projected Budget Discussion
- X. For the Good of the Commission
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Adjournment

Meeting MINUTES

5/27/26

Call to Order & Salute to the Colors

President, Harold Olson called the meeting to order at 4:58pm and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delegates & Alternates Present:

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

Officers Present:

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

Employees Present:

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

Meeting MINUTES

Approval of April meeting minutes as presented:

Motion by Roscoe Mazur and seconded by Bill Bradford. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Superintendent's Report

Lissa told the Commission that the office was closed on April 23rd so they could attend a tour of the National Personnel Records Center and learn more about the process to get documents and request timelines.

Lissa then discussed that Jordan was able to take the IACVAC Pre-Basic benefits May 1 and May 8 and would be in Reno for accreditation in June.

Lissa then discussed that herself and Emily would also be in Reno, she would be taking more CVA courses and testing.

Lissa then told the Commission that Kelli and Emily were able to attend the Women's Day event in Ottawa on May 9.

Lissa was able to discuss the quarterly newsletter provided by the office, completed by Emily. If you would like to be on the list to receive, please let us know.

Lissa then stated that Christa has been working to update the office website, ease of use and more information as everything is ever-updating.

Lissa then stated that the office would be closed June 19th for Juneteenth Day.

Lissa discussed that the week of May 29-June 5th - the office will be in training. Lissa, Emily and Jordan will be in Reno and Christa will be here - attending virtually.

Lissa then stated that this year marks our 5th here in Peru - we are planning some sort of event to celebrate that milestone and will have more details to come.

Lissa stated that Christa has been working on compliance with office policy documents and making sure we have everything we need.

Meeting MINUTES CONTINUED

Lissa then reported that we have been able to assist Veterans and Families receive over \$3.9 Million in NEW benefits so far this year.

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

Old Business

None.

New Business

Lissa discussed the fact that we need to review COOP Plan/Mileage and the Outside Funds Policies for our office.

The Board viewed and discussed Resolution 26-005 regarding Mileage Reimbursement for Employees. Motion to approve made by Bill Bradford, seconded by Dennis Znaniecki. Motion passed unanimously to accept Resolution 26-005.

The Board viewed and discussed Resolution 26-006 regarding Outside Funds for the LaSalle County VAC. Motion to approve made by Bill Bradford, seconded by Phil Harth. Motion passed unanimously to accept Resolution 26-006.

The Board viewed and discussed Resolution 26-007 regarding Continuation of Operations (COOP) Plan for the LaSalle County VAC. Motion to approve made by Bill Bradford, seconded by Dennis Znaniecki. Motion passed unanimously to accept Resolution 26-007.

For the Good of the Commission

Andy stated that on June 30th the Pistol Shrimp Salute to Vets at 6:35pm. John stated that the Oglesby Marine Corps League is looking to schedule a cookout in June or July. More information to come.

Andy stated on June 14th there is going to be a flag retirement ceremony at Schwiekert Statium at noon.

City of Marseilles and Freedom run have a tribute wall for Iraq and Afghanistan War June 16-22.

There is an insurance company looking to assist Veterans stay at home instead of care facilities.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Znaniecki and seconded by Bill Bradford. Motion passed unanimously at 5:32pm.

MAY/JUNE**Office Activity:**

Lissa, Emily and Jordan were in Reno, NV from May 29-June 5. During this time, Emily was able to get CEU's and Jordan is now accredited. Lissa was able to take more CVA courses and Christa was able to attend virtually.

Our office has been receiving quite a few no-call/no-shows for appointments. We would like to stress that life happens, but we are pushed out for appointments and if you need to reschedule, please let us know so we can allow for someone else to possibly take an earlier appointment.

The office will be attending the Run Today for Tomorrow Event as a vendor, this takes place in Ottawa on June 27th.

Our office will be closed July 3rd for the Fourth of July.

The office is still working on the details for the August 5th Anniversary in Peru.

Christa continues to update the website a bit and bring a fresh look to it along with add more information. It is always a work in progress, but the team page and resources have been updated.

We continue to partner with Aurora Vet Center for in-office counseling services. If this is something you are interested in, please let us know so we can get you in touch with Joe.

Emily will start 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.

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

MAY Office Activity				
Office Visits	83		Intent to File	11
Phone	434		Intital Claims	33
			Appeals	25
Outstation	17		VA Healthcare	5
Streator	12		Pension/DIC	6
Marseilles	5		Other	231

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.

MAY OTHER OFFICE ACTIVITY				
PTSD GROUP	39			
Flutes	8	APPT MADE:		22
Vet Center	4	QUESTIONS:		36
VHA	2	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 **\$4.8 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.

MAY Claims Summary					
Total Percentage	Date Submitted	Through	MONTHLY	BACKPAY	ANNUAL
50%	4/17/2026	Dec-26	\$ 4,428.10	\$ 31,404.91	\$ 84,542.11
10%	4/17/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,102.15	\$ 2,742.72	\$ 27,968.52
60%	4/8/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,435.02	\$ -	\$ 17,220.24
10%	3/11/2026	Dec-26	\$ 180.42	\$ 180.42	\$ 2,345.46
Dependent	3/31/2026	Dec-26	\$ 58.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 754.00
90%	4/9/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,362.30	\$ 260.15	\$ 28,607.75
70%	12/31/2025	Dec-26	\$ 2,362.30	\$ 10,203.75	\$ 38,551.35
60%	1/8/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,435.02	\$ 14,154.75	\$ 31,374.99
100% P&T	2/9/2026	Dec-26	\$ 4,548.40	\$ 7,338.75	\$ 61,919.55
Dependent	12/2/2025	Dec-26	\$ 153.00	\$ 3,133.00	\$ 4,969.00
Dependent	12/3/2025	Dec-26	\$ 65.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 1,040.00
10%	2/5/2026	Dec-26	\$ 180.42	\$ 1,604.14	\$ 3,783.04
10%	2/9/2026	Dec-26	\$ 180.42	\$ 360.84	\$ 2,525.88
30%	2/23/2026	Dec-26	\$ 552.47	\$ 1,657.41	\$ 8,287.05
10%	3/12/2026	Dec-26	\$ 180.42	\$ 3,864.37	\$ 6,029.41
50%	3/10/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,241.90	\$ 624.43	\$ 15,527.23
Temp 100%	1/9/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,559.30	\$ 2,083.64	\$ 33,666.24
40%	1/28/2026	Dec-26	\$ 882.54	\$ 3,512.10	\$ 14,106.18
80%	8/4/1923	Dec-26	\$ 2,102.15	\$ 8,617.65	\$ 33,843.45
40%	4/30/2026	Dec-26	\$ 947.84	\$ 947.48	\$ 12,321.92
50%	3/18/2026	Dec-26	\$ 359.06	\$ 359.06	\$ 4,667.78
70%	4/13/2026	Dec-26	\$ 719.55	\$ -	\$ 8,634.60
Dependent	8/11/2025	Dec-26	\$ 49.00	\$ 337.00	\$ 925.00
20%	2/10/2026	Dec-26	\$ 356.66	\$ -	\$ 4,279.92
100% P&T	3/4/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,625.80	\$ 1,625.80	\$ 21,135.40
90%	4/8/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,362.30	\$ 1,229.40	\$ 29,577.00
10%	4/15/2025	Dec-26	\$ 180.42	\$ 2,130.67	\$ 4,295.71
NSC Burial	5/6/2026	Dec-26	\$ -	\$ 2,004.00	\$ 2,004.00
30%	5/11/2026	Dec-26	\$ 195.81	\$ 2,121.87	\$ 4,471.59
50%	3/13/2026	Dec-26	\$ 776.24	\$ 776.24	\$ 10,091.12
Dependent	10/27/2025	Dec-26	\$ 132.00	\$ 891.00	\$ 2,475.00
Burial	5/20/2026	Dec-26	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
DIC	5/20/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,699.36	\$ -	\$ 20,392.32
MOD	5/20/2026	Dec-26	\$ -	\$ 4,628.12	\$ 4,628.12
100%	4/27/2026	Dec-26	\$ 3,142.74	\$ 3,142.74	\$ 40,855.62
80%	8/14/2025	Dec-26	\$ 1,549.68	\$ 13,820.49	\$ 32,416.65

New Claims
OVERVIEW

temp 100% /70%	3/31/2026	Dec-26	\$ 4,628.12	\$ 11,235.84	\$ 48,657.60
60%	11/20/2025	Dec-26	\$ 131.00	\$ 2,322.00	\$ 3,894.00
100%	6/21/2021	Dec-26	\$ 4,628.12	\$ 85,980.17	\$ 141,517.61
80%	3/18/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,102.15	\$ 13,446.16	\$ 38,671.96
N/A	5/12/2026	Dec-26	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
N/A	5/12/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,699.36	\$ 13,502.30	\$ 33,894.62
50%	2/5/2026	Dec-26	\$ 1,132.90	\$ 1,160.86	\$ 14,755.66
	Total		\$ 57,427.44	\$ 255,722.23	\$ 903,624.65
	Year to Date Total		\$ 259,208.33	\$ 1,357,663.76	\$ 4,827,225.25